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2004 Tsunami remembered

Ten years later, the world's gaze returns to the Boxing Day devastation, survivors

Tsunami Special Inside

December 27, 2014 - January 2, 2015 **PhuketGazette.Net** In partnership with **The Nation** **20 Baht**

■ 'SOLDIERS ARREST FOR ABDUCTION, BIG MISTAKE'

Entangled

■ Chalong Police pursue abduction case against five Army personnel

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

FIVE soldiers arrested by the Chalong Police may face court martial for the alleged abduction of a Ukrainian businessman and his wife last week.

"The soldiers are now at the 41st Military Circle barracks at the Royal Thai Army's Region 4 base in Nakhon Sri Thammarat," Region 4 Deputy Commander Ruangsak Suwannaka told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

The Military Police have been tasked with investigating the soldiers, Maj Gen Ruangsak confirmed. Under Army regulations, the five may face court martial if the Military Police decide to press charges.

The Phuket Provincial Court issued arrest warrants for the soldiers on December 20, identifying the wanted personnel as: Master Sergeant 3rd Class Sumit Chuaybamrung, 49; Sgt Kachenpong Boonmee, 43; Sgt Wichien Suknun, 42; Pvt Reuchai Promthongkeaw, 22; Pvt Phisit Keawwihok, 26.

"We have yet to receive the arrest warrants," Maj Gen Ruangsak said.

"As soon as we receive them, we will take the soldiers to the Chalong Police Station to follow the legal processes."



Two of the ten arrested – five military personal, five civilians – cover their faces.

The soldiers were arrested by Chalong Police outside the Kasikornbank branch near Chalong Circle on December 18 in a raid that prevented Ukrainian businessman Igor Iermakov, 37, and his 32-year-old wife, Maryna, from allegedly being forced to pay a ransom of US\$500,000 (16.4 million baht).

Mr Iermakov was reportedly abducted from Mitrphap Beach in Rawai by 10 people, including the five soldiers, earlier that day.

"Some armed Thai people forced me from my house and brought me to my..."

Continued on Page 2

Beach vendors given trial run with new rules

VENDORS renting out umbrellas, offering massages or selling food and drinks are allowed to return to Phuket's beaches – but not those who rent out sun-loungers.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong delivered the news at a meeting at Provincial Hall, after laying down a stringent list of conditions under which beach vendors will be permitted to return to work.

Full story on Page 5

Dolphinarium gets tangled in legal red tape

THE hotly contested Nemo Dolphinarium has several more hoops to jump through before being allowed to import its dolphins from Taiji Cove, Japan.

A variety of changes to the facility are necessary before it can be approved by the Fisheries Department as meeting Thai standards.

Full story on Page 4

Distressed teen mum attempts to kill newborn

RESCUE workers were able to save a newborn baby from her teenage mother, after she attempted to drown the child in a public bathroom.

Both the mother and child were taken to hospital.

Full story on Page 3

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Mystery clouds deaths of Russian tech cave divers

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

TWO experienced Phuket cave divers died after an accident on technical rebreathers near the entrance to Tiger Cave in the Chio Lan Reservoir, Surat Thani, on Monday.

Dmitry Dokuchave, 46, died at the scene, while fellow Russian Alexander Solomatin was pronounced dead at Surat Thani Hospital.

“Both bodies have been transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, with the preliminary cause of death cited as decompression sickness,” said a Surat Thani Hospital staffer who declined to be named.

The Russians were with two other divers, who altogether had rented out a boat and were using their own dive equipment at the time of the accident, a technical diving school manager who knew the divers explained to the *Gazette*.

“They were highly certified technical, rebreather and cave divers who had done many cave dives and rebreather dives before. They knew what they were doing,” said the manager.

However, something went wrong. The group had split into two teams, with two other divers exploring the wall to search for a second entrance to the cave, while the Russians planned to use the



Experts have yet to figure out what went wrong on the dive, leading to the deaths of two well-trained tech divers at the reservoir. Photo: Patty Ho

main entrance to the cave, which is about 24 meters underwater.

“According to a dive computer used by the Russians, one of them probably noticed that something was wrong. He most likely then told his buddy that he would have to abort the dive... and probably told the other diver to continue his dive while he sorted out the problem,” the manager said.

“What the problem was, at this stage, we don’t know,” she added, as she has been in close contact with the two other divers.

The two other divers found Mr Dokuchave unconscious on the

surface with his rebreather mouthpiece out of his mouth, and one of them began emergency rescue procedures. They also located Mr Solomatin, and with the help of Thais working on the lake, rushed him to the hospital.

“We visited [Mr Solomatin] at the hospital,” said Surat Thani Vice Governor Witchawut Jinto. “Doctors did their best to save him, but they just couldn’t.”

“This is a sad accident. I am deeply sorry for their families.”

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

Soldiers detained over alleged abduction of Ukrainians

From page 1

...husband, who had been abducted. They said that my husband borrowed US\$500,000 from some Ukrainian. They wanted me to bring the money back,” said Maryna.

The money was allegedly borrowed for a business operation, said Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Chukiatt Imjaitam.

“When I agreed to bring them US\$200,000 of the debt, they established a rendezvous point and then freed me.”

“After making the arrangement, Ms Maryna contacted the Ukrainian Embassy and us,” said Lt Col Chukiatt. “We quickly established an undercover team to take down the gang when they arrived at the bank.”

However, Phuket’s highest-ranking military officer, Maj Gen Theenachat Jinda-ngern, told a press conference last

Saturday – before the arrest warrants for the soldiers were issued – that the arrest of the soldiers for the alleged abductions was a “mistake”.

The soldiers were acting as mediators, Maj Gen Theenachat said. He added that they were present at the bank only to witness Mr Iermakova uphold his agreement to pay back some of the money he owed to a company in Ukraine called Fornus.

However, Gen Theenachat did confirm to the press that he would not interfere with any police investigation into the incident.

“They can treat the case as they would any other case,” he said.

Fornus representative Vladimir Evladov told the press that Mr Iermakova had embezzled US\$500,000 from his company.

He added that Fornus had filed a complaint with the authorities in Ukraine, though



Igor Iermakov and his wife, Maryna, at Chalong Police Station. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

he presented no documents confirming that Mr Iermakov was wanted by any of the authorities there.

“We learned that Mr Iermakov had fled to Phuket, so I requested that the Army send him back to Ukraine,” Mr Evladov said.

“I contacted the Army because I believed that this would be resolved quickly by soldiers as martial law is in place.”

Bandal Inmang, 35, one of the five civilians arrested, explained that he was working as an interpreter for the soldiers.

“I invited four of my friends to come with me. I never thought it would end up like this. We are not gangsters. We have never threatened any foreigner – we are innocent,” he said.

The five civilians were released on a bail of 50,000 baht each, but have yet to have the charges against them dropped.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian couple remain under watch and have yet to be released by officers assigned to their case.

“Both are still in Phuket under police protection for the time being,” said Capt Patiwat Yodkwan, inspector of the Chalong Police.

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Newborn saved from mum

Distressed teen stopped from drowning baby in toilet

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE have yet to charge a teenage mother who tried to drown her newborn in the cistern of a public toilet.

Thung Thong Police were called to the scene at a public toilet in Kathu Municipality Park, where they found the mother locked in a toilet stall with her newborn baby.

"Concerned passersby told me that a pregnant woman had entered the stall, and was still locked in there about an hour later," said Wichai Panngern, a Thung Thong Police volunteer.

"They were worried that she might be in trouble."

Police tried to coax the mother out of the cubicle, but received no response.

"All we could hear was the repeated flushing of the toilet and the sound of a baby crying," said Mr Wichai.

"After we heard her pushing something heavy against the door, we decided to break it down."

When officers forced the door open, they discovered that the woman had removed the lid to the



Hospital staff named the baby Vassana, meaning good luck.

cistern, and was jamming the newborn's head into the water.

"We took the baby from her immediately. She was very weak and covered in blood, so it was easy to rescue the baby," Mr Wichai said.

The mother and the baby girl were immediately transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Despite some bruising to her face, doctors declared the baby girl, weighing 2.89 kilograms, in good health.

The young mother, whose name has been withheld by police, told the *Gazette* that she was deserted by her boyfriend after she told him she was pregnant.

"I am a university student. When I found out that I was pregnant, I told my boyfriend, but he refused to take responsibility and broke up with me," said the new mum.

"I was in the park at about 11pm last night when my stomach began to really hurt. I guessed that I was about to give birth, so I rushed to the park's public toilet.

"I'm really sorry for what I did, I just didn't know what to do."

Police have yet to press any charges against the woman.

"We will let the mother rest and regain her strength before we decide whether or not to press charges," explained Maj Wittaya Sinjamroen of the Thung Thong Police.

"Social services needs to determine whether or not the woman is fit to keep her baby, or if it needs to be given up for adoption."

In the meantime, hospital staff have named the baby girl Vassana, which means "good luck" in Thai.



Mr Onoprieno was able to escape the car after it hit the water.

Russian takes 300m plunge off ocean road

A RUSSIAN man is recovering in hospital after his car ran off a coastal road near Phuket's Promthep Cape and plunged into the sea some 300 meters below on December 18.

"It happened at about 11:30pm," said Lt Wuttiwat Liang-boonjinda of the Chalong Police.

"By the time we arrived, all we could see was the back of the car protruding out of the water."

The driver, named by police as 29-year-old Nikollav Onoprieno, was found on the rocks nearby.

"He had scratches and bruises all over his body, but he was conscious," Lt Wuttiwat said.

After confirming that no passengers remained trapped in the car, rescue workers transported Mr Onoprieno to Vachira Hospital.

"We have confirmed that Mr Onoprieno is staying in Rawai and had rented the car. We will question him once he recovers enough to clarify what happened," Lt Wuttiwat said.

Both airbags in the front of the vehicle had been deployed and the driver's door had sustained damage in the accident, Lt Wuttiwat said.

It was too dark for rescue teams to recover the car that night, but they retrieved the vehicle the next day.

- Athip Karndee

Germans rescued from grounded tour boat in Rawai

A GROUP of tourists were rescued from a tour boat after it grounded on the rocks off Laem Ka Cape, on the east coast of Phuket's Rawai area, on December 21.

The 12 people on board *Electric Blue*, including nine German tourists and one Thai tourist, were rescued after locals spotted the stranded boat and dispatched three longtails and a rescue team in a dinghy.

"No one was seriously injured in the accident," said Rawai Deputy Mayor Theerapong Thaodang.

"When the rescue team and locals arrived at the boat, the tourists were clearly panicking

and unsure of how to save themselves."

The three-day, two-night tour of the islands in the Andaman was organized by the Thai tourist, Boonpeng Hanfaluen.

"My German friends and I had hired the boat and departed from Chalong Pier. We were returning from Phi Phi Island when suddenly the boat hit some rocks as we approached the shore," Ms Boonpeng said.

"The boat immediately started to take on water - fast. Fortunately, we were close to shore and were saved. We are so grateful to the rescue team."

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



Locals arrived in longtails to rescue the tourists.



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Dolphinarium snared in red tape

By Chutharat Plerin

THE hotly contested Phuket dolphinarium has yet to meet the necessary standards prescribed by the Department of Fisheries, the *Gazette* has confirmed.

"There are several things that Phuket Aqua Project Co Ltd needs to change at the Nemo Dolphinarium in order to meet our standards," said Kiattikhun Charoensawan, chief of the Phuket Fisheries Office.

Fisheries officials from Bangkok visited the facility in Chalong on November 5 to ensure that it complied with Thailand's regulations for an aquarium facility – it did not.

"We were told that we needed to make a lot of changes," said the Nemo Dolphinarium project manager, who declined to be named.

Among the multitude of required adjustments was the need for changes to where and how the dolphins were kept before and after the shows, the oxygenating system for the pool, the ventilation system and the emergency exits for patrons.



The Nemo Dolphinarium still has more hoops to jump through before opening. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

"I believe it will be months before we have our operations license, as once the necessary changes are made, officials will have to inspect the site again. However, there is no guarantee we will be given permission to open," said the project manager.

Nonetheless, the manager confirmed that the company was eager to open as soon as possible, but said they would ensure that the facility was fully legal before doing so.

"We are following all the rules strictly so that we are fully legal,

and that all the animals, as well as the audience, are happy here," he said.

If the facility is approved, a great amount of tension is expected to surround its opening, as locals continue to push to keep the island free of captive dolphins.

The facility was one of the hot topics during the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Thailand's special forum focusing on the future of Phuket's marine tourism industry last month.

It also saw staggering results in a *Phuket Gazette* online poll, where an overwhelming majority of the more than 7,000 readers who took part voted against opening the dolphin park.

The poll revealed that 98% of those who identified themselves as "tourists / visitors to Phuket" voted: "No – Phuket should not have a dolphinarium; they are cruel and it has long been known that captivity kills dolphins."

The major controversy surrounding the facility stems from the fact that a number of the dolphins imported through Ukraine were caught in the wild at Taiji Cove, Japan.

A direct connection between five wild captive dolphins bound for the dolphinarium and the annual slaughter of thousands of dolphins at the cove was affirmed by Gary Stokes, Asia Director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Cops arrest bike chop-shop gang



The men admitted to selling the rebuilds on Facebook.

POLICE arrested several members of a motorbike chop-shop gang on Monday night that rebuilt bikes with stolen parts and sold them on Facebook.

"We had a tip-off that a rowdy group of young people were staying at a rental house in Rassada and that there were always lots of motorbikes and bike parts laying around," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Somsak Thongklieng told the *Gazette*.

"Following up on the lead, we approached a group of three men who were working on a motorbike. We checked the registration number and confirmed that the bike was stolen."

Police quickly arrested the three men: Veerayuth Kaewhuasai, 24; Veerasak Kaewhuasai, 28; and Pinijpol Nimmanoh, 28.

The motorbike they were caught with was stolen from Kanech Pattanakijpibul in July, confirmed Lt Col Somsak.

Police seized six motorbikes and a cache of parts as evidence.

"The suspects confessed that sometimes they bought stolen bikes, and sometimes they stole the bikes themselves. They would either sell the original bike, or rebuild the bike depending on what their customer wanted," Col Somsak said.

"Mostly they rebuilt them and sold them on Facebook."

All three men were charged with theft.

"We will continue to question them so that we can find more members within their criminal network," Col Somsak said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Return of the vendors

By Voratuss Intasee

VENDORS renting out umbrellas, offering massages or selling food and drinks are allowed to return to Phuket's beaches – but not vendors who rent out sun-loungers or beach chairs.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong delivered the news at a meeting at Provincial Hall on December 18, when he laid down a stringent list of conditions under which beach vendors are permitted to return to work.

Special zones covering only 10 per cent of the sand at each beach will be allocated to vendors.

"This ensures that the vendors do not detract from the natural beauty of the beaches," Governor Nisit explained.

The vendors must wear uniforms. All fees charged by vendors must be displayed and be the same at all beaches – they cannot be increased to accommodate "extra services".

No cooking or smoking is permitted on the beach, and the vendors are allowed to operate from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

"Everything must be cleaned up by the vendors at the end of each day," Gov Nisit said.

Only one operator per service may serve tourists on a beach at



Vendors returned to the island's beaches, but the sun-loungers of old are still not allowed. Photo: Gazette file

any one time. Operators are allowed to work at the beach for three consecutive days, before they must leave so that the next operator providing the same service can serve tourists at the beach for the next three days.

Vendors must have been previously registered with the local

authority as a beach vendor in order to gain the right to return to work on the beach. The right to work at the beach is not transferable to a third party, he added.

"Officers from relevant departments will regularly check on the vendors to make sure they are following the rules. These officers

may be from the local government in the area, the Royal Thai Navy or the Tourism Authority of Thailand," Gov Nisit warned.

Permission for beach vendors to return to work is on a three-month trial period, he stressed.

"If any vendors break any of these new rules, I will reconsider

whether we should allow any services on the beaches at all," Gov Nisit said.

Governor Nisit called on officials to help restore Phuket's pride as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.

"Problems with the management of our beaches have plagued us for too long. We all want to move Phuket forward and make it great," he said.

"But it must be done lawfully, and we must make sure that the beach 'ownership' problems do not return."

Governor Nisit pointed out that beaches at Phi Phi Island and Maya Bay were among the "World's 100 best beaches" in a CNN Facebook poll earlier this year.

"But not Phuket," he said. "Let's do this together, and, above all, I want to see Phuket people united in welcoming tourists."

Chatchai Sumrith, an out-of-work sun-lounge rental operator from Patong, voiced his grievance at the meeting.

"We need to rent out beach chairs for elderly tourists. They can't just sit on the beach without a chair," he said.

"The governor needs to consider this, as we could return to work to make going to the beach more convenient for many tourists."



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7-Eleven crime centers island wide

ALL Phuket 7-Eleven convenience stores are set to join a campaign to improve police response times by early next year, it was announced last week.

The campaign, taking advantage of the number of 7-Eleven stores on the island and their visibility, will see staffers trained to receive crime reports and contact police on the behalf of victims.

Representatives from 7-Eleven stores throughout the island joined Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee on Tuesday to discuss details of how the crime-reporting plan is to be rolled out.

"Every 7-Eleven store in Phuket has said that they want to join us," Col Peerayuth told the *Gazette*.

"Next, we need to agree on some ways to provide swift communication between 7-Eleven staff and police officers in case of an emergency. We will officially launch the campaign in January."

The idea was first tested at stores in Kata-Karon in October.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Manhunt for human traffickers, officers catch six escaped refugees

By Chutharat Plerin

OFFICERS in Phang Nga have launched a manhunt for 300 people reportedly being herded through the area by gun-toting human traffickers.

The search began after two men presented themselves at a checkpoint in Takuapa before dawn on Sunday claiming that they had escaped their armed captors.

"The men said that they had fled a camp where they were being held under armed guard, along with 300 other people, including women and children. Everyone was waiting to be transported to southern Thailand," said Takuapa District Chief Manit Pianthong.

Both men claimed to be from Myanmar and said that they were being brought through Thailand to Malaysia where they hoped to find better jobs and better lives, Mr Manit said on Tuesday.

"Officers searched the area, but found no traces of any large camps," Mr Manit confirmed, adding that he had requested assistance



Officers take a refugee back into custody. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

from officials in neighboring districts to help with the search.

"Both men have been remanded in custody at the Takuapa District Office for further questioning. We are checking whether or not they are really victims of human trafficking.

"If they are not, we will send them to Ranong and deport them to Myanmar."

Meanwhile, six of the 10 men who broke out of the Phang Nga Immigration detention center early Monday morning have been caught and returned to the facility.

"Now we are looking for the rest," Capt Parinya Sriboonsom, deputy inspector of Phang Nga Immigration, said on Tuesday.

Officers at the center didn't know that the three Rohingya and seven Bangladeshi men had escaped until about 2:20am.

"The refugees climbed through the ceiling of a bathroom on the second floor and used a rope made from pieces of cloth to lower themselves to the ground outside the detention center," he explained.

The 10 men fled the same large room at the center where about 70 other men are being detained.

As of Wednesday, six of the refugees had been recaptured."

Capt Parinya explained that the escape was made possible because officers searched the detention hall only once a week.

Capt Parinya urged anyone who sees any suspected refugees at large to immediately call Phang Nga Immigration at 076-460512.

Additional reporting by
Khumpee Prasertphol

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Man blasts his penis with makeshift pesticide torch



One man injured his penis, the other hurt his leg in the accident.

ONE member of a makeshift pest-control team suffered damage to his penis after a flaming bottle of pesticide backfired on him and his partner as they attempted to kill a colony of wasps on Monday.

Prapanpong Sinmalee, 29, and his 22-year-old co-worker Phollawat Suwong were moving spools of power cables from a truck into a field along Thepkrasattri Road near Baan Kor En curve, when they realized that a wasp nest was in one of the spools.

"They both sprayed chemicals into the spool, and when they went to light it there was an explosion, a co-worker told us," said Lt Col Watcharin Jirattikarnwiwat of the

Tah Chat Chai Police.

"When we arrived at the scene we found both men conscious. Mr Phollawat was injured on his left leg and Mr Prapanpong had injuries to his penis."

The men were transferred to Thalang Hospital by Kusoldharm rescue workers.

"Their employer has been notified of the injuries. We will question the men more about the accident once they have recovered," Col Watcharin said.

"These things can happen when people are careless with chemicals. Please, make sure you read instructions carefully and obey them."

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Focus on sea gypsies' health

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

GEN Surayud Chulanont, Privy Councilor to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and former prime minister, has suggested that local authorities take further steps to improve the quality of life of the Phuket sea gypsies living in the north of the island.

Gen Surayud chaired a meeting in Thalang on December 18 to hear the current state of the living conditions of the sea gypsies in the Laem Lah and Hin Luk Diao communities in Mai Khao.

The visit followed up on an initiative to improve sea gypsies' living standards launched by the Culture Ministry in 2009, which was formalized into an official government campaign last year.

Governor Nisit Jansomwing reported to Gen Surayud that the sea gypsy communities at Laem Lah and Hin Luk Diao together comprised 566 people.

The sea gypsies in the two villages have been granted Thai citizenship and have 72 children attending primary school, as well as 27 attending high school.



Gen Surayud focused on the importance of education and cultural preservation for the gypsies. Photo: Gazette file

"All the kids must attend school, but most of the adults are formally uneducated. However, in addition to speaking their native language, they are all able to speak Thai and the Southern Thai dialect," Gov Nisit said.

Most of the villagers are fishermen or have jobs outside the

village, while many of the women work as shellfish openers. The most common health issues affecting the communities were related to obesity, dermatitis, hypertension, asthma, heart disease, paresis and dengue fever.

"The villagers spend most of their income on consumer goods

and sending their children to school," Gov Nisit said.

"There are some financial aids available to them, such as the Baan Laem Lah and the Hin Luk Diao community saving funds. Some villagers have taken out loans from the Women's Professional Improvement Fund. However, most

of them do not wish to be in debt."

Both communities are in the process of requesting that the villagers be granted rights to live on the land where they now reside, Governor Nisit added.

The government was working on several projects to improve the sea gypsies' standard of living, he added.

"We are working on improving the quality of their homes so that they are safe and hygienic, and we have launched programs to help them become self-sufficient," Gov Nisit said.

"We are also encouraging the villagers to embrace and practice their traditional culture as a way of attracting tourists."

Gen Surayud offered two suggestions: "First, we should promote vocational study among the youths so that they can learn a trade and later earn a living.

"Second, when we are considering changes to their homes to make them safer and cleaner, we have to be careful to preserve their traditional culture in order to encourage them to be proud of themselves."



Transport Minister ACM Prajin (right) hands a life jacket to a local boatman.

Life-jacket exchange promotes water safety

MORE than 1,000 old life jackets were exchanged for new ones, certified by the Marine Office, at the launch of a life-jacket exchange program chaired by the Minister of Transport, Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong, on Monday.

The goal of the event was aimed to improve safety for boat passengers during the Christmas and New Year holidays and beyond, explained Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrakul.

"We are trying to make water transportation safer for everyone, as it is one of the most important factors in tourism on the Andaman coast," Ms Kobkarn said.

"The growing numbers of tourists using boats has led us to boost our safety measures in order to avoid accidents. We want Phuket to be one of the most reliable destinations for sea travel."

As part of the campaign to boost boating safety the Depart-

ment of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM)'s annual Seven Days of Danger safety campaign for the New Year holidays will focus on both road safety and water-transport safety.

"We will also be focusing on water transportation, as there have been several accidents this year," Governor Nisit Jansomwing said at a recent meeting to discuss strategies for the campaign.

Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut confirmed at the meeting that a water-safety operation center would be established.

Boat speeds would be limited and life vest regulations would be enforced, he said.

"Anyone who boards a boat will have to wear a life vest. This is a strict regulation ordered by the Phuket Governor," Mr Phuripat said.

– Woranut Pechdee



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Diver killed by boat propeller

A NORWEGIAN tourist was fatally injured by a boat propeller while diving off Koh Tao on Monday.

The 22-year-old tourist, Silje Fauskerud Mathisen, was pronounced dead on the way to a medical facility, said Capt Chakkapong Kaewkhao of the Koh Tao Police.

Ms Mathisen's body will undergo an autopsy while police investigate the incident and interview the boat driver, Nathakorn Meekwan, and Ms Mathisen's diving instructor. Mr Nathakorn was initially charged with reckless driving causing death, reported *The Nation*.

Witnesses told police that Ms Mathisen was diving in shallow water under her instructor's supervision when the propeller blade of a passing boat hit her in the back of the head. The boat rushed her to Koh Tao International Hospital, but she succumbed to the injury.

Local hotbeds of corruption

MANY of the 8,000 local administrative bodies nationwide are hotbeds of graft and corruption, the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) said on Monday.

PACC chief Prayong Preeyajit said that there was little oversight for local elected bodies and demands for bribes of 100,000 baht or a staff position was not unheard of.

Corruption in the public sector is incorrigible, he told a panel during the 13th National Symposium of Justice Administration at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center in Bangkok.

"The mechanisms for dealing with the problem can't cope. Corruption floods in like water from a broken dam. It only stopped in May when the [National] Council for Peace and Order took over. But we can't be too sure even today," Mr Prayong said.

The PACC only has 247 staff and they could not keep up with the caseload, he added.

"Today, businesspeople have to pay up to 30-40 per cent in kick-backs to win a concession from some local governments," Mr Prayong said. "In several areas,



According PACC chief Prayong Preeyajit, corruption in the public sector is endemic. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

elections became a tool [for them] to come in to seek gains."

Citing the example of a local community futsal stadium that cost 180 million baht instead of 50mn baht, Mr Prayong called for a facilitation center to be set up to assist various anti-corruption organizations.

Chairat Khanitbut, deputy secretary-general of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, said various sectors must work in tandem. Mr Chairat said the NACC would from now on form a large team for big cases to speed up the time it takes to process them.

Pramon Suthewong, chairman

of the private-sector Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand, said he would consider it a success if the government could punish at least a few of the big guys within a year. "If you can't deal with big fish then they won't be afraid, because they might die before ever being prosecuted," he said.

Nobody putting cork back in on New Year's partying

PARTYGOERS will be able to buy booze during New Year celebrations as the Alcohol Control Committee has decided to defer its decision on banning the sale of alcohol during this period, reported *The Nation*.

The ban was proposed on grounds that alcohol consumption is responsible for hundreds of road deaths during the New Year holidays every year.

"We believe further studies are necessary, as we need to take into account diverse opinions in society. Banning alcohol would affect a huge number of people," Public Health Minister Rajata Rajatanavin said on December 21, in his capacity as chair of the committee.

Mr Rajata denied that the decision was related to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's comment that he had no objection to the sale of alcohol during the holiday season. PM Prayut, who also heads the National Council for Peace and Order, made the comment earlier this month in response to questions about the proposal to ban alcohol over the New Year and during the Songkran festival.

Mr Rajata, meanwhile, confirmed that the committee had already approved the Disease Control Department's proposal to ban the sale of alcohol at public piers, transport stations, and state agencies and enterprises.

"We have also resolved that no alcohol will be sold on the day marking the end of Buddhist Lent," he said.

The sale of alcohol is already banned on other days that are



PARTY ON: Drinking allowed for New Year celebrations. Photo: Gazette file

religiously important, such as Visakha Bucha, Makha Bucha and Asalha Bucha days.

Theera Watcharapranee, manager of the Stop Drink Network Office, said he respected the Alcohol Control Committee's decision, "but we will gather more information to support the ban. We will still have time to gather information for the Songkran period [in mid-April]."

More than 40 people showed up at the Public Health Ministry's Office of the Permanent Secretary on December 21 to call for a ban on alcohol over the New Year and during Songkran.

According to the Youth Network of New Face Drinker Prevention, 367 people were killed and 3,344 others injured in road accidents over the "seven dangerous days" of New Year's celebrations last year.

"Nearly half of the road accidents were related to drunk driving," the network's coordinator Teerapat Kahawong said.

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Russian expert finds investment paradise

FIRST PERSON

PREVIOUSLY I was a physicist and I've also been involved with electronics and communications. In the Soviet era, I was a project manager and the head of a department in a big Moscow research institute. I have always liked working with people and, luckily, I have a natural ability for languages.

When the Soviet Union broke apart, these abilities appeared to be in a high demand and I started consulting in the sphere of international business – foreign investment, relations with foreign banks and offshore companies – just because I knew English, Spanish and French. Our company was among the three biggest CIS setups, rendering offshore services. We had agents all over the world – from the UK to the US to Virgin Islands and Australia. I must say, without false modesty, that I am still among the major Russian experts in this sphere of business.

One day my clients told me, "You know, the dollar is bouncing, banks are going bankrupt and our money is lying idle. Let's invest it somewhere. For instance, let's buy something nice in a great location." Eventually that's how I came from post-Soviet Moscow to Bangkok, Thailand. We needed a beach with some palm trees and so I went down to the hotel lobby, found a tourist agency and asked, "Could you tell me where people spend their leisure time here?"



An outstanding representative of Phuket's international community, **Sergey Nesterenko** – who has a doctorate in business law and an MA in finance – has travelled the world searching for an earthly paradise to invest in property.

At a unique Phuket location on secluded Naithon Beach, he is building the exclusive Vista del Mar villas with breathtaking sea and mountain views.

Mar villas with breathtaking sea and mountain views.

"Generally speaking, on the islands," was the answer. "Look, here is Phuket." And they gave me some booklets.

My first reason for deciding to construct here in Phuket is the climate. The island is easy to reach for Russians looking for a destination with year-round beach recreation and comfortable temperatures. /

The island is easy to reach for Russians looking for a destination with year-round beach recreation and comfortable temperatures. /

the Mediterranean – including Egypt – it is cool from October to May, and too hot in the summer. As for the Emirates, it is good there in September and May, but in the summer it is scorching, and in winter it's just 18-20C. And the Caribbean? I visited the Dominican Republic in January. It was marvelously beautiful there with palm trees bending over the sky-blue waters. But the sea is rather cool and you cannot swim in it for so long as you can here in Phuket. And while the Dominican Republic has many luxurious hotels, just outside your window on the other side of the barbwire fence, you quickly enter the "real"

island with its terrifying poverty, broken glass, refugees and dirt. So at least for me it is not possible to live and to buy property there.

Four years ago, I flew to Phuket within the framework for my real-estate investment "world tour". I then prepared a shortlist of 10 affordable projects for my investors and customers. We eventually chose three out of the list. One of them failed, but other two projects were successfully built. These were the apartments at the Pearl of Naithon and villas at the Residence Bangtao. At the moment, I am interested in the region between Kamala to Naithon, but south of Kamala is not for me.

The reason is that it is too busy, with a high density of old-fashioned developments. Of course, it is nice for socializing and there is a strong expat community, but I do not like that area – like many local expat southerners who dislike the north of Thailand. Even the nature is different in the north. We've got a lot of greenery here – open spaces and hills. But the main issue for me as a developer is that in the south of Phuket there is no place to erect projects of the same class as Vista del Mar Phuket.



The only tigers you can find in Phuket are in cages. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Island haven lost

Island View

By Quinton James

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

A COUPLE of weeks ago, I joined some work colleagues for lunch at a Cherng Talay restaurant. The restaurant is Australian-owned and caters mainly to expats who are homesick for chunky meat pies and other Western fare.

While waiting to be served I noticed, among the restaurant memorabilia, an old black-and-white photograph on the wall. It depicted a group of locals standing with their guns over the carcass of a tiger. The photo caption read: 'The last known tiger to be killed in Phuket, 1965.'

I remembered the date, because it is the year I was born, nearly 50 years ago. Although this was supposedly the last tiger killed on Phuket, sightings of them were still reported up until the mid-70s, with some people even claiming to have seen them as late as 1980.

We will never know how long these elusive cats really managed to survive on the island alongside man. What were they like I wonder; cut off from the mainland for hundreds of years? Had they evolved differently from other tigers? Were they smaller? Did they creep out of the jungle down to the beaches on moonlit nights, swim in the sea and enjoy a fish diet? Or did they hunt now-extinct deer or forest antelope, the likes of which our generation has never seen?

Today, much of Phuket's true forest cover has gone, along with

most of its wildlife. If tigers once roamed the island, think what other exotic animals must have been here to support that complex food chain.

As humans there's a constant need to reassure ourselves that we are doing the right thing – that we can save the world, even though it's the world that needs saving from us. We get all warm and fuzzy inside when let loose to champion this or that cause... it gives us "hope".

But let's face it, we are kidding ourselves. Is Phuket really beautiful? It certainly was 200 years ago, but what's left is a shell of its former self. How many times have you driven down Thepkasattri Road, sucked in a lungful of air and exclaimed how fresh it is? When did you last read a report about a coral reef growing, or wild elephant numbers in Khao Sok National Park quadrupling?

In many ways, Phuket is a mini-example of the direction in which our world is heading. Unless society – not the way we do things in society – changes, the natural world as we know it, will soon be gone.

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

Will someone turn down the Cherng Talay floodlights?

THE Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization recently installed five towers of floodlights that shine light onto the otherwise dark areas around the Surin football stadium, presumably for security reasons.

Several of these lights are incorrectly positioned, and shine upwards into bedrooms and living rooms of residents' homes nearby, instead of where they would be effective.

Despite many complaints, only one bank of these lights has been corrected properly. I have been told that nothing can be done to correct the rest of the misaligned lights. Clearly, if one bank can be fixed, they all can.

GB
Cherng Talay

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

Thank you for letting me know. I have heard several complaints



The floodlights are blasting into residents homes, as well as the Surin football stadium. Photo: Gazette file

about this already from residents in the Ayala housing estate.

Part of the problem with the floodlights has been fixed, and the

rest will be done soon.

Last week, I informed the company in Bangkok who installed the lights and they said they will send

some technicians to fix the problem. I am not sure when they will come to Phuket, but they promised me that it would be very soon.

The floodlights are new, and are still under the two-year warranty, so we cannot fix them by ourselves. We have to wait for the company to do it.

Again, thank you for informing me about this problem. If anyone, including foreigners, has any complaints about any of the structures or services that the Cherng Talay OrBorTor are responsible for, please bring them to me directly.

I can speak English and I am happy to solve any problems that I can.

The Iermakov affair

THE arrest of five soldiers by police for the abduction of Ukrainian businessman Igor Iermakov last week demonstrates the need for better cooperation between the Royal Thai Police and the military in international crime cases while the nation remains under martial law (see page 1).

Cases involving international fugitives who opt for Phuket as a safe haven are certainly nothing new. The high season for tourism – when the island is crowded with visitors from around the globe and law-enforcement resources are spread precariously thin – is a particularly easy time for criminals to slip into the country unnoticed.

Once here, many can blend into Phuket's increasingly cosmopolitan demographic, enjoying the island's attractions and relatively low cost of living – just like our millions of other guests.

In cases where the offenders' crimes have allowed them to amass great personal fortunes, Phuket can also serve as a prime destination for a "permanent vacation" out of reach of the long arm of the law in their home countries. Foreign wealth, combined with Thailand's endemic corruption, have in the past made it relatively easy for all but the most high-profile fugitives to live here long term.

Obtaining high-quality forged documents, hiring crooked lawyers to set up shell companies in order to acquire property or a work permit, and even outright bribery of government officers to obtain whatever permits or status is required – we have seen and reported it all before.

Current immigration regulations aimed at keeping track of foreigners range from the poorly-enforced "24-hour reporting" of foreign guests checking in at hotels to the "90-day reporting" regimen for all foreigners in the Kingdom on one-year "permit to stay" extensions.

These and many other regulations generate mountains of revenue and paperwork at immigration offices throughout the country. They also create considerable hardship, wasted time and expense for businesses and law-abiding foreigners. But never once has there been a reported case in which these practices have led directly to the apprehension and extradition of a high-profile international criminal from Phuket – at least that we are aware of.

Instances in which such criminals have been tracked down and ultimately deported or extradited almost invariably start with requests from overseas law-enforcement agencies acting on tips.

Procedures for coordinating investigative operations with police agencies are well-established and have improved with better use of technology in recent years.

As an eventual return to civilian rule is the stated goal of the current administration, we humbly suggest that existing mechanisms continue to be used in cases involving foreign fugitives and that the military refrain, as much as possible, from becoming directly involved.

As the Iermakov affair demonstrates, doing so can lead to a great deal of "misunderstanding" and embarrassment.



Magnet for worst kind of people

Re: Gazette online, Phi Phi resort partner, dive boat captain arrested, December 18

Phuket attracts the worst kind of Thais and, too often, the worst kind of foreigners.

Will it ever improve?

I'm glad to be far away from all of it now. Been there, got the stained T-shirt and, thankfully, found real Thailand elsewhere.

Not perfect, but a million miles removed from the grossness that sums up Phuket for tourists and expats.

Rob Jacobs
Facebook

Managing Phuket's tourism reputation

Re: Gazette online, Phi Phi resort partner, dive boat captain arrested, December 18

I really appreciate your detailed reports, but do you think it is appropriate to post more and more bad things about Phuket?

Perhaps you have noticed that tourism is not at its best this year.

Please think twice before you destroy the reputation of our beautiful island.

Hei Ko
Facebook

Lack of sun-loungers a serious deal breaker

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach vendors return for trial run, December 19

I just cancelled my trip to Phuket.

Sorry, but I have a bad back and have been operated on. I cannot sit on the sand.

So thank you for all those years. I love Thailand and the people there, but this is not good for the tourism business.

I think we will go to other countries.

Anette Holmquist
Facebook

Letters to the Editor

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

Corruption fuelling terrorism should carry stiff, harsh penalties

Re: The Nation, Marine Police ex chief admits to B150mn in bribes; hundreds of police to be re-assigned, December 18

Bearing in mind that the oil-smuggling money was being used to fuel the insurgency (pardon the pun), these chaps should really be charged with terrorism offenses as well.

How much of their greed has led to the deaths of other police officers, army soldiers and civilians?

Mister Ree
Phuket Forum

Police should not be allowed to reap fines

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Fine Solution for Phuket, December 21

The best way to avoid such incidents and police corruption is to ban police from collecting money.

Fines should be paid to a tax collector in each town, this tax collector's continued employment to be dependent upon, and controlled by, the finance minister.

Mach
Gazette Forum

Corruption is not a problem only in Asia

Re: Gazette online, On Your Mind: Tackling Phuket corruption, December 20

Corruption is endemic not only in Asian countries, but worldwide. The biggest problem is that it

starts from the top and filters down, with all levels of officials believing that it is a perk of their job or position.

Therefore it needs to be tackled from the top; stop their graft and that will stop those below them.

Bjay
Gazette Forum

Not ready for AEC, not really surprised

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Future cloudy for AEC 2015, December 17

Sounds like he's saying that after years of "preparing", Thailand is likely still to resist entering the AEC.

Can't say I would be surprised. Like many people, I have always been skeptical about Thailand's ability to put aside centuries of racial myopia and actually welcome foreigners.

Factor in the coup and who knows what will happen.

Captain Jack
Phuket Forum

Blasting balls – great Thailand-style news

Re: Gazette online, Phuket man blasts penis with make-shift pesticide torch, December 22

I love the news on this island. Okay, some of it is horrendous, scary and bad for tourism. But some of it keeps me coming back.

It's easy to imagine a couple of teenagers anywhere in the world blasting their own penises out of pure stupidity, but the real gift, though, is that it makes it into the news. I'm sure such silliness really does take place all over the world, but there is something about Thailand and Phuket specifically that seems to draw such stories to the surface.

Stein
USA

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Laguna's dirty laundry

By Maciek Klimowicz

PART of the pleasure of holidaying in a good hotel is that you don't have to do your own laundry. Yet someone has to do it for you and for all the other guests. Can you just imagine what a gigantic pile of dirty clothes all the resorts in Phuket generate? But where some see nothing but a lot of dirty laundry, others spot a business opportunity.

Twelve tonnes – this is how much dirty laundry is processed in one day by the Laguna Service laundry operations. And that's on a slow day, in the low season. Come the high tide of the tourist season and this amount doubles. No wonder that the second biggest industrial laundry in Phuket never ceases operations.

"We work seven days a week, 365 days a year," says Anthony Loh, Laguna Service Senior AVP. "Room linens constitute the majority of laundry with restaurant linens coming in second," he adds and continues to explain that the average lifespan of a bed sheet in a big hotel is about one year, or 120 laundry cycles. But not when it's Laguna Service that takes care of the washing.

"Thanks to Laguna's technology, this can be expanded for up to two years. We use steam-driven equipment that is gentler on clothes and our washing machines have a lower rotation rate than

those you're used to at home – helping to extend the life of the fabric," says Loh.

Quality service and care for the customers' fabrics is just one thing that Laguna Service prides itself on. To showcase the other, I'm invited on a tour of the compounds. The first things that catches my eye when inspecting the massive, industrial-type boilers are the nearby rows upon rows of LPG tanks.

"All our operations are fueled with LPG, which is better for the environment. We also perform our own water treatment," explains Loh. "Being environmentally friendly is very important to us and to Laguna's company wide CSR department," he adds.

This care extends to the laundry's own staff. To limit workers' exposure to chemicals, most

of the operations are automatized. Laguna Service first served exclusively the hotels within Laguna Phuket grounds, using this opportunity to gain experience and to perfect its processes. It was 10 years ago that a decision was made to enter the open market and start aiming at customers outside Laguna.

"But we didn't just open the flood gates, for the sake of making money," says Loh. "We wanted to ensure a progressive growth so we approached just two hotels and didn't advertise – depending entirely on word-of-

Our ambition is to help develop the whole industry here. We see a lot of small and medium-sized commercial laundries coming up, many of them entering the business just for the profit, without regard for the environment or quality of service.



CLEAN CASH: Laguna Service laundry operations is looking to raise industry standards. Photo: Erich Ferdinand

mouth marketing."

It worked. Today, 14 hotels outsource their laundry operations to Laguna Service, seven of them outside of Laguna Phuket. Loh believes that its time to take another step up.

"We believe we have reached another level allowing us to provide more. With 10 years' of experience in working with outside customers and going through both the highs and the lows of the

industry, we feel that the quality of our service has reached a level that allows us to expand without compromising it," he explains.

The motivations behind this move are bigger than just looking for more revenue: Laguna Service has ambitions to set new standards in Phuket's industrial laundry services.

"Our ambition is to help develop the whole industry here. We see a lot of small and medium-sized

commercial laundries coming up, many of them entering the business just for profit, without regard for the environment or quality of service. We would like to influence the whole industry to raise their standards," says Loh.

"We cannot service everybody but we want hotels to be aware of what quality service is; what is 'care' for the associates and what environmentally-friendly operations are," he concludes.



More than 85 employers attended the fair. Photo: Supplied

Job Fair at Homeworks focuses on hospitality

NO LESS than 2,549 jobs were available for job seekers at the annual Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) Job Fair at Homeworks, Central Festival East shopping complex, last weekend.

"There are more than 85 employers at the fair offering 2,549 jobs in 223 positions. Most of the jobs are in the hospitality and tourism sectors. However, positions are also available for people who are seeking work in

for retail stores and shopping malls, as well as other openings," Puang Songnam, a senior officer of PPEO said on December 19.

"The fair provides the opportunity for both employers and job seekers to meet up in person. Employers can get the right candidates and job seekers have more chances of finding work that suits them the most."

PPEO officers encourage job seekers to attend the annual event. – Chutharat Plerin

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Traders pounce on oil

Asset class provides hedge against stock market crash

Finance

By David Mayes

I USED to write about the trend-following sector. Many of the funds I still use went decades with the steadiest performance in the investment industry, while still giving investors above-average returns.

Sadly, in the period of low interest rates and volatility following the financial crisis, the entire asset class has struggled. The steady year-after-year forward progress seemed to turn upside down and many funds were down three out of four years after having gone decades without a single bad year.

This year, however, it seems that they are back in a big way and the recent volatility in oil prices appears to have been one of the biggest causes. It doesn't matter if the underlying commodities go down or up for this style of fund to make a good return, but there does need to be movement, and there certainly has been just that in the oil market as of late. At the time of this writing, the two major benchmarks are were off by about 38% from the 2014 highs that hit in June.

Many of the funds that had me just about at my wits' end are finally redeeming themselves. Palm Trend Fund, for example, despite having a manager with an exemplary track record, had done nothing but go steadily down since I had invested any money with the group. Yet this year they are up about 50%, lifting my clients into positive territory no matter how unlucky was the timing of their initial investments. Man AHL Diversified, which had been going steadily since the 1980s without a losing year until 2009, after which it lost money four out of five years, is finally having another great year and is up over 27% for 2014 so far. Again, anyone who invested at any point in time during that bad period would be



GUSHING PRICES: Traders have jumped on oil after the prices took a plunge to new record lows in recent weeks. Photo: Carbon Visuals

well into profit territory now.

The question many of my clients have been asking, and which I have asked myself, is: Does this mean the group has turned the corner and that performance will go back to the way it was prior to the financial crisis? It is impossible to tell, but as these things are cyclical and we are coming into increasing volatility, I expect the next few years to be okay. After what the sector has done this year, it is hard know what to expect out of 2015 but good years have often come in clusters for this asset class in the past.

One thing I do know is that this asset class provides an excellent hedge against any possible crash in the already over-inflated stock market. Trend following CTAs (commodity trading advisers) often post their best years when stock markets crash, so balancing out your stock portfolio with them is only common sense in my opinion. The world situation points to continuing volatility and uncertainty and as is always the case in life, it is better to be prepared for the worst and hope for the best.

There are many great funds in

this asset class but also many horrible and risky ones.

Diversification is the key and many feeder funds allow access to some of the better managers at very low minimum investment levels. I will highlight a few of my favorites from time to time, but a general rule of thumb is that you want a track record of at least a decade and exchange traded assets which are liquid.

Also, stay away from funds that use too much leverage, as this can cause you sleepless nights in the inevitable draw-down part of the cycle or even worse. Stick to

the proven managers who deliver a reasonable return.

I believe adding CTAs to a portfolio is the best way to balance out the high market risk present in most people's stock portfolios at the moment.

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.



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- ❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
- ❖ Notarial certifications Fax: 076 346 150
- ❖ Contracts Email: siamint@loxinfo.co.th
- ❖ Work permits
- ❖ Bookkeeping
- ❖ Visa service
- ❖ Translations

Nissan confident in economy

JAPANESE automaker Nissan is confident the Thai economy and automobile market will recover next year, thanks to government stimulus programs and increased consumer confidence.

Nissan Motor Thailand president Hiroyuki Yoshimoto told reporters last week that according to the Japan Chamber of Commerce, the Thai government's efforts to revive the economy and its commitment to hold free and open elections had instilled confidence among

Japanese business interests.

Yoshimoto said investors, too, were confident the economy would recover early next year, and that the automotive industry would also slowly pick up.

He also revealed that Nissan was considering new models for the Thai market, but did not elaborate on when they would become available.

"Right now we are studying various possibilities, and although our new technologies are ready, in order to introduce new models



Nissan's confidence comes from stimulus programs. Photo: Wiki

to the market, we need time to consider the investment," he said.

- The Nation

WHAT'S ON
in Phuket

December 26-Jan 5. Phuket Red Cross Fair

The Phuket Red Cross will host its ever-popular annual fair at Saphan Hin. There will be OTOP products for sale, festive foods and performers taking to the stage each night. Top lucky draw prize will be a Toyota Altis 1.6.

December 29-31, Colorful Countdown 2015

The "Colorful Countdown Phuket 2015" will usher in the New Year with light shows and live concerts at Sanam Chai Park, across the road from Phuket Provincial Hall.

Headlining the final evening will be legendary Thai folk-rock artist Yuenyong Opakul, better known by his stage name Ad Carabao.

December 31, 8pm-late. New Year Party at Friendship Beach Resort

Friendship Beach Resort & Atmanjai Wellness Spa hosts its 11th Annual New Years Eve Celebration and Dinner Buffet.

Featuring: A Welcome Cocktail, live DJ, fire show, cabaret show and great fireworks displays along the beachfront.

Buffet featuring: imported beef filet, grilled salmon, BBQ ribs, roast duck curry and a large selection of appetizers, desserts and side dishes. Adults: 900 baht++. Kids under 12 years: 700 baht++.

December 31, 8pm-12am. New Year Feast at Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort

Our New Year's extravaganza commences with an international buffet featuring the very best seafood, meats, salads and sumptuous desserts. Settle in for

a night of lively and elegant performances, and then dance the night away to live music by our seven-piece band Rhythm Nation, and our professional DJ.

Join us on Wednesday, December 31 at our Locavore restaurant and Icon Terrace & Lounge from 8pm to bid farewell to 2014 and

welcome in 2015! Prices from THB 7,000++ per person, half price for children aged 4 to 12.

January 3, 7pm-11:30pm. Beatlemania is back at Two Chefs!

Beatlemania is back! This time we are doing the show @ our Sky

Bar in Two Chefs Kamala. Our famous house band will play all the classic Beatles songs. A Beatles-inspired set menu available as well as the regular Two Chefs a la carte menu. Come for the food and Stay for the fun!

January 18-26. Foundation for

Shamanic Studies presents courses in Phuket

The Foundation for Shamanic Studies presents its first courses in Phuket, Thailand, from January 18-26, 2015. Book now at www.shamanism-asia.com/2014/11/thai, or call 081-891 5539 for more information.



Photo: Jt Stewart

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www.sleepwithmehotels.com

OBEY YOU



Sprite

YOUR Phuket

Dusit Thani Laguna lights up for Christmas



General Manager Denis Thouvard with a hotel guest during the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

DaVinci Kata celebrates one year



HITTING THE BOTTLE ONE YEAR ON: L to R: Kanitta Thongsano, sales and marketing manager; Nika Marusic; Praewpralin Inchomchuen, key account & PR manager at Katalina Collection; Jana Sasikova, GM of DaVinci; Kunrapath Yodsapakphinyo, sales and marketing manager Kata Rock; Phitchayaporn Thitikullawat, sales & marketing manager of Triple C Hotels & Resorts.

Christmas delights!



ANANTARA PHUKET: L to R: Amornitip Lerdkul; Elisabeth S D Souza; Saniya Goriawala; Simon Hand, PGTV; Chalinee Phuengprachuab; and Duangchompoo Poopare.



KATA SEA BREEZE RESORT PHUKET: L to R Phanwara Phatharaworanee; Kanjana Sriboonsom, Phuket Gazette; Ornchaporn Sangsre; and Jantana Jaikwang, Phuket Gazette.



KAJONKIET SCHOOL: L to R: Natthira Susangrat; Ratchanee Boonrat; and Krisana Matzenberger, PGTV.



MISS PHUKET UNIVERSE TEAM: L to R Woravita Chanhun; HOOTERS PHUKET: 'Pinky', Hooters girl; and Isaac Stone Krisana Matzenberger, PGTV; and Athichaporn Suttiosot. Simonelli, Phuket Gazette.



Drink your way through stock market crashes with Serenity



MARKET CONFIDENCE: L to R: Izzy Ben Natan; Memo Zack (behind); Charles Maurer; Maxime Gaillard; and Jean-Marc Limacher.



CRASH MANAGERS: L to R: Richard Mehr; Wariya Chattay; Kanjana Sriboonsom; Praewpralin Inchomchuen; Urs Aebi; Phitchaporn Thitikullawat; Byron Jones; and Kwanlapha Tongsom. Photo: Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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

December 27, 2014 - January 2, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



elefloor.com *Asia's Premier 'Direct to Seller' Property Portal* **Sell + Rent**

Villa Owners

Developers

See page 16

JOB of the week



dusitD2
phuket resort

See page 21

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES of the week



UNIQUE & LUCRATIVE
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

KOOCHIE

See page 22

BOAT & MARINE of the week



LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

SINCE 1997

See page 25

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties For Sale

LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

400sqm, seaview, Karon: 3.9 million baht. Also, house and land (120sqm, 400sqm) : 7 million baht. Tel: 091-0402471. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA



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

CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER



Chanote title. 412sqm. 2 bed, 2 bath, in- and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN



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

FREEHOLD POOL VILLA



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

NAKA ISLAND

Beachfront house, panoramic views of bay & islands to the south, built 2007, easy access to Phuket, 240sqm on 2 floors, 4 beds, 750sqm plot, separate house for staff. Tel: 084-8461 270 (English). Email: ahcopse@gmail.com

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.

SEA VIEW LAND FOR SALE



Ao Yon. 13.5 rai. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

3-BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (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.



LAND & RESORT IN YOUR BUDGET

"The Andaburee Phuket"

Seaview, Mountain View, Mission Hill Golf Course View Project

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

Contact: 076-350118, 083-389 7799. Email: Pee_bang56@hotmail.com



SEAVIEW HOUSE



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

2- BEDROOMS BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

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

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA



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

26-ROOM HOTEL SEAVIEW

1 km from beach, 26 rooms & apt (total 40 rooms), land 500sqm, 65 million baht. Email: bookx90@gmail.com

URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED



Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountain side, panoramic seaview of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).

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

LAND FOR SALE



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

ONE SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

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

KAMALA



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

RAWAI VIP VILLAS WITH PARK

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

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.

POOL HOUSE



Near Heroines, Pa Khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 aircons, big kitchen, furnished, pool 9 x 3m . Price: 5.25million baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

From Phuket 100km. Between A. Thap Put Phang Nga and A. Panom Surat Thani



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).



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.

Properties For Rent

FOR RENT

Chalong Pier Road, ground floor unit, available for shop or office use. Excellent location on this popular and well-known road. For more information, please call 081-416 4177 or 076 381 341. Email: marketing@sea-bees.com

KAMALA BEACHHOUSE & APT

Very nice house all apartment; furnished, quiet, clean, secure. Price 16,000-22,000 baht / month. Tel: 083-645 3546.

HOLIDAY RENTAL

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG

Condo, pool, security, 46sqm. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@ya.hoo.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT



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

ZCAPE STUDIO APARTMENT

Chemgtalay. Sale or rent. Fully furnished. Email: Pkttthai1@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

3 bed, 2 bath, living, dining and kitchen, 4 aircon units and garden. Opposite Boat Lagoon. Call 089-737 9104 or mail p_pongthong@hotmail.com

KATA NOI, 1 & 2 BED SEAVIEW

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

NICE BUNGALOW RAWAI

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

KATA SEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT

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

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

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

LAST-MINUTE RENTAL

An elegant, high-quality 3-bedroom villa with private 12-meter pool is available for short-term or long term rental. Furnished to the highest standards, the property is part of a luxury private estate located only minutes to Nai Ham Beach, restaurants and shops. 12-month contract, 85,000 baht per month; Daily rate from 10,000 baht per day. Tel: 081-080 3184 (English). Email: zuber@loxinfo.co.th www.villastellaphuket.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

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

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

OFFICE FOR RENT IN PATONG

Situated at prime location, 1st floor with 42sqm. Tel: 092-493 9644 (English & Thai). Email: organ@century21-andaman.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

1, 2 bedrooms, near Laguna, fully furnished from 20,000 Baht. Tel: 093-713 2278.

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 Website: suringate.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: annanoi1@hotmail.com

PRUKSA VILLE - THALANG

This is a new 3-bed, 2-bath house, fully furnished. Available in high season from December, 2014. 10 mins direct from airport and many beaches. Short and long-term. 15-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 090-924 5838. Contact vicky_grc@hotmail.com

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

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, start from 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. Website: panwa.green.weebly.com

PATONG CONDO FOR RENT

Luxury poolside condominium. Fully furnished 2-bed/-bath, equipped kitchen, WiFi, cable TV, aircon. For Rent or For Sale. Available from 16th December. Tel: 085-792 2815 (English). Email: berrn@global.net.au

SEAVIEW CONDO IN PATONG

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

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

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

RAWAI BEACH FRONT HOUSE

3 bedrooms, close to Fisher man's Way. For long-term rent: 80,000 baht / month. Tel: 081-593 9559, 081-737 1678. Email: supotpac@phuketemail.com

LARGE OPEN FLATS

Long-term, 8-11,000 baht per month. Good exercise location. Furnished. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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

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

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Earn up to 3,000 - 5,000 baht / day. International organization is looking for responsible and diligent persons for independent job. Thai and foreigners. Tel: 084-081 6067 (English). Email: recruitment@holiplanet.com

ENGLISH TEACHERS

1 x Kindergarten - Part-time: 14hrs/week, in Cherng Talay, start Jan 5. 2 x Full-Time. School near Phuket Town. All positions: TEFL certs req'd. Pls contact: The Head Teacher, ECC Phuket. Tel: 076-307 0579, 091-647 5465 (English), 089-139 8453 (English & Thai). Email: Giles@ecc.ac.th

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Fund-raising 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. To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to belinda@soidog.org

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

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

SALES OFFICER - AQUA MASTER

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

CHINESE STAFF NEEDED

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

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Kookai at Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

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

TEACHING AT PSU

Prince of Songkla University International College Haad 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

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).

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: workfor simba@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

Chief Sub-Editor Wanted: Looking for an experienced editor with a deep respect for the English language, who wants to stay hand on while developing, maintaining high-quality copy.

CHIEF SUB-EDITOR

- Native English speaker
- 3-5 years of full-time editing experience, preferably within the news industry
- Interested in relocating to Phuket
- Commercial Social Media and SEO experience a plus

Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

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

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

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are looking for a graphic designer to join our young and fast-growing team. Please send CV for immediate response. Email: paul@livephuket.com

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

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

EUROPEAN CHEFS

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

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. Savoey 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, Chalermprakiat 9 Rd., T. Rassada, A. Mueang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.

RESTAURANT NEEDS URGENTLY

Looking for female Assistant Manager with bubbly personality. Up to 20,000 baht per month. Bar Manager needed for up to 15k. Waitresses needed for up to 12k. All plus service charge and benefits. Call for details. Tel: 076-211775, 086-509 7510 (English), 087-884 8271 (English & Thai). Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call centre customer service. Basic 15,000 baht per month. Fluent English speakers needed. Five-day working week. Great prospects, beautiful office in seafront villa environment. Tel: 083-1737 292 (English). Email: dennisbond44@yahoo.com

COOKS URGENTLY NEEDED

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

K.Y. PROPERTY CO.,LTD

Urgently required in
General Office: 2 positions

Salary: 15,000 baht and up
Benefits: Adjustment of income every year, uniform and Social Security

Qualifications:

- Male / Female Applicants welcome
- Bachelor's degree
- Service-minded with good personality
- Communication Skills and good command of English
- Responsible and enthusiastic
- Computer and print skills

Contact us
20 Moo 2, Thepkrasatthi Road, Koh-Kaew, Muang Phuket
Tel. 076-273414

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: maid, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com

QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Thai person who can speak English and, importantly, Chinese. Will work with Chinese and Russian customers. If experienced in real estate business, there will be a great salary. Phuket Project Co, Ltd. Tel: 093-587 3711.



Now Hiring Talented Team Members

Sales & Marketing Department:
 Graphic Designer - 1 position
 Sales Co-ordinator - 1 position (Bkk)

Spa Department:
 Spa Therapist - 1 position

Human Resource
 Training Manager - 1 position

Front Office Department:
 Porter - 1 position
 Duty Manager - 1 position

Food & Beverage Department:
 Bartender Supervisor - 1 position
 Waiter and Waitress - 2 positions

Contact: Suwan Suwanmalee
 Director of Human Resources
 e: suwan.sw@dusit.com
 48 Ruam Jai Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket Thailand 83150
 t: +66 (0) 76 337 000 | www.facebook.com/dusitD2Resort

Located at Patong Beach, THE DRUNKEN LEPRECHAUN is situated in the same building of dusitD2 phuket resort, giving a huge Irish welcome to all. Come and enjoy our great international food, live bands and full coverage of all the major events. We provide the perfect end to an evening in one of the "must do" attractions for tourists and local alike.

We are now inviting talented hospitality professionals to join our team.
 Vacant Position - General Manager

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.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/ PA TO MD

Experience as executive assistant / PA to MD of over 3 years. Native Thai, fluent in English, some basic Chinese. Secretarial and admin skills (computer, internet, coordination, attending meetings). Own and drive a car. Female, age 20-35. Can make decisions and deal with team members. Tel: 091-979 9911. Email: vrit@princessyachtssea.com, www.princessyachtssea.com

Phuket Gazette

Managing Editor Wanted: Looking for an experienced editor with strong management skills, who is interested in developing an integrated multimedia company.

MANAGING EDITOR

- Native English speaker
- 3-5 years of full-time editing experience, preferably within the news industry
- Interested in relocating to Phuket
- Management experience

Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

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

Bulletins



UNIQUE & LUCRATIVE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Koochie, a multinational brand manufacturing state-of-the-art outdoor playground equipment, outdoor gyms & safety floorings, is looking for dynamic distributors across Thailand.

Entrepreneurs who are capable of investing upward of 2 million baht and are confident in scaling up operations & business in Thailand may apply to sam@koochieplay.com
Visit our website www.koochieplay.com

Serious and interested parties are requested to rush their inquiries for shortlisting for a personal meeting with the company's senior management in Bangkok on January 8-10, 2015.

WANTED: GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Villa-bungalow style only, 20-40 rooms, max 20 mins drive from Patong, min 50% sea view rooms. Wanted for long term rent. Tel: 084-690 1139. Email: ppvisseur@hogest.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

BAR / CAFE / RESTAURANT

Fully licensed Thai/ Western restaurant (seats 50+) on main road near Laguna and Bang Tao, with fully equipped kitchen, cafe /bar/bakery, with staff accommodation & customer parking: for sale or rent - price negotiable. Tel: 080-719 7390 (English & Thai). Email: neilmcgregor1@sky.com

RESTAURANT CLOSING SALE

Fridges, tables, chairs, cutlery, glasses, plates, etc. All only two years old. Everything you need to open a high end restaurant. Tel: 076-325755, 083-103 1330 (English). Email: gbrevision@outlook.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Complete newly equipped and newly furnished restaurant in Patong for sale because of health issues. 700,000 baht. No key money and low monthly rent. Tel: 081-271 1605 (English & Thai), 081-891 9818 (English). Email: Luke59@web.de

RAWAI RESTAURANT URGENT SALE

Area 3,800sqm. Reduced from 1.5mn to 980,000, yearly rent 200,000 baht, includes 2 houses. Tel: 089-646 7176. Email: redchili@yahoo.com

GELATO EXCELLENCE IN PHUKET

Italian master, considered by international press to be one of the best gelato makers in all Europe, is looking for Thai investor to create excellence in Phuket. Email: info@officina delgeloavalon.eu, www.officina delgeloavalon.eu

PATONG STEAKHOUSE

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

SPA & HERB SHOP FOR SALE

2-floor plan shop, fully equipped with aircon and display shelves, phone connection, etc. Tel: 089-645 8976. Email: info@maztik.com

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

INVESTOR / PARTNER / SALE

I have 6 rai Chanote title. Flat land. Waterfront. Email: pkthai1@gmail.com

BAR SOI TIGER FOR SALE

2nd row in from the front, over 2 years contract 4.5 million baht for details Tel: 081-728 2682 (English).

TOUR DESK FOR RENT

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

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. Email: baumanagerzue rich@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

PROMOTION PRICE

Your Ad on **PGTV**

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	Tick here: <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

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

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

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

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.faroe@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).

Camera & Equipment

EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW
Rawai. Canon EOS 7 D (2010), very good condition, + EF-S 18-135 (new). 24,000 baht. Tel: 080-717 9071. Email: otto.nothe@yahoo.de.

Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE
Life Membership at Blue Canyon Phuket for sale at 870,000 baht. Tel: 076-239508, 089-288 7717 (English), 086-281 0112. Email: asmailphuket@gmail.com

LOCH PALM GC
Individual Membership: 430,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 093-772 6498.

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

Pool Tables

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

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: mjlu carelli@yahoo.com

Personals

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

Fitness Equipment

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

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

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

Education

FOUNDATION FOR SHAMANIC
Studies presents first courses in Phuket/Thailand. 1/18 - 1/26, 2015. Book now at www.shamanism-asia.com/2014/11/thai or call 081-891 5539 for info.

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)



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saloon Cars

SALE HONDA BRIO
Only 18,000km. Single owner. Price: 360,000 Baht. Tel: 084-441 0605.

NISSAN ALMERA
For sale April 2012. 420,000 km auto. Silver. 350,000 baht. Tel: 081-143 9824 (Thai), 085-851 2251 (English). Email: peterwo@me.com

HONDA CITY FOR SALE
Automatic 2006. Aircon. CD player. Price for sale 235,000 baht. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

BENZ COUPE CLC 200

3 years old. Bronze. 2.5 million baht. Only 52,900km. Tel: 081-892 4311.

NISSAN TEANA 2.5 XV

For sale November 2013, only one year, 15,000km. White color with full options. Price new: 1.7 million baht Now: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280 (Thai), 090-1632140(Thai). Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT
LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Will trade for big bike or 4x4. Tel: 087-983 4815. Email: gregorfant@gmail.com

VW BEETLE 4 SALE

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

2003 BMW X5 BLACK

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

HYUNDAI ELANTRA

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

HONDA JAZZ 2004
130k but still looks and drives like new. 200,000 ono. Tel: 081-958 6512 (English), 081-787 8559(Thai). Email: mns wilson@gmail.com

BENZ 220 E 2-DOOR
Year 1995 Benzine LPG, leather BBS wheel, excellent condition. 660,000 baht. Tel: 087-890 8554(English&Thai).

CLASSIC CARS ADVERT PHUKET
Call 091-1610868 now if you want to sell your classic Mercedes or other classic cars: Jaguar, Austin, Healey, 1950-1969, etc. Thai spoken. Email: kurttraveller@hotmail.com

PROTON SAVVY 1.2 AT
Only 57,000km, 2010, All options, leather, mag wheels, new tyres, new service, ect. 219,000 baht. Tel: 084-842 5920 (English & Thai), 085-888 9841 (English & Thai). Email: khao_lak@hotmail.com

WILLYS C17 JEEP

Super C17 Willys Jeep with big alloy wheels. 2.7 liter Toyota motor, Automatic. Excellent condition, 100% reliable vehicle. 300,000 baht. Call 087-270 2221 or 087-105 5561. For more information. Email: leehowden@hotmail.com

Pick-ups

TOYOTA VIGO 4X4
3L. Auto. 4 doors. Perfect. 115km. By foreigner. Revised 490,000 Pier. Tel: 086-953 6522.

2005 ISUZU D MAX D

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

TOYOTA FORTUNER 2008

Excellent condition, full services record, expat owned 69,000km. Price: 700,000 baht. Tel: 088-386 3556.

NEW MAZDA PICK-UP TRUCK
Perfect Mazda BT-50PRO. 7800km. 720,000 BHT. Tel: 083-391 6554 (English & Thai). Email: likeprofits@gmail.com See pics http://goo.gl/zZW0Xi

TOYOTA SPORT RIDER

For Sale (Auto) 7-seater, 3.0 Turbo diesel, spacious and reliable. Very well maintained and in perfect condition. Only 280,000 THB, negotiable. Contact Cynthia (090-072 0939) / Thana (081-370 3358).

Motorbikes
SUPER SET YAMAHA SOLO
By foreigner. Few hours. Revised Yamaha, perfect, 170,000 baht. Annick 083-635 2414.

SUZUKI KATANA- MUST SELL
Quick sale for a nice bike in good condition. Only 109,000 baht. Tel: 090-763 5672 (English). Email: t-botnma@online.no

HONDA CBR650F

Full coverage insurance, Price: 260,000 baht. Tel: 086-266 3535. Paolo

VESPA GTS 300IE EC

Only 17,000km. One owner. New: 320,000 baht, Sell, 239,000 baht. Patong Tel: 087-893 1753.

LUXURY CAR 

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

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



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

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

(heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Euro style tailors



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

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

▶ Riviera 42 13,500,000 THB THAI REGISTERED	▶ Pershing 72 1,200,000 Euro
▶ Fairline targa 62 GT 682,000 Euro	▶ Martin Francis Expedition 33 \$850,000 USD NEW LISTING
▶ Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 190,000 Euro	▶ Fountaine Pajot Belize 43 \$330,000 USD
▶ Fusion 40 \$298,000 Euro	▶ Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 52.2 \$260,000 USD
▶ Riviera 370 4,500,000 THB	

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

BOAT FOR SALE

5 en suite cabins, sleeps 10, newly renovated. Perfect for tour & leisure trips. Location: Phang Nga Bay
Price: 1.8M THB negotiable
Contact: panan.titapura@hotmail.com
Tel: 093-024 1961.

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

GC MARINE 26' CENTER CONSOLE

Twin Suzuki 175 Hp 4-stroke engines with around 300 hrs each giving approx 35 knots. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.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

VESSEL "SANITY"

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

URGENT SALE
Fiberglass 35ft ocean sailboat. Price: 200,000 baht. Call to see now at Khao Khad beach. Tel: 061-230 5902 (English). Email: 3dnav@3dnav.eu

10% DISCOUNT
On Hypalon Yachtsman Tenders Aluminium hull RIBs 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@andamanboatsales.com

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

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

POWER CATAMARAN
Austhai 6200. Cabcat. Full specs. Electric toilet, winch, etc. Galvanized trailer, boat cover. 2 Honda 90s with only 118 hours! Great boat. 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

2.8M SAILING DINGHY
BIC Open, excellent condition. 75,000 baht includes trailer and cover. Tel: 081-837 5774 (English).

NEW YACHTSMAN TENDERS
Aluminium hull RIBs 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@andamanboatsales.com

BENETEAU OCEANIS 370 (1991)
Diesel 29hp Perkins Perama Diesel Many recent upgrades Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.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

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

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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 1.42 million baht. 085-917 7155 (English & Thai). Email: poloyaux@gmail.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

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword

COFFEE break

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).
Normal spelling: lower case.
Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).
Letters left out: underlined.

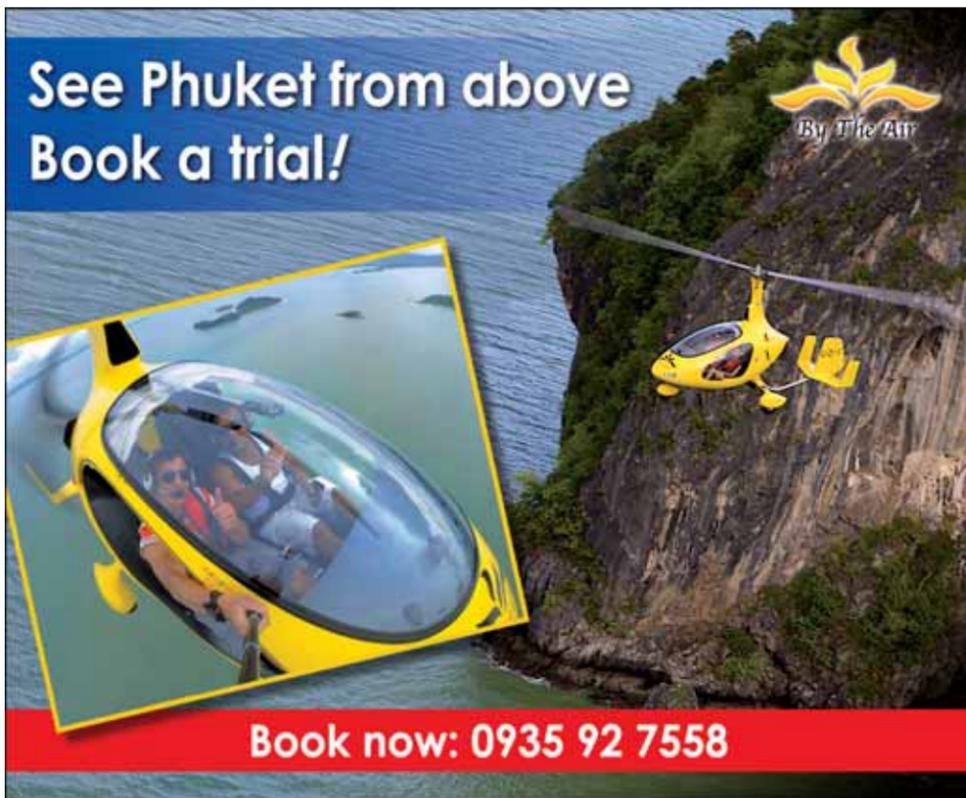
Across:
8. PORTENT: por-ten-t 9. OPPORTUNE: uponeport 13. PUTON: notup[rev]
14. ORATE: or-ate 15. DERVISH: *shiverd* 16. CONTACT: Cont.-act
17. TOTEM: metto 18. BACON: ba-CO.-n 20. ROUND: our-N.D.
22. NORDIC: *cornid* 23. STYMIE: *myties* 25. PLACATE: *palecat*
27. TODDLER: *redtold* 30. DIVERS: *sundry* 31. ANNALS: *lannas*
32. SATYR: *tryas* 35. LADLE: L-deal 36. AHARN: *ahran* 37. DROPPED: *dropped*
39. TOASTED: *stated(O)* 41. ANGER: *range* 42. PRUDE: (D)pure
43. DEMOCRACY: *demo.-C-racy* 44. STAGGER: *gagrest*

Down:
1. COTTON: cot-ton 2. STANDARD: stand-a-Rd. 3. UNFORTUNATE: U-tunofaten
4. APPERTAIN: App.-retrain 5. CONDEMN: con-mend
6. ATTRIBUTED: *triedatbut* 7. ANTI: itan 10. SPACER: *recaps*
11. BATTERY: *trybeat* 12. CHANGE: change 19. COMMENT: C-moment
21. UNLOVED: U-novel-D 24. CONSIDERATE: *desirenoact*
26. CORRECTION: correct-1-on 28. UNBALANCE: *aclubanne*
29. CARNAGE: *cageran* 30. DILATE: *detail* 32. STOPPAGE: *stopgap(E)*
33. REDDEN: red-den 34. PANDORA: pan-dora 38. PHUKET: P-H-U-K.-et
40. AMEN: name

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G-BVNL – UK



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Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

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LAP OF LUXURY: Farouk Nefzi, Feadship marketing and brands director; Luca Vasile, events and luxury sales manager for Boat International; Jan-Bart Verkuyl, Feadship commercial director; Tanyuta 'Jojo' Singhmanee, GM Asia Pacific Superyachts; Charlie Dwyer, captain of Yanneke Too; Gordon Fernandes, GM Asia Pacific Superyachts; Richard Pope, CEO Kata Rocks. Photos: ASR/Tanya Sto



Photo: ASR/Adriano Trapani

S/Y Si Datu Bua crew member celebrates winning best design at Feadship Challenge.



Crew from S/Y Si Datu Bua hoist the jolly roger at the Superyacht Rendezvous.

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Words from the wise

“A year from now, you’re gonna weigh more or less than what you do right now.”
– Phil McGraw

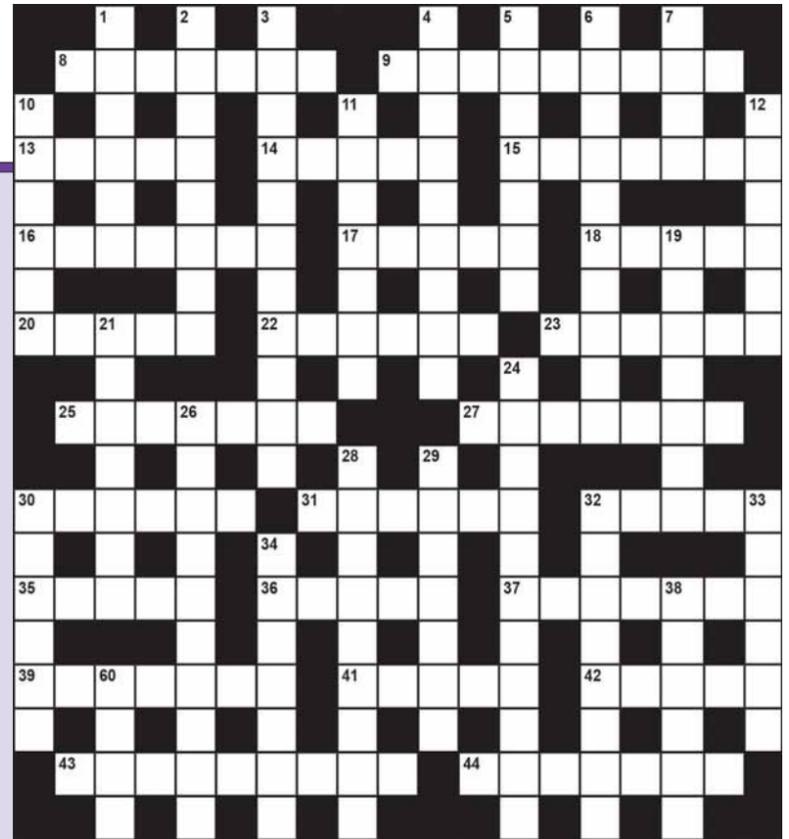
“First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you.”
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 8. In port, ten forecast (7)
- 9. Convenient to mix up one port (9)
- 13. Assume back, not up (3,2)
- 14. Hold forth or put away (5)
- 15. Muslim ascetic whirling, shivered out East (7)
- 16. Shortly to be continued, take steps to get in touch (7)
- 17. Met to change emblem (5)
- 18. Company in ban on cured meat (5)
- 20. Revise our no date circular (5)
- 22. Scandinavian corn I’d destroyed (6)
- 23. My ties possibly hinder progress on course (6)
- 25. Calm pale cat disturbed (7)
- 27. Red told off small child (7)
- 30. Sundry frogmen (6)
- 31. Possibly Lanna’s yearly records (6)
- 32. Try as any way you like to be a lustful deity (5)
- 35. Large spoon for large deal out (5)
- 36. Ah! Ran about for the food in Thailand (5)
- 37. Lost one’s grip, left out of the team (7)
- 39. Carefully stated round circle, raised a glass to (7)
- 41. Range around in rage (5)
- 42. Date in pure surroundings, a killjoy (5)
- 43. Representative government demonstration in short almost ribald (9)
- 44. Possibly gag rest to confuse (7)



Down

- 1. Material for small bed heavy-weight (6)
- 2. Stand a way from the flag (8)
- 3. Turn, possible turn of a ten, to be unlucky (11)
- 4. Relate to application, retain differently (9)
- 5. Declare unfit, against making mend (7)
- 6. Maybe tried at but assigned (10)
- 7. Against it, an irregularity (4)
- 10. Recaps putting back item to maintain a gap (6)
- 11. Try be at new artillery emplacement (7)
- 12. Swap small money (6)
- 19. Caught bad moment for remark (7)
- 21. Socially acceptable novel about daughter not liked (7)
- 24. Desire no act arranged to be thoughtful (11)
- 26. Right one on in amendment (10)
- 28. A club Anne might cause to disturb (9)
- 29. Slaughter in cage ran wild (7)
- 30. Enlarge detail carefully (6)
- 32. Cessation a stopgap out East (8)
- 33. Show embarrassment at color study (6)
- 34. The first woman in Greek mythology to harshly criticize Dora! (7)
- 38. Penny hotel, United Kingdom and in France, for Thai province (6)
- 40. New name, so be it! (4)

Medium

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

Hard

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

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

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The New Moon in your sign is helpful for making positive changes wherever you feel necessary. As a result you may be motivated to make a decision that could transform a key aspect of your life. As ever, there might be a few bumps in the road this week, but as long as you look to take the initiative there’s plenty of room for good cheer and lively social events.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

You’ll benefit from scheduling in plenty of rest and relaxation along with your other tasks and duties. On another note, Saturn leaves your career sector, which could result in a gradual lessening of pressure and angst that you’ll soon start to appreciate. Now look to putting your energy into expanding your social network or focusing on any beliefs you have.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

A New Moon this festive week encourages you to be adventurous about moving in new circles, and

you could benefit greatly as a result. However, choose your company with care and avoid anyone with a penchant for drama. Meanwhile, you could become more intent on creating the success you so richly deserve.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Monday’s New Moon can be helpful for taking the first steps toward any big personal goals. There’s some major news too Aries, as Saturn edges out of Scorpio and into light-hearted Sagittarius. Soon you’ll feel lighter and brighter and ready to roll, with a chance that the financial strains of the last few years will finally ease.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

If a new idea or opportunity grabs your attention, take a chance and follow it up as it could supply just the break you’ve been looking for. You’ll also find that close relationships can improve from Tuesday as tensions gradually ease. The weekend looks ripe for a dash of romance and a chance to get out and about and enjoy some fun.

YOUR horoscope
By Patrick Arundell

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

This is a tip-top week for making key financial decisions and getting into action regarding your financial goals. There are other long-term changes afoot too, as Saturn moves into Sagittarius encouraging you to take a more critical view of your most important relationships. At times you might be tempted to put them to the test, or is someone about to test you?

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The Capricorn New Moon can help take a relationship to the next level, or encourage you to collaborate on a plan or idea. In addition, if romance or creativity have been a problem, this may be about to change. Why? Well, you can begin to feel a lot more confident about your chances. Later, enjoy a festive occasion to the full, in fabulous company.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):

Over this holiday week you may decide it’s time to change your diet or exercise routines so that they reflect your new goals. Be patient on the work front though, as red tape could stall progress. Meanwhile, relief could soon be felt at home as responsibilities become less arduous. Saturn suggests that it’s time to get serious about enjoying life.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):

A New Moon may be the catalyst that kick starts a budding romance or a creative plan. In addition, the Mercury Pluto conjunction could force a decision you’ve been finding hard to finalize. Once it’s made, a sense of relief can sweep over you. Meanwhile, Saturn relocates into your home zone, encouraging you to tackle overdue problems or projects.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

An impulse to make a clean sweep at home could result in a rush to get things organized for this holiday

week and beyond. Life looks hectic and whilst there may be a few squabbles here and there, in the main, the chances are you’ll have a great time. Meanwhile, financial pressures look set to ease, bringing optimism concerning the future.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

A New Moon might kick start a relationship that’s been flagging of late. In addition, the festive week starts with the cosmos giving you something to celebrate. Why? Well, stern Saturn leaves your sign and heads into Sagittarius. This can see you feeling more relaxed over the weeks ahead, but equally looking for validation around your creative efforts of recent months and years.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Money matters may dominate this holiday week, and you could have a desire for a clean slate. Yet, you might be tempted by the sales to splurge on items that aren’t strictly necessary. Meanwhile, Saturn edges into your sign, initially until June 2015, and this can be a trigger for you to take much more seriously the things and people that are important to you, or not.

Downtown island luxury



The architectural design of Seven Seas Condo incorporates a number of elements from well-known island holiday destinations such as Bali, Honolulu and Jeju. Photo: Supplied

By Maciek Klimowicz

SEVEN Seas Condo, a plush new resort-style condominium project, is about to shoot up in the heart of Phuket Town.

The 2.5-billion baht Seven Seas Phuket project is located on Hongyok-Uthit Road, near Bangkok Hospital Phuket, and consists of four, eight-story buildings with a total of 975 units – all surrounded by views of Phuket’s lush, green hills.

Developed by Porchland Group in partnership with Universal Group, the joint venture is confident of its success due to the popularity of their 2014 Massa Luna Condominium Phuket project in Nai Yang.

“Phuket is one of the best places in Asia for the holiday home market, as well as being a tourist destination, and over the years tourism here has been growing steadily,” said Chitsanucha Phakdeesaneha, executive director of the Porchland Group.

The fully furnished units in the tastefully designed and comfort-focused project are divided into three types: studios of 23.5 to 26sqm, one-bedroom units measuring between 35.5 and 36sqm and two-bedroom units of 54.5 to 55sqm. Prices start at 1.5 million baht.

Every facility one would expect of a project of this standard will be featured, including a

luxury hotel-style lobby, swimming pool, a children’s pool, a large tropical garden, an outdoor Jacuzzi, a gym, as well as “his and her” saunas. For residents’ peace of mind, 24-hour security and a CCTV system are provided.

The design of the condominium incorporates elements of seven well-known beautiful islands and aims to recreate the relaxing, holiday atmosphere of destinations such as Bali, Honolulu and Jeju, to name a few.

“As a luxury-style condo resort of a standard that has never before existed in Phuket, we anticipate Thai as well as foreign buyers and investors,” Mr Chitsanucha said, adding that the demand for real estate is growing in the advent of the Asean Economic Community (AEC), a factor that adds to the developers’ confidence.

“Porchland has enjoyed great success in its past 15 projects, owing to its professional expertise in property management. We draw confidence from this success and believe that Seven Seas Phuket will meet all the needs of its target group,” Mr Chitsanucha concluded, adding that he was excited to be building a new luxury property in the heart of Phuket Town.

For more information call 083 740 7774-6, email info@sevenseasphuket.com or go to www.sevenseasphuket.com

Porchland has enjoyed great success in its past 15 projects, owing to its professional expertise in property management. We draw confidence from this success and believe that Seven Seas Phuket will meet all the needs of its target group.

– Chitsanucha Phakdeesaneha
Executive Director
Porchland Group

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Building a sustainable home

CHATTING with a local architect who has designed and built homes in Phuket for the past 15 years prompted me to investigate sustainable materials used in home building. The architect had mentioned that current-day building materials have less maintenance issues and are more durable. Sure, the materials are more expensive, but in the long run they save the owner quite a bit of money when it comes to maintenance and running costs.

There's lots of information out there and it's all quite mind boggling. Just the concept of sustainable building itself incorporates many strategies during the phases of construction, from design through to the actual operation of the building. So the use of green building materials and products represents an important strategy in the construction design. Basically, green building materials reduce maintenance and replacement costs, conserve energy, improve the occupants' health and enjoy greater design flexibility.

Here are some green building materials and ideas to consider when building or renovating a home here in Phuket. In most northern countries with bitterly cold winters, double-glazed windows are quite the norm as they help insulate the property, thus minimizing heating costs. The exact opposite works the here, but surprisingly double-glazed windows are not used as much as they should be in Phuket.

In Thailand outdoor decking, terraces and sala floors are predominantly made from wood. But due to daily exposure to sun and rain, wooden decks are more susceptible to mold, rotting and warping. Most owners have to do maintenance work on the decks or even build a new deck – especially after the rainy season. A completely recycled plastic decking can be used as an alternative and is stain resistant



Are you using the right materials to build an efficient, ecologically sustainable home? Photo: Bert Dickerson

and it won't crack or warp. Composite decking is also available made from recycled wood fibers and plastic, although a plastic-and-composite deck has a significantly higher surface temperature than a wooden surface.

Due to how much rain we get here, a rainwater collection tank can be used where precipitation is collected from the rain gut-

ters and runs directly into a tank. The water is then recycled to irrigate the garden. Water is an expensive commodity in Phuket. If it's not supplied directly by local authorities or sourced from a well, but is instead trucked in, it can be very costly to water the garden during the hot season.

There is a constant flow of new building materials and products entering the market, so be sure to consult your architect and builder or research it on the internet.

A sustainable home will conserve energy and reduce monthly costs in the long run. When buying a property, most people consider maintenance costs as important. Should a building design have high maintenance overheads, it could be passed over for a property that is slightly more expensive, but have lower maintenance costs.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket.



Across the Land
By Amy Koh

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Real-estate transactions in Asia to increase next year

ACCORDING to Colliers International's "2015 Property Outlook", the number of real-estate transactions in Asia will rise substantially next year, as an increase in supply begins to match a need for investors to bolster their holdings in the region.

"There is pent-up underlying demand from both occupiers and investors, primarily due to the lack of stock, and that will gradually be satisfied," said Dennis Yeo, Colliers International's interim chief executive officer for Asia.

One of the drivers behind that trend is that there are considerably more real-estate funds that will expire in 2015, leading to a greater number of willing sellers of institutional-grade real estate. At the same time, supply in terms of new stock is also on the uptick.

Globally, investors have re-examined their allocations and are set to devote more capital to Asia. They are currently under-allocated to the region and see the increase in affordable stock as an oppor-



Colliers International is optimistic about the market. Image: Pixabay

tunity to redress that imbalance. Outbound investment from Asia is likely to continue at a rapid pace, particularly from Chinese developers looking to diversify their holdings. But conditions will be tougher for Asian investors to put their money to work.

Most cities in the region are anticipated to see a recovery in growth. Colliers forecasts that growth in gross domestic product in the region will pick up more significantly, by an average of 40

basis points next year. With more realistic levels of supply coming to market in Asia, Colliers predicts that some of the cooling measures introduced in the region will be relaxed. Prospective investors should welcome these changes, as they lower any liquidity risk.

Yields should remain compressed for prime assets in core locations, and the cost of borrowing is likely to edge up in 2015.

– The Nation

Perfect square meal

By Maciek Klimowicz

FOR some, a day without street food is a day wasted, while for others a real meal is one served up by a celebrity chef in a posh restaurant. And then there are the rest of us – not extreme in our choices – who enjoy good food, drinks and company. For us moderates, Karon Beach Square offers a nicely squared-out night.

With Phuket's notorious traffic, taxi problems and uneven sidewalks, restaurant hopping can be an ordeal. Add in a bit of rain, high-season congestion and your fun night out might not turn out exactly as planned. This is where Karon Beach Square comes to the rescue, with its all-in-one concept of food, drink and chill.

Located in ever-busy Karon, the Square is all about convenience and spares you the trouble of looking for a place to eat, then moving on to a bar for a drink or a lounge to chill out in. Karon Beach Square has it all in one place and eliminates hassle in a masterful way.

I can't claim I tried all the food the Square has to offer; that'd be impossible in a single evening. I did, however, manage to gobble through the churrasco all-you-can-eat buffet at the Brazilian Grill El Gaucho, and if the other eateries at the Square can match that quality, I'll soon be moving there. Each slice of meat that landed on my plate that evening, served directly to my table from a long skewer straight from the barbecue, was grilled to absolute perfection. And with 12 different kinds of meat on the menu, I have just one piece of advice: go there hungry.

Not in a mood for a grilled



Movenpick's Karon Beach Square brings a mixture of entertainment and top-flight food to the region. Photo: Supplied

feast? Don't worry, Karon Beach Square has still got you covered. You can indulge in the best of Asian dishes, including those of Thailand and Vietnam, at the Orient Asia restaurant; munch on a pizza or some home-

made baked goodies at Café Studio; or share some finger food, wraps and salads at Mint before you and your friends round the night off with a drink prepared by a professional mixologist at Mint's bar.

A DJ provides the soundtracks, while various live performances add to the entertainment, so there is no need to wander the streets and no need to argue over TripAdvisor recommendations. Enjoying yourself at Karon Beach

Square is as it should be – easy.

Karon Beach Square is located at 509 Patak Road, Karon, in the Movenpick Resort & Spa. For more information go to [facebook.com/Karonbeachsquare2014](https://www.facebook.com/Karonbeachsquare2014).

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When in Rome, read Hughes

Books

By James Eckardt

IN THE 1950s, Robert Hughes was part of a group of students at Sydney University – including Germaine Greer and Clive James – who went on to lead brilliant careers outside Australia. Hughes became a hugely influential art critic at *Time Magazine*. Besides eight books about art, he wrote a wonderful history about Australia as a penal colony, *The Fatal Shore*; a caustic screed against whingeing, *The Culture of Complaint*; a tribute to his favorite city, Barcelona; and a memoir *Things I Didn't Know*.

His last book, the year before he died, was *Rome: A Cultural, Visual, and Personal History* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2011, 498pp). Hughes takes his reader on a tour of Rome from its founding to the present day. From republic to empire, he first delves into every aspect of classical Rome: history, art, literature, religion, military organization, public entertainment, architecture, civil works.

“But the greatest of the physical monuments, which occupied the best energies of Roman surveyors, planners, engineers, laborers, masons, and slaves for centuries and made possible the growth and administration of the largest empire the world had hitherto known, was neither a mighty building nor a statue but a thing both ponderously physical and entirely horizontal, and thus, at least from a distance, rather hard to see: certainly invisible, and very hard to imagine, as a whole. This was the enormous road system, without which the Roman Empire

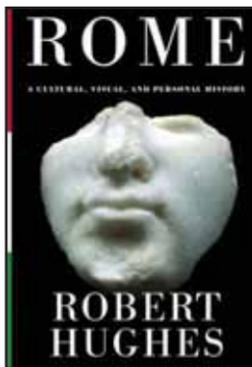
could not have existed.”

I quote this passage at length because it gives a taste of Hughes's eloquence. This rises to peak again with the emergence of the Renaissance emperors: Roman popes like Nicholas V, Julius II and Sixtus V, who would reshape the face of Western art and architecture. That many of the popes were scoundrels and libertines is no matter; they sponsored the work of Michelangelo, Raphael, Donatello, Brunelleschi, Caravaggio, Alberti, and Bramante. They turned a city of ruins and a population of 50,000, depleted from one million during the Roman Empire, into a showcase of architecture – magnificent fountains, plazas and cathedrals – and the center of Western art where Spanish, French and Flemish painters – Velazquez, Poisson, Rubens – would come to do their apprenticeships.

Hughes also mounts a vigorous defense of Bernini and other Baroque artists of the 17th century. But his interest flags during the barren subsequent centuries and so does the reader's attention as Hughes dutifully describes the work of second-rate painters and sculptors (with the exception of Antonio Canova). The age of 18th century Grand Tours and art forgeries makes for especially slow reading.

The narrative pace picks up with the unification of Italy under Garibaldi and Cavour, followed by the histrionics of D'Annunzio and the long dictatorship of Mussolini. The post-World War II era is bleak:

“It is depressing, but hardly unfair, to admit that by the beginning of the 1960s, Rome, the city that had produced and fostered so many geniuses in the visual arts across the centuries, had none left



! All Rome has now is its past. But, as Hughes shows, what a past! /



The Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi is yet another reminder of Rome's historic greatness. Photo: Dennis Jarvis

– not, certainly, in the domains of painting, sculpture, or architecture. None of the painting or sculpture made in Rome since World War II even begins to measure up to the grandeur and energy of earlier work done by Roman artists... As for another Raphael or Michelangelo rising in Rome, or a Caravaggio, forget it: there are quite simply no candidates.”

On the one hand, there is the

great cinema of Fellini, Rossellini and De Sica. On the other is the “colossal, steam-rolling, mind-obliterating” television trash of Silvio Berlusconi: “the ceaseless diet of gossip and chatter and scandal and unembarrassed glitz that passes for news, the relentless barrage of sports and commentary on sports, the diet of cushion-lipped, big-breasted blonde babes who serve as an-

nouncers, the wrestling matches and all the rest of it.” Add to that mass tourism and epic traffic congestion and, Rome is a far cry from the charming city the young Hughes first encountered in 1959.

Moreover, the center of art had moved first from Rome to Paris in the 19th century, and then New York after World War II. All Rome has now is its past. But, as Hughes shows, what a past!

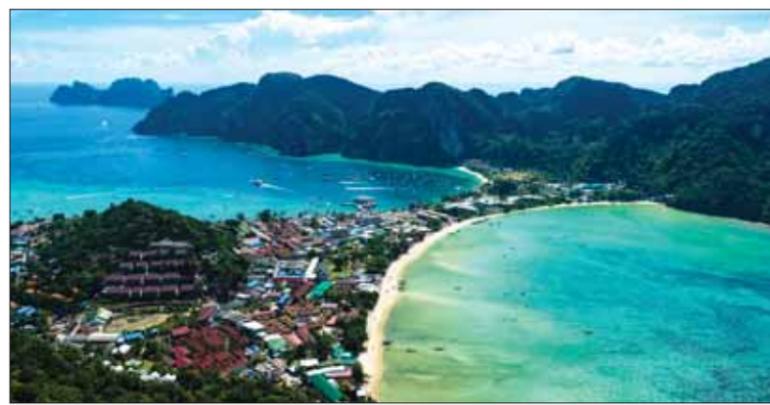
Whimsey on scatological Phuket

WHENEVER Phuket hits the news – for better or for worse – the old chestnut of how exactly to pronounce the island's moniker raises its hoary head.

According to Suzanne Nam, “The ‘ph’ diphthong in Thai transliteration does not become an ‘f’ sound, so Phuket is not pronounced ‘fuket’.”

Suzanne – somewhat of a dab hand at linguistics – also points out that Koh Phi Phi is not supposed to sound as effete as in “Fee Fee”, yet is happy to wander blithely through life, named after what my three-year-old grandson deposits in his potty – if he's a good boy, that is.

She also remains maddeningly mute as to why the island's east coast port of Chalong sounds



Phuket, Phi Phi (above) and several other Thai place names bring endless joy to lovers of the English language. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

suspiciously similar to how North Americans refer to the male member.

Neither does she address this part of Thailand's obsession with scatological references when it

comes to place names by asking why it is that neighboring Koh Lon is not called “Rek Tum”. And let's not get started on the English-language translation of Krung Thep...

– Lis Kinswoman

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Remain a holiday hunk

Don't let festive season feasts add inches to your waistline



Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther

SO THE festive season is here, as if you hadn't noticed. Now, I'm not going to be Phuket's very own Ebenezer Scrooge and tell you not to indulge and have fun (I'll let Craig do that), but I will give you some tips on how to lessen the impact of excessive eating followed by vegging out in front of bad Christmas TV.

First of all, if you are going to exercise, get it out the way. Recruit a friend or get the family involved.

Go for a morning bike ride or hike up to the Big Buddha – the key is to get some calories burnt off before you eat your weight in turkey, potatoes, gravy and Christmas pudding. Most people skip training over the holidays, but this is the time when your muscles should have the highest insulin sensitivity so that the energy from the food you eat passes to your muscles instead of your fat cells.

A simple body weight workout that will help you stay lean during the holidays is: 100 push-ups, 100 lying leg raises and 100 lunges (50



If Cancun tourists can stay trim during the holidays, surely we can in Phuket. Photo: DSCN1065

with each leg). These workouts should be spread out through the day into three or four mini workouts. For example, when a commercial comes on the television, bust out 25 pushups, 25 leg raises and 12 or 13 lunges with each leg. Do this four times during the day and you'll significantly improve insulin sensitivity.

Use the holidays to add

muscle. You can find body weight workouts online that require little to no equipment. Put simply, you can make better use of those extra holiday calories by providing growth and repair instead of fat gain.

EAT YOUR VEGGIES AND PROTEIN FIRST

I'm a guy who really enjoys food – and I'm not talking about boiled fish with a smidgen of brown rice. Chicken, potatoes and heavy Thai dishes are all frequently part of my diet. Now, if you eat too much and at the wrong time, some of these things can really wreak havoc on your waistline. The trick when you sit down for one of your holiday meals is to eat your veggies

first since they'll gently fill you up without inducing negative result from eating too many carbs. Also make sure you eat the majority of your protein source to keep insulin levels in check.

After you've enjoyed your main meal, head down to the beach and walk for about 30 minutes before going back home to gorge on Christmas pudding.

DRINK LOTS OF WATER

You should do this anyway when living in the humidity of Phuket. However, it is especially important during the holidays when you will be consuming an abnormal amount of food and alcohol, which is going to leave you dehydrated.

So, help yourself and top up with a few extra bottles of water – it will work wonders in helping you to feel good throughout the day while lessening the threat of a hangover.

Krix Luther is a fully qualified personal trainer with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength and conditioning. For more information about Krix and his services, visit thevitruvianmethod.com.

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Flying car frenzy premature



By Somchai Huasaikul

THERE has been a great deal of buzz in the global aviation industry this month over the recent unveiling of the AeroMobil 3.0, hailed by many as a great leap forward in the race to create the world's first practical, mass-produced "flying car".

The concept of flying cars has certainly been around for a long time – almost as long as automobiles themselves. Back in 1940, Henry Ford was famously quoted as saying: "Mark my words: a combination airplane and motor-car is coming. You may smile, but it will come."

Flying cars have also been a regular plot device in Hollywood movies over the years, starting with the 1968 hit film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. The 1974 James Bond movie, *The Man with the Golden Gun*, filmed largely in Phang Nga Bay, also featured a real flying car owned by the distinguished assassin Francisco Scaramanga.

There have been numerous attempts to create a commercial flying car, but while many prototypes have been produced and even taken to the air, Mr Ford's prediction of an affordable, mass-produced model has remained unfulfilled – even a second decade into the new millennium.

The latest prototype creating all the buzz comes from the Slovakian firm AeroMobil, which last month released their latest version, the AeroMobil 3.0. Their sleek promotional video has already been viewed by over four



CEO Juraj Vaculik (left) and chief designer and CTO Stefan Klein, co-founders of AeroMobil, stand next to the newest flying car to get headlines buzzing around the world. Photo: AeroMobil

million people on YouTube alone.

Its website reads, "AeroMobil is a flying car that perfectly makes use of existing infrastructure created for automobiles and planes, and opens doors to real door-to-door travel. As a car it fits into any standard parking space, uses regular gasoline, and can be used in road traffic just like any other car. As a plane it can use any airport in the world, but can also take off and land using any grass strip or paved surface just a few hundred meters long."

While the video is decidedly impressive and well worth a look, it may be a while before flying cars become commonplace in the skies of Phuket, one local expert says.

Pat James, Safety and Flight Operations Manager at the privately run Phuket Airpark in Pa Khlok in Thalang, told *Up In the*

Air that media fascination with any new prototype was "nothing new", but said the technology is still a long way from making a practical, economical hybrid between an aircraft and motorcar.

"That kind of news comes and goes all the time. Weight is the key. If you have enough thrust, you can overcome the weight, but the engines that they are putting on them just are not enough," he said.

"Having a car and an aircraft combined requires compromises in all facets. The comfort, the size, the engines; the list goes on."

Cars and planes are fundamentally different in that cars require downforce to operate while planes need lift. Some really innovative technology would be required to better bridge such a huge gap, he added.

The two-seater AeroMobil 3.0

is powered by the popular Rotax 912 mainly used in light aircraft. It has a top speed of over 200kmh and comprises a lightweight steel framework with carbon coating.

However, Pat thinks the weight factor will keep the 3.0 as a niche aircraft at best.

"Sure, it is a step forward, but it is still not the answer for mass production of something that is going to be safe, dependable and reliable with performance figures. It's going to be a niche-type product, and it still has a long way to go. Even the small components are going to need a lot more checking, because the weight versus the speed and power ratios are just not in place yet," said Pat.

Asked to speculate on what he thought would happen in Thailand if the technological problems could be overcome and mass-production of flying cars became a reality, he

said there were also major regulatory issues to overcome as well.

All aircraft in Thailand are restricted to taking off and landing at airports, and the procedure for buying a flying car would use the same six-month certification process as any other light aircraft. This would be a real drawback, especially compared to the ease with which one can buy a car and drive it off the lot, Pat pointed out.

Asked when he expected a flying car to join the growing and diverse fleet of private aircraft at Phuket AirPark, he was skeptical: "Ten years, at the soonest."

The AirPark could serve as a suitable launch site for such aircraft, but he did not foresee too many people going down that route any time soon.

"Who would want to go through all the regulatory hassles? They would be better off just buying an airplane. It would be a third of the cost and give much better performance," he said.

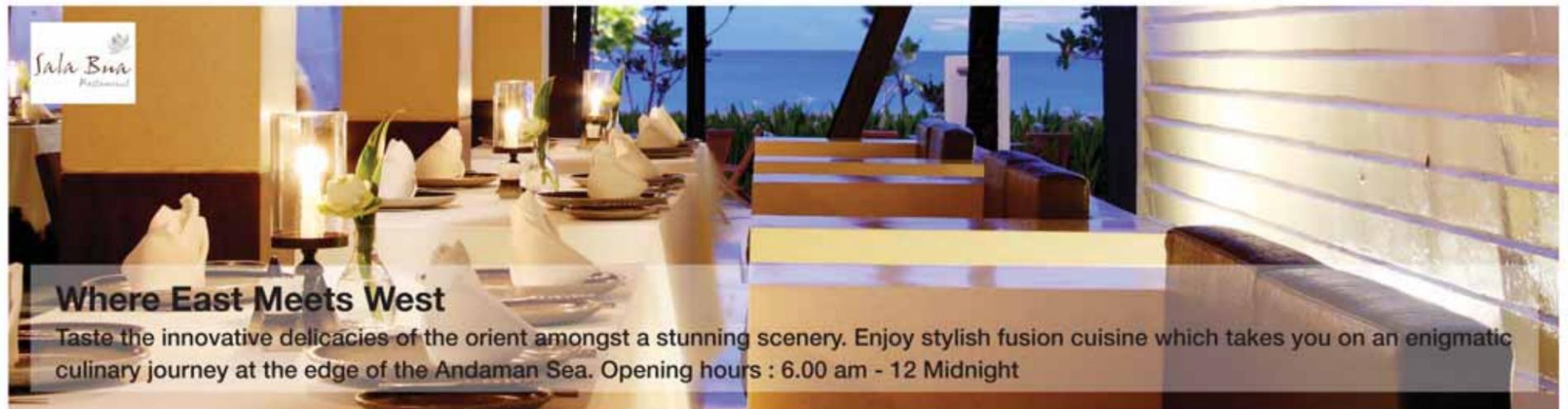
The price of an AeroMobil 3.0 has yet to be announced, but it is likely to fall under the old adage: "If you have to ask the price, you can't afford one."

However, after the unveiling of the 3.0 at the Pioneers Festival in Vienna in late October, AeroMobil co-founder Juraj Vaculik told *Wired UK* that the final price of the aircraft would be within reach of the wealthy: "Somewhere between the cost of a supercar and a small plane."

Pat said that in Thailand, having a flying car would give buyers all of the hassles of airplane ownership, but few of the benefits it was designed to provide.

"It might make more sense for rich people in vast countries like Australia and the United States, where aircraft are not required to land and take off only at registered airfields," he said.

"I really like the concept, but the technology still has a long way to go," he concluded.



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Putting Wild Oats to sea

By Chris Husted

WITH Christmas behind us and New Year still to come, as this edition of the *Phuket Gazette* hits the streets any Phuket-based sailors worth their salt will have their eyes keenly fixed on the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

As is tradition, after a sail-past parade in Sydney Harbor at 10am on December 26, the fleet will go under the gun at 1pm Sydney time (9am Phuket time).

The weather forecast is for the fleet of 117 yachts to take a battering from southerly headwinds as the boats head down the New South Wales coast.

The weathermen's prediction has scuppered any notion of defending line honors champion *Wild Oats XI* breaking her record for the fastest completion of the grueling 628-nautical-mile race in a stupefying 42 hours, 23 minutes and 12 seconds, set in 2012.

To put it into perspective, the slowest time to complete the race was more than 11 days 6 hours and 20 minutes, set in 1945 by Peter Luke, one of the founding fathers of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA), on his Bermudan ketch *Wayfarer*, in the very first Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. That record still stands today.

Yet, only four years ago the Sydney Hobart fleet took a battering, fighting gale-force conditions down the coast and through the notorious Bass Strait. A fleet of 87 started the race, but a mere 69 crossed the finish line in Tasmania, with 18 yachts retiring, mostly bashed about by that notorious southerly bluster on the second day.

Wild Oats XI has lifted the JH Illingworth trophy for line honors



Wild Oats XI awash in heavy conditions during the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race last year. Photo: Reuters

a record seven times. It is also the first boat to claim the treble – race record, line honors and overall winner – twice.

Yet many eyes will be on the new 100-foot super maxi *Comanche*, built by Netscape magnate Jim Clark, the American entrepreneur and Stanford computer scientist who founded several prominent Silicon Valley technology companies, including Silicon Graphics Inc (SGI).

Sailing buffs are not likely to have a clue what SGI is and what it does, but just keep in mind that for eight consecutive years – from 1995 to 2002 – each and every movie nominated for an Academy

Award for Distinguished Achievement in Visual Effects was created on Silicon Graphics computer systems. Factor that level of technological expertise into yacht design and the result after two years in the build shed is *Comanche*, designed to push the boundaries of technology with the ultimate goal of taking line honors this year.

Comanche sailed for the first time only on October 13. “Normally you wouldn’t take a brand-new boat and have one of its first offshore races be the Hobart,” *Comanche*’s navigator Stan Honey told Australia’s ABC news network.

“But given the characteristics of the boat, we’re happy with the fresh beating in the beginning. We’re happy with reasonably fresh westerlies, but crossing the ridge and then the light air on Saturday night, that worries us, because those conditions particularly in the leftover sea would be conditions that we’d expect *Wild Oats XI* to be very, very good in.”

Wild Oats XI’s crew members will also have their work cut out for them covering eternal rival, *Perpetual Loyal*. After buying the yacht early last year, Anthony Bell literally had to rebuild her. The keel snapped off and caused the boat to capsize in the 2011 Rolex

Fastnet Race while under charter to American George David, who named her *Rambler*.

Perpetual Loyal was originally christened *Speedboat* and took line honors in her debut outing – the Newport Bermuda Race. The boat went under the knife again this year, and reportedly is now with a sleeker bow, while the weight of the keel bulb was reduced, along with other tweaks designed to increase performance.

Phuket King’s Cup Regatta winner last year, Ray Roberts and his *OneSails Racing* team, were not back in Phuket to defend their title this year. Now we know why.

The *OneSails Racing* crew, who have won five King’s Cup Regatta titles, will be joining the big guns on the start line in Sydney on December 26.

Winner of this year’s King’s Cup in Phuket, Karl Kwok and his *Beau Geste* crew out of Hong Kong, at the time of writing had yet to be listed on the start sheet.

The Sydney Hobart has become renowned as a “boat breaker, record maker”. This year the blue water classic has attracted the biggest fleet in two decades, and the number of women sailors racing in the event outnumbers the men.

Also, as a special treat this year, *Rani*, the boat that won the inaugural Sydney Hobart in 1945, with Commander John Illingworth – the man who said “Let’s make a race of it” – at the helm, will be joining the Parade of Sail.

All yachts that have competed in previous Sydney Hobart races are welcome to join the parade.

And in the spirit of the best tradition of the season, enjoy the racing and the *Phuket Gazette* wishes you all the very best of boating for the New Year.

Santa stays afloat in Chalong



Santa was spotted on his catamaran in Chalong this week. Photo: Supplied

SANTA was spotted early this year at the Chalong Boatyard in the south of the island.

“We’re not sure what he was doing, but it looked like he just dropped in to do a little tidying up, perhaps some antifoul work on the hull,” said one passerby.

The scuttlebutt among tradesmen at the yard reported that the inflatable Santa was carrying out minor repairs to his catamaran.

“We get a lot of boats passing through the region at this time of

year, and many of them stop at the yard for small jobs before they continue cruising on to local destinations,” one local sailor said.

Another local saltheart noted, “He said he had to rush so he could push off to start his annual circumnavigation, but it was pretty hard to believe. After all, he was full of hot air.”

It was not reported whether any officials stopped by to check whether Santa had a work permit.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Hunting near mosquito

Archipelago dive site offers spectacular number of seahorses

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE north end of Mosquito Island, part of the Phi Phi archipelago, is a steep sloping hard coral reef. Happily, the staghorn corals there have not (yet) been destroyed by the anchors of speedboats just around the corner. However, it's not these elegant hard corals that make this relatively unfrequented dive site a must, it's what lies beyond.

The steep reef quickly gives way to sand and underwater scrub land, which is somehow reminiscent of the deserts of the American Southwest. The sandy dive site stretches out into the blue, broken up only by sparse heads of brightly colored soft broccoli corals.

Like all good adventures there's a prize nestled out there somewhere – we aren't just cruising the sands for nothing – we are seahorse hunting.

Diving with Zeavola's dive shop presents the advantage of a good location as the dive center is situated on the north end of Phi Phi Don, putting Mosquito Island, which rarely sees divers, just a 10-minute boat ride away. Luckily, the dive center agrees to accommodate the custom trip – an attempt to photograph the enormous species of seahorses known as the great seahorse, Kellogg's seahorse, or offshore seahorse (*Hippocampus kelloggi*), which can grow up to the size of a banana.

At a depth of 20m, deco time (your non-decompression limits) becomes a limiting factor for the dive, which makes Nitrox a smart choice. However, we have no extra tanks waiting in the shallows so our total dive time is limited to about 45 minutes.

With only one dive allocated for the hunt, the pressure is on, and the first 10

minutes quickly slip by. There is quite a difference between searching the deep blue – hoping that a giant manta ray appears of its own volition – and scanning the seabed for a treasured marine creature.

If you fail to see a giant manta ray, well there just wasn't a manta – bad luck. However, if you fail to find one of the well-known masters of underwater camouflage, well, maybe you just aren't very good at finding seahorses.

Zeavola's master of seahorse-spotting, Saroj "Peng" Panan, wasn't available to join the dive, so today the resort's activity manager, Jennifer Arbuthnot is on seahorse duty.

Out in the sand, a half-buried car tire appears. There aren't any seahorses inside – nothing for their tails to clutch onto – but there is a small juvenile nurse shark that clearly wants to be left alone.

Moving on, with the pressure of the steadily descending deco time mounting, we continue to scan the sands. We carefully hover over each surreal broccoli coral – one of the distinctive life forms on the planet the Dr Suess would have no doubt approved of – looking for the tell-tale shape of a seahorse.

In the distance, there is a strange, small curve, something that catches the trained eye. There she is, not a Kellogg's seahorse, but seahorse nonetheless. This small, bashful full-grown adult is about 16cm long from tail to snout.

Pulling ourselves away from the solitary creature (it would be easy to spend an entire dive just photographing a single seahorse) the hunt is renewed with vigor.

There – another seahorse. Making our way to the second find, a single seahorse adrift in the sand, we stumble upon a



One of the four large seahorses found during the dive off Mosquito Island. Photo: Jennifer Arbuthnot

third seahorse.

As our deco time hits the five-minute mark and the need to start safely moving toward shallower waters draws close, a fourth seahorse (a different species than the others, but again not a Kellogg's seahorse) appears in the soft-coral scrub lands.

It's hard to leave it behind, as seahorses are prone

to sympathetic anthropomorphism. Even though they're voracious predators with an incredible kill rate they emote a shy, bashful and sometimes even a coy demeanor. There's

a tangible desire to nestle into the sand next to them and give them time to open up – to reveal another side of themselves.

Additionally, having found four seahorses – spotted once we hit the "right" place – it's hard to leave, simply because we are so clearly on the cusp of even further discoveries.

Nonetheless, Jenny motions for us to move up into shallower water, away from the wonders below.

Still, when you are diving safely, there's always a next time...





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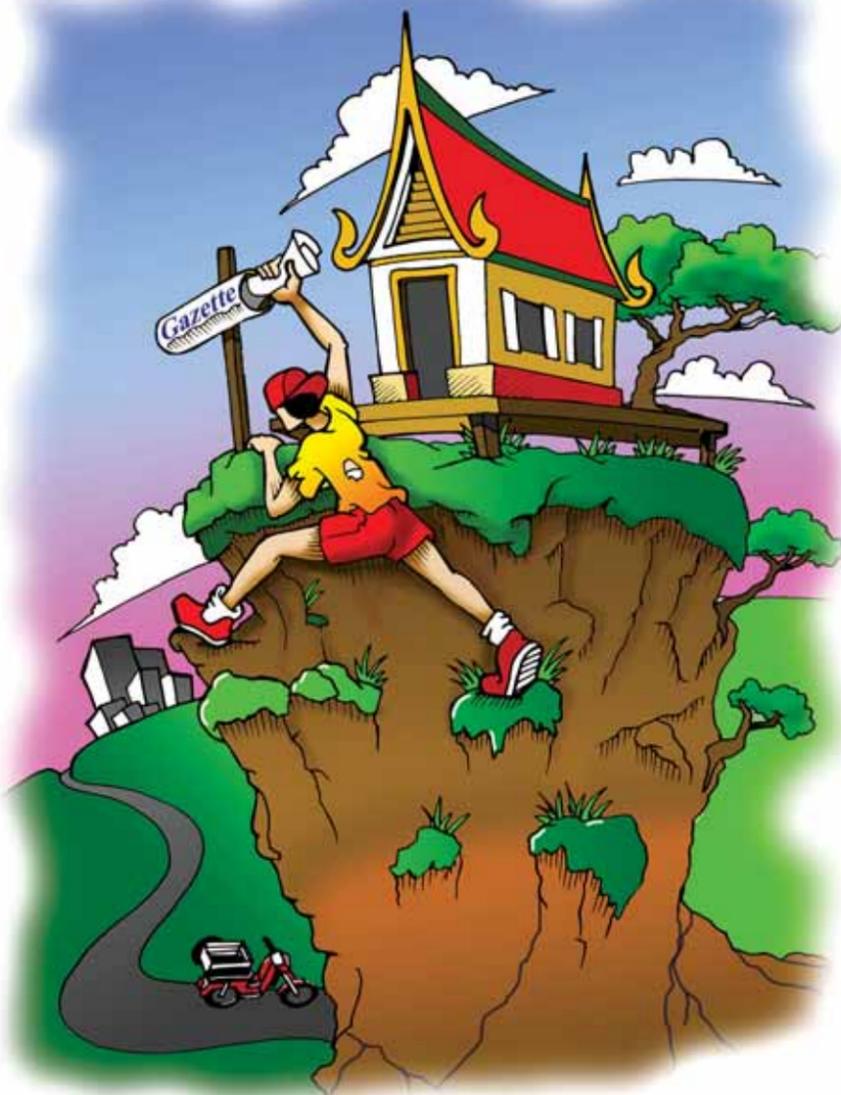
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National records smashed

Stunning performances at final We Freedive Suunto Series event

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A NUMBER of national records were brushed away as the We Freedive Suunto Series drew to a close on December 21.

All eyes were on American Katie Wierenga, who is ranked third among the USA female Dynamic No Fins (DNF) athletes after an outstanding performance in October. Having surpassed the USA DNF record in practice, Wierenga pushed hard to make the record official on Sunday.

"Katie just missed a US record in DNF. She made the distance, but wasn't conscious enough to get a white card," Association Internationale pour le Developpement de l'Apne (AIDA) judge Richard Wonka told the *Phuket Gazette*. "Katie essentially got her red card for nerves. She was going for a new national record – a distance she had swum before in training."

Wierenga surpassed the American record of 120m with a big push to 130m. However, the judges were forced to hand her a red card.

"In competition, the mind plays a big role, and attempting a national record can easily induce some jitters, so she came up after 130m with signs of a very small blackout."

However, jitters didn't shake Indonesian Nora Lestari, who set three national records during the competition.

"Nora Lestari impressed us with three super clean national records," Mr Wonka said. "We had met her before at the One Breath Jamboree in Bali. This was her first-ever pool competition."

Lestari took an easy Indonesian title for the static apnea (STA) event with a time of 3:13 minutes. She then cruised through the dynamic with fin competition (DYN) as she covered 65m while submerged. Finally, she took the Indonesian DNF with a clean back and forth in the pool for a 50m swim.

Another national record smashed during the event was by Azam Hamid, who beat



American Walter Johnson scores one of the three white cards he needed to clinch the series. Photo: We Freedive

his previous Malaysian STA record with a 5:08-minute breath hold. In a previous We Freedive Suunto Series event Hamid had made a similar strategic error to Wierenga when he pushed beyond the national record during a DNF attempt and received a red card for a blackout.

Topping the score cards in all three events with clean dives was Swiss diver Gregoire Folly.

"Our old friend from Switzerland showed up unexpectedly, signed up the

evening before and showed everyone how it's done, winning the competition with a solid lead," Mr Wonka said.

Folly put up a 5:59-minute STA, 120m DYN and 93m DNF.

Despite going head-to-head with American Walter Johnson to win the entire series and a white Suunto Di6 dive computer, Melanie Long from the UK had an exceptional showing. She was able to set a personal best in the competition with an 85m DYN swim.

Johnson, on the other hand, took it easy. With a single white card advantage, he stayed focused and put up reasonable scores while staying within his safety zone.

"One non-white would have cost him the D6i. So his extensive training in competition diving, which he rigorously does in every training session has paid off – big time," Mr Wonka said.

"All of this would not have been possible without our sponsors Dive Supply and Suunto, who were outstanding!"

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Man of the Match Manish Sadarangani joined fellow Laguna opener Iqbal Malik to put on a 117-run opening stand against the Village at the Alan Cooke Ground in Thalang last Sunday.

Laguna bowl over the Village

By Michael Way

THE third round of Phuket Cricket Group's senior league saw Laguna CC pitted against Village CC at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang last Sunday.

Laguna, who were coming off the back of a good win against Thalang in the season opener, were looking to maintain their good form.

Meanwhile, the Village were looking to open their account with their first win of the season.

Laguna dominated the match, scoring an impressive 268-6 from 35 overs, while the Village fell short of the first innings points, being bowled out for 134 in 38.1 overs.

Laguna got off to flying start, with openers Iqbal Malik (74) and Manish Sadarangani (34) putting on a 117-run opening stand before Malik was dismissed in the 12th over. Malik was particularly

aggressive smashing 12 fours and one six from just 44 balls.

Sameer Khan (55) then combined with Sadarangani and later with Arif Mushtaq (28) before he was dismissed in the 31st over with the score on 225-4.

With a very defendable first innings total, Laguna pressed on with Roly Cooper (28 from 16 balls) boosting the score to 268-6 before they declared at the end of the 35th over, looking for a potential outright win.

The pick of the bowlers for Village were Iain Cossard (2 for 46) and Olly Wingate (2 for 51).

The Village got off to a shaky start, with opener Martin Platts retiring hurt after being struck on the chin in the second over, requiring a trip to hospital and 11 stitches.

Mark Whetton (50) and Mike Khan (12) then steadied the innings, going to the first 10-over drinks break without further loss.



Sadarangani scored 34 to set Laguna on their way to their second victory.

However, Khan was stumped shortly after returning to the crease with the score on 42. Whetton and Syed Hussain (41) then stifled the Laguna bowling

attack until their partnership was eventually broken in the 30th over with Whetton trapped leg before wicket (lbw) with the score on 105-2.

Platts then returned to the middle to resume batting – this time with his helmet on – but was dismissed shortly after.

The Village innings then collapsed with the loss of three more wickets with no runs added, with the score on 123. Only nine runs later, Manish Sadarangani struck in the 38th over, securing a hat-trick, a first in the senior league, and the Village were all out just one ball later at the start of the 39th over.

Pick of the bowlers for Laguna were Manish Sadarangani (5 for 16) and Roly Cooper (2 for 20).

Laguna have now secured two wins from two matches and will be looking to continue their good form when the season resumes after the Christmas and New Year break.

Island CC are scheduled to take on the Village in what is expected to be another cracker of a match at the ACG on January 4.

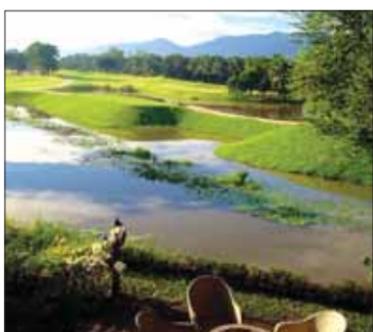
Laguna course ready for New Year tee-off

THE revamped Laguna Phuket championship golf course, which officially re-opens on January 1 after a full makeover, now has a “real sense of place and belonging” says its designer, Paul Jansen.

The former lead architect for Faldo Design, who created Laguna Phuket's award-winning sister course in Vietnam, says the layout retains much of its former character and appeal, but has been dramatically improved aesthetically and strategically.

Jansen pays special tribute to the construction team, including Mark Lawson and superintendent Blair Pratt, who have helped ensure that the course requires “thinking golf”.

“The best golf courses have a character all of their own and require golfers to think their way around the site. Laguna Phuket certainly has all this,” he says.



The revamped course.

“At 6,719 yards from the back tees, it isn't long by modern standards, but is strategic enough to challenge better players and provide enjoyment for resort golfers. So it ticks all the boxes. It's definitely not a ‘bombers’ course”.

“We put great emphasis on contouring the land to add strategic and visual interest. This is another way of making players think about their shots.” – *Phuket Gazette*

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