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Phuket Gazette

Officers seize umbrellas

Tourists' beach gear caught up in sand management chaos

INSIDE TODAY

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20 Baht

‘PHUKET TO FLAGSHIP WORLD-CLASS BOATING’ Yacht paradise on the horizon

■ Visa changes, boat chartering rules targeted to boost tourism

By **Chutharat Plerin**

CHANGES in visa and chartering legislation to secure the island's position as the top yachting destination in the region are necessary, Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

“Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha wants to make Thailand a world-class hub for yachts and cruise boats in Southeast Asia – and we think Phuket is ready for that,” Minister Kobkarn said. “I am aware that Thailand has to change some regulations to develop our tourism in response to heightened competition from other yachting destinations in the region.”

Following a meeting with Governor Nisit Jansomwong and Gulu Lalvani, chairman at the Royal Phuket Marina, on January 16, Ms Kobkarn vowed to raise concerns...

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Thailand looks to ease superyacht charter laws. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous / Kevin Miller

Bandido gang member not wanted: police

LOCAL law enforcement chiefs this week confirmed that wanted Australian biker Brett “Kaos” Pechey is not a wanted man in Phuket.



Brett ‘Kaos’ Pechey

Mr Pechey is the former president of a Bandido chapter in Brisbane and wanted on extortion and riot charges in Queensland. He was featured in a report by the Australian newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* last week, with a photo of him at a mixed-martial arts training camp in Phuket.

Full story on Page 3

Bread no issue for reef, says tourism official

DESPITE specialists' worries, the director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office explained that feeding fish bread in small quantities is no cause for concern after having completed a fact-finding mission to Koh Racha.

Full story on Page 6

Four fishermen netted in raid

OFFICIALS arrested four illegal migrants working in the Phuket fishing industry during a human-trafficking raid this week – all will be deported.

Full story on Page 4



This Week



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Boat Lagoon launches its monthly Lighthouse Market. **Page 11**



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Royal Phuket Marina to build European-style condos. **Page 29**



Food

Take your family and eat your hearts out at Thanyapura. **Page 31**



Well-being

Craig reveals where to find one of Phuket's superfoods. **Page 33**



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Hop aboard Capricorn for some smooth jazz and good fun. **Page 35**



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Aussies to hold fund-raiser to help Soi Bangla vendor

By Gazette reporters

A GROUP of Australians in Patong held a fund-raising event at the Kangaroo Bar on Soi Bangla Friday night in order to provide a mobility scooter for long-term street merchant Wilaiwan "Wan" Damnui.

"Wan works in Patong, around the Bangla Road area, selling various wares. She's been here as long as I can remember, which is more than 14 years," said Gregory Wescott, who organized the event.

"Wan was born with no hands and badly disfigured legs. She has an amazing spirit and is worthy of a lot more from life than she currently has."

Ms Wan was first reached out to about a year ago by Derek Clarkson, a 75-year-old Australian, who had noticed that the prosthetic leg Ms Wan received in 1999 was broken. Mr Clarkson worked with the Phuket Regional Environment Office, which has a project that turns recycled aluminum into prostheses, in order to get Ms Wilaiwan a new leg.

"However, this mobility scooter will assist in raising her self-esteem, perhaps creating better job opportunities and giving her a great deal more independence in life," Mr Wescott pointed out.

Working with Mr Wescott to



Ms Wan will be receiving a mobility scooter. Photo: Gazette file

provide the mobility scooter for Ms Wan is Rodney Gothe, project manager of Anywhere on Wheels, an organization that maintains free online listings of venues throughout the world that cater to the needs of the mobility impaired.

"Rodney is in Patong and he has held discussions with Pride Mobility Products in Australia, which manufactures mobility scooters and modifies them for different disabilities," Mr Wescott said.

Pride Mobility has confirmed

that they can provide a scooter tailor-made for Ms Wan at cost, he added.

"We have a friend, Brian McNicholl, who will be here in Patong on about March 20, and he can bring the scooter over here for us free of charge," Mr Wescott explained.

"I have spoken to various organizations about this project and have their full support. However, we need to raise the funds to pay for the scooter, hence the fund-raiser on Friday night."

US Embassy to hold consular outreach clinic on the island

THE Consular Section of the American Embassy in Bangkok will hold an Outreach Visit at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort in Karon on January 30.

Consular staff will be available from 8am to noon to provide the following services:

- Passport renewal applications
- First-time adult passport applications and passport applications for lost or stolen passports
- Notarial Services and Certified Copies
- Extra visa pages
- Social security, VA, or other Federal benefits questions

Consular staff urge visitors to bring exact change for payment

of any services required.

See the US Embassy website for information regarding prices and requirements for each service.

Consular Reports of Birth Abroad cannot be processed during consular outreach trips.

Appointments are not necessary for consular services during outreach visits.

For more information, email acsbk@state.gov, call the American Citizen Services Unit at 02-2054049 or visit www.bangkok.usembassy.gov/service. Also, check @ACSBKK on Twitter for updates.

- Phuket Gazette

Hit-and-run almost totals Munchy Machine

THE Munchy Machine, part of the Tuk-Tuk Diner fleet, was almost totalled in a hit-and-run near the TX Soccer Stadium in Samkong at about 4am last Sunday.

"We arrived at the scene and spoke to eye-witnesses, but nobody was able to describe the vehicle that slammed into the tuk-tuk before careening off into the support pole of a nearby shop and then fleeing the scene," Capt Nucharee Longkaew of the Phuket City Police said.

"There is a shop nearby with CCTV installed, so we are waiting for it to open in order to recover CCTV footage and hopefully move in to make an arrest. However, it will be very difficult to make that arrest if we aren't able to secure any footage."



The Munchy Machine, despite her condition, can still make burgers.

The parked tuk-tuk was slammed by what police believe was a large vehicle, as the tuk-tuk took a serious tumble.

"We were about to start our high season with the two tuk-tuks this month. The one that was hit is now almost totalled and unusable - it will cost over 100,000

[baht] to get it back in service," said the owner of the Tuk-Tuk Diner fleet, Tom Somsanuk, better known as "DJ Tank".

"We hope to succeed despite this set back. I still have the General Sab E Lee, the orange tuk-tuk, and that will be for food catering."

"The Munchy Machine has given a lot of good grub and good times to the people of Phuket, and I won't deny it that privilege. So, across from the TX Park we will make a late night Mini Diner for those party people who want to get our chili cheese fries, burgers, oh yes, a classic - biscuits and gravy - that will be on the menu."

"The Munchy Machine maybe can't drive but she can sure as heck make a mean Burger!"

- Chutharat Plerin



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Wanted, but not in Phuket

Bandido biker Brett 'Kaos' Pechey spotted at MMA camp

By Chutharat Plerin

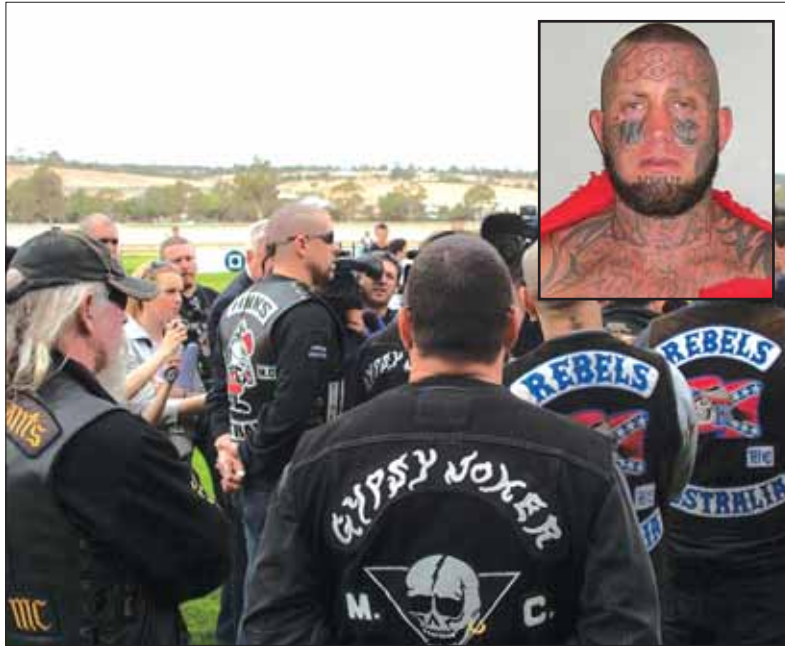
LOCAL law enforcement chiefs last week confirmed that wanted Australian biker Brett "Kaos" Pechey, who is currently living in exile, is not a wanted man in Phuket – but they are keeping a lookout for him.

Mr Pechey is the former president of a Bandido chapter in Brisbane and wanted on extortion and riot charges in Queensland. He was featured in a report by the Australian newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* on January 24, with a photo of him at AKA Thailand, a mixed-martial arts training camp in Phuket.

However, a source at AKA Thailand told the *Gazette* that Pechey came to the camp in Rawai only once or twice sometime ago.

The Daily Telegraph story also featured a photo of Pechey wearing a logo of the notorious Sydney street gang Brothers 4 Life AK47, sparking concerns that the Brothers 4 Life brand could be copied in Queensland and overseas after having caused chaos in Western Sydney.

The Bandidos, along with sev-



Bandidos were outlawed in Queensland along with a number of other biker gangs. Inset: Brett 'Kaos' Pechey is a former president of a Bandido chapter in Brisbane, Queensland. Photo: Roy Lister, Inset: Queensland PD

eral other bike gangs, were outlawed in Queensland by special legislation in 2013 with criminal sentences for gang members matching those with other serious offenses.

"I have checked, but Mr Brett Pechey is not on our watchlist –

and as such, at this stage, he is not wanted in Thailand," Airport Immigration Deputy Superintendent Watcharapol Kanjanakuntorn confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Nonetheless, Australian officials are currently working to extradite Mr Pechey from Thailand, re-

ported *The Daily Telegraph*.

When contacted by the *Gazette*, the Attorney-General's Department in Australia explained that it was AGD's policy not to disclose any information regarding extradition of suspects until the suspects have been arrested.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee, Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij and Phuket Tourist Police chief Urumporn Koondejsumrit all concurred – in the eyes of Phuket law enforcement, Mr Pechey is not a wanted man.

"However, I have passed the information to our inspection team to search for him and get more information," Lt Col Watcharapol said.

Mr Pechey was reported to have fled to Thailand after a mass brawl at Broadbeach, on Queensland's Gold Coast, in September 2013.

By June last year, reports circulated that Thai police had tracked him down and demanded AUS\$120,000 (more than 3.2 million baht) to save him from deportation.



A local resident looks at the motorbike and blood stain.

Man shot twice in drive-by

POLICE are struggling to establish a motive in the drive-by shooting in Thalang on Monday.

Officers arrived at the scene, on the Baan Ya-Baan Don Road, at about 7am to find a motorbike parked in front of a resident's house and a blood stain on the ground.

"The 49-year-old victim, Songwit Vinyupradit, had already been taken to Thalang Hospital," said Lt Col Sanit Nukong of the Thalang Police.

Mr Songwit told officers that he was shot by two teenagers riding a motorcycle in the opposite direction at about 6:45am.

"After shooting him, they rode off," said Col Sanit. "Mr Songwit continued for about 300 meters before pulling over and sitting on the ground. That's when the owner of the house came out and found him."

Mr Songwit was shot once in the waist and once in the buttocks.

None of Mr Songwit's injuries were critical. There was an entrance and exit wound for the bullet that hit him in the buttocks. However, he had to be transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for surgery to remove the bullet from his waist, Col Sanit said.

"Mr Songwit said that he did not recognize the two suspects, but we will investigate every possibility as to why this attack was carried out," he noted. – **Thawit Bilabddullar**

Thieves rip ATM from wall – fail to withdraw

POLICE are searching for at least two suspects who ripped a Siam Commercial Bank ATM off a pharmacy wall at Baan Manik, in Thalang, before dawn on January 16.

However, the suspects fled without stealing any of the cash inside, as police believe they were startled by a passer-by who spotted the thieves attempting to cut open the ATM with a blowtorch.

"We found scorch marks on the back of the machine, but the unit was unopened," Lt Suporn Muangkhai of the Thalang Police said.

"We believe the robbery was interrupted by someone passing by, and bank staff have confirmed that none of the cash inside the machine was taken."

Officers arrived at the scene after receiving a report of the robbery in progress at about 4am.

"The ATM was dragged about five meters from the wall, leaving a hole to access the pharmacy," Lt Suporn said.

"We sealed off the area, but the owner of the pharmacy has yet to confirm whether anything inside the pharmacy was stolen."

The CCTV security camera had been turned away from the ATM, Lt Suporn noted, adding that officers had yet to review the footage from the camera in the hope of identifying the suspects.

"At this stage the only lead we have is witnesses seeing a bronze pick-up truck leaving the scene, but we believe at least two people committed the crime, with at least one person acting as a lookout," he said.

"We are checking CCTV in the area. We are keen to arrest these thieves as soon as possible." – **Thawit Bilabddullar**



The thieves managed to rip the ATM off the wall, but were unable to get to the loot.

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Dtac presents 4G to Phuket

TOTAL Access Communication Public Company Limited, commonly known as dtac, announced the roll out of 4G services in Phuket on January 15.

Phuket is the first southern province to receive 4G service.

"In 2014, internet usage in Phuket [grew] by 150% compared to the previous year. The top five favorite applications used in the area are Facebook, Google, YouTube, LINE and Instagram," Panya Vechbanyongratana, dtac senior vice president, said in a statement to the press.

Dtac plans to install more than 6,500 base stations for 3G and 4G services to cover all areas in Bangkok and the vicinity, as well as in 30 other provinces.

4G service on the island will be available in all three districts, with coverage including "tourist attractions, key seaside, business and residential areas."

"We will continue the 4G service expansion to Had Yai, Surat Thani, Koh Samui and so on, as we see the potential of internet usage growth in these areas," Mr Panya said. — *Phuket Gazette*

Boat raids net four illegals

By Voratuss Intasee

A TASK force of officials from six government agencies selected just three fishing boats at Rassada Pier to raid in a search for illegal migrant workers on Tuesday.

The team found four suspects, who were all charged with entering and working in the country illegally.

"They will be deported," confirmed Phuket Immigration chief Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij.

The task force was operating under orders to target human trafficking in the fishing industry, specifically on fishing boats operating in Phuket waters, Col Sunchai confirmed.

However, the four arrested — Tae Sae Ao, 23; Vee-yew, 33; Shear-shu, 24; and Cho-aea-lae, 19 — were not interviewed privately to determine their work conditions, base wages or to establish if they were trafficked into Thailand.

"We checked the documents for the three boats and all the crew members on board. We found four Myanmar workers without passports [or any other documents identifying them]," said Col



The illegal Myanmar nationals are being held at Phuket Immigration Office. Photo: Phuket Immigration

Sunchai.

"They are now being detained at Phuket Immigration Office."

The four workers were found on two fishing boats: the *Tor Thawee Chai 6* and *Tor Thawee Chai 7*.

Col Sunchai did not reveal the name of the company that oper-

ates the two boats.

The task force included officials from the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, Phuket Marine Office, Phuket Provincial Office of Labor Protection and Welfare Office, Phuket Immigration Office, Marine Police Region 8 and the Phuket

Employment Office.

Among the officials present were Lerphong Buamahk of the Phuket Provincial Office of Labour Protection and Welfare Office and Thawatchai Hasama, a lawyer from the Phuket office of the Ministry of Social Development and Welfare.

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Even tourists don't want jet-skis: poll



Tourists and residents alike have been calling for a jet-ski ban for years.

A STAGGERING 75% of all respondents — including tourists — have voted that jet-skis have no place anywhere on any Phuket beach.

The poll, run for four weeks on the *Gazette* website, received 6,362 votes, with nearly 3,000 tourists making their voices heard concerning the simple question: "Should jet-ski operators be allowed to operate on Phuket's beaches?"

Only 5% of the tourists who took part in the poll voted, "Yes, they provide an activity that many tourists enjoy." A further 18% called for better regulation.

Like tourists, the majority of expats and Thai nationals called for a ban on all jet-skis in Phuket, with 73% and 76% of votes cast respectively by the groups.

The results, however, should not come as a surprise to long-term residents of Phuket, as jet-ski operators have repeatedly been allowed to stay in business for more than 20 years, despite multiple incidents of physical violence,

deaths and serious injuries.

In 2004, *Gazette* readers correctly predicted that jet-ski operators would remain on the island despite an order by the then governor to phase out all jet-skis within seven years.

Another poll was called in 2009 after Australian diplomats complained to the prime minister about Phuket's notorious jet-ski scam, in which rental operators, week after week, threatened tourists to pay extortionate sums of money for spurious damages to jet-skis.

That poll also saw a majority call for a ban on jet-skis, and 20% calling for them to be phased out.

As recently as 2012, Gen Pansiri Prapawat, deputy commander of the Royal Thai Police, failed to implement a bold "Safety Zone" plan for Patong to rope in the jet-skis to stop them from hitting swimmers.

A similar plan, amid howls of public skepticism, was announced by current Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong late last month.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Tourists' property seized

Police play catch and release with beachgoers' chairs and brollies

By Woranut Pechdee

CONFUSION reigned at Patong Police Station on Wednesday morning when a group of tourists arrived to reclaim their beach chairs and umbrellas, which were mistakenly confiscated by officers trying to ensure that vendors were not encroaching outside the recently established special beach zones.

About 15 tourists arrived at the station, Lt Col Sutthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police confirmed.

"Police seized the umbrellas and beach chairs because they thought they belonged to beach vendors," he explained to the *Gazette*.

The officers discovered a horde of beach equipment stashed on the beach at about 7pm last night, explained Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat.

"The officers seized the umbrellas, beach chairs and boxes left on the sand, as vendors are not allowed to leave their belongings on the beach overnight," Col Akanit said.

"Many of the items were grouped together, and some of the chairs were even chained up, showing that they belonged to someone other than a tourist."

The foreigners who arrived at the police station this morning said that they had bought their own beach equipment and had paid vendors 20 baht each to look



Holidaymakers were able to reclaim their belongings at Patong Police Station. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

after their belongings overnight, Col Akanit explained.

"But when they returned this morning, their belongings were gone, so they came to the police station to ask what had happened to them," he said.

Col Sutthichai noted that the items identified by the tourists as theirs were returned.

"No tourists were fined, but we are keeping a close eye on beach

umbrellas – any suspicious umbrellas will be seized," he said.

The new system of special beach zones for vendors launched on January 3 had already become haphazard, Col Sutthichai said.

"Come and see for yourself. Local people are not following the rules," he said. "They never seem to have enough, that's why this problem can never be solved."

Patong Mayor Chalermluck

Kebsup on Wednesday repeated the concerns that she voiced last week: 10 per cent of total beach area dedicated to beach umbrella rental operators was not enough.

Tourists have also been given permission to set up their own umbrellas and chairs anywhere on the beach – inside or outside of the vendor zones – as long as they are not placing them inside the

Water Sport Activity areas.

"The beach has become very messy. The 10 per cent umbrella zone doesn't work well because tourists are allowed to bring their own umbrellas and set them up outside the special areas," Ms Chalermluck told the *Gazette*.

"Now, you can see umbrellas everywhere. Tourists can rent or buy their own umbrellas from anywhere, not only from us, which means that there is an almost unlimited number of umbrellas now allowed on the beach."

Ms Chalermluck vowed to raise the issue with Governor Nisit Jansomwong as soon as practicable.

"I will explain to the governor what is really happening on the beach under the new policy," she said. "The sooner we find a good solution to this, the better for all of us."

"Personally, I would like to see the dedicated umbrella zone strictly enforced, so we can control the situation and keep the vendors in order."

Meanwhile, five vendors who were caught leaving their rental items on the beach last night were fined 1,000 baht each, Col Akanit confirmed.

"Some of the items are still at the station waiting to be reclaimed by the vendors," he said.

Additional reporting by Saroj Kueprasertkij and Voratuss Intasee



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Bread crumbs no problem for fish

Tourism minister claims feeding them will not upset coral reef ecosystem

By Chutharat Plerin

DESPITE specialists' worries, the director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office explained that feeding fish bread in small quantities is no cause for concern.

"Officers from the Phuket Marine Biological Center [PMBC] say that feeding fish will change their natural habits. However, based on my experience, I do not think that it is wrong to feed fish bread crumbs at that depth [5 meters]," said Santi Pawai, director of the MOTS Phuket office. "I'm looking at this from a tourism point of view, and it isn't too harmful for the fish."

Mr Santi fed fish while participating in a seawalker tour with Nonthasak Marine at Koh Hei (Coral Island) on January 13 to investigate claims that tourists were damaging corals.

"I did not see any tourists stepping on corals and the [seawalker] trail was on the sand, not the coral reef," Mr Santi said. "Each customer was allowed to have one



Santi Pawai on his seawalker tour with Nonthasak Marine at Koh Hei. Photo: MOTS

handful of bread crumbs to feed the fish when they went underwater."

Despite Mr Santi's lack of concern about feeding the sea life in small quantities, environmental scientist Dr Wayne Phillips of Mahidol University explained that such practices could have dire consequences for coral reefs.

"Feeding fish is not ecologically benign. Although the mass of fish

swimming in front of your mask as you feed them is very exciting and visually stunning, it has a number of negative consequences," Dr Phillips told the *Gazette* in September.

"Each organism on the reef has a specific role to play. If you remove that organism or [modify] the role it plays – you upset the dynamic balance of the reef. This

balance is maintained by the complex interactions within and between the different species on the reef."

Fish, such as sergeant-majors, are typically grazers that eat algae. However, when presented with an easy, readily available alternative food source, they change their normal foraging behaviors to exploit the new situation.

"This means that if the fish consume the offered bread or rice, they will not consume the algae. Corals grow relatively slowly [depending on the species] and can become overgrown by the algae. Reef areas that experience heavy tourism are also likely to experience increased nutrient concentrations, which allow the algae to flourish," said Dr Phillips.

"In normal situations, fish will keep this enhanced algal growth in check, allowing corals to grow and not become overgrown by algae. But if the fish are too sated on bread or rice, they will not consume the algae, the algae will overgrow the corals and the reef will change from a coral-dominated to an algae-dominated reef."

Despite approving of feeding the fish, Mr Santi explained that he wanted to see Phuket tourism grow in a sustainable way that did not damage the environment.

"Giving a lot of bread to fish at the surface is not acceptable. I will call on snorkelling tour operators to cease such practices," he said.

Bryde's whale spotted off Phang Nga coast



The 10-meter whale was spotted off Phang Nga's coast. Photo: Sabina Tour

THE sighting of a Bryde's whale by tourists in the Surin Islands National Park off the coast of Phang Nga, north of Phuket, has raised hopes that the marine environment off the Andaman coast is improving.

The whale was spotted swimming alongside a boat operated by Kuraburi-based Sabina Tours.

"The tourists, who came from Phuket and Phang Nga to join the tour, were very excited when they saw the whale swimming alongside," said Sompong Mohdee, owner of Sabina Tours.

"The whale was about 10 meters long. I believe this one is the longest one we have ever seen in the area. Some people took photos and some even took videos. They were all happy to see the whale."

Officials have yet to confirm whether or not the whale was the largest Bryde's whale reported in

the area, but hailed the sighting as a good sign and called for people to step up their efforts to preserve marine life.

"The whale sighting shows that the Andaman marine environment is improving, especially in the Surin Islands," said Dr Pongpayak Sriya, chief of the Surin Islands National Park.

Dr Pongpayak urged tourists to be mindful of their actions during nature tours, and called for them not to litter on the islands or in the sea.

"I urge everyone to keep the water clean for us and the marine animals. At the very least, do not throw trash into the sea or litter on any of the islands during your visit," he told the *Gazette*.

"By keeping the sea and the islands clean, we can hope to enjoy more whale sightings in the area, and that's what tourists come to see." – *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Fearful gold mine villagers implore PM Prayut to help

AROUND THE nation

PEOPLE living near a gold mine in the central north are calling for Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to urgently intervene after hundreds of villagers were found to be suffering from heavy-metal contamination.

Wunpen Promrungsun submitted a petition to PM Prayut on Monday on behalf of those affected by the Akara Resources gold mine, reported *The Nation*.

It calls for PM Prayut to order the Central Institute of Forensic Science (CIFS) and Rangsit University to conduct tests on people in three provinces – Phichit, Phitsanulok and Phetchabun – who fear they have been affected.

“The tests will scientifically determine if people are contami-



Villagers, fearful of contamination, have presented a petition to authorities. Photo: The Nation

nated with toxins,” the petition said. It also requested that potable water be provided to the locals.

“Local people are not able to use water from local sources as preliminary tests show it is contaminated.”

PM Prayut was also urged to

review the process under which the mining licences were granted. The petition explained that many residents were made to vacate their land for environmental conservation, but later found it was being used for gold mining.

“We hope the prime minister

will act fast,” Ms Wunpen said.

The Department of Primary Industries and Mines suspended the operations of the gold mine last week, after which locals heard several gunshots in the area and interpreted it as a form of intimidation.

Fugitive bomber extradited, rights advocates protest

AUTHORITIES have extradited a man to India convicted of involvement in a bomb attack two decades



Photo: The Nation

ago, police said on January 16, despite rights groups’ concerns he could be tortured back home.

Gurmeet Singh, also known as Jagtar Singh Tara, was convicted for his role in a 1995 car-bomb attack that killed 18 people in India.

Singh entered Thailand in October and was arrested on January 5, reported *The Nation*.

“He was sent back [on January 16] at 8:30pm. It followed court procedure,” said police spokesman Lt Gen Prawut Thawonsiri.

Rights groups tried to block Singh’s extradition, saying there was a “strong possibility” he would be tortured if sent back.

“Ignoring the strong possibility... will run counter to Thailand’s obligation under the UN Convention Against Torture,” Dantong Breen, a rights activist, told reporters in Bangkok.

Baby Gammy granted Australian citizenship



Baby Gammy is now an Australian citizen. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

A BABY at the center of a Thai surrogacy scandal has been granted Australian citizenship, authorities said Tuesday, after his birth mother said he was abandoned by a Perth couple who went home with his healthy twin sister.

Baby Gammy sparked a global debate about the legal and moral issues surrounding surrogacy when reports emerged in August last year that he was left behind by the pair, who returned to Australia with his sister Pipah, reported *The Nation*.

The couple have denied abandoning the boy, who has Down’s syndrome, saying they had wanted to bring him home and left Thailand fearing the surrogate mother would seize their daughter.

“The department can confirm that an application for baby Gammy’s Australian citizenship by descent has been assessed and found to have met all criteria for the grant,” an immigration department spokeswoman said.

“It is not appropriate for the department to make any further comments on this case.”

Surrogate mother Pattaramon

Chanbua, who is in her early 20s, confirmed her son had been granted Australian citizenship.

“He got citizenship four days ago. The Australian embassy called me on Friday to ask me to come and collect the documents,” she told AFP by telephone from her home in Chonburi province.

Pattaramon said she has no immediate plans to take her son to Australia but applied for citizenship with the help of the Australian charity Hands Across the Water as a safeguard for his future.

“I want him to be near me here [in Thailand] so that I don’t have to miss him,” the 21-year-old mother said.

“But if all of my family, including me die and if Gammy is left behind alone, at least the Australian government will help him.”

She added that Gammy is in good health and turned a year old in December.

Gammy’s biological father, David Farnell, a convicted sex offender, is under investigation by authorities in Western Australia regarding the well-being and safety of Pipah.

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Hand-fed future

A RECENT comment made by a high-ranking government official that seawalking tourists should be allowed to continue hand-feeding bread crumbs to reef fish is a serious cause for concern.

Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket Office Director Santi Pawai recently went on a fact-finding mission to investigate claims that a marine tourism operator's seawalker tours off the coast of Phuket's Koh Hei (Coral Island) were damaging the marine environment there, with tourists hand-feeding fish bread crumbs, stepping on coral formations and other environmentally unsound practices (see page 6).

Mr Santi, who obviously enjoyed his marine adventure, concluded after viewing the fish feeding first-hand: "From my tourism point-of-view, it isn't too harmful to the fish."

However, experts without tourism points-of-view, including experienced researchers at the Phuket Marine Biological Center, tend to disagree. Even many ecologically-aware dive tour operators and environmentalists on the island who do share a tourism point-of-view disagree.

It is true that feeding patterns at coral reefs are inherently dynamic and small-scale feedings like the kind presented to Mr Santi are a "drop in the bucket" compared with the other devastating practices that humankind has wrought on our planet's marine environment.

These include oil drilling and other forms of offshore resource mining, aquaculture, destruction of mangrove forests and other forms of coastal "development", unsustainable fishing practices, terrestrial wastewater pollution and many more.

In a recent study published by the respected journal *Science*, one world-renowned panel of researchers concluded after an extensive, interdisciplinary study: "We may be sitting on a precipice of a major extinction event" in the global marine environment.

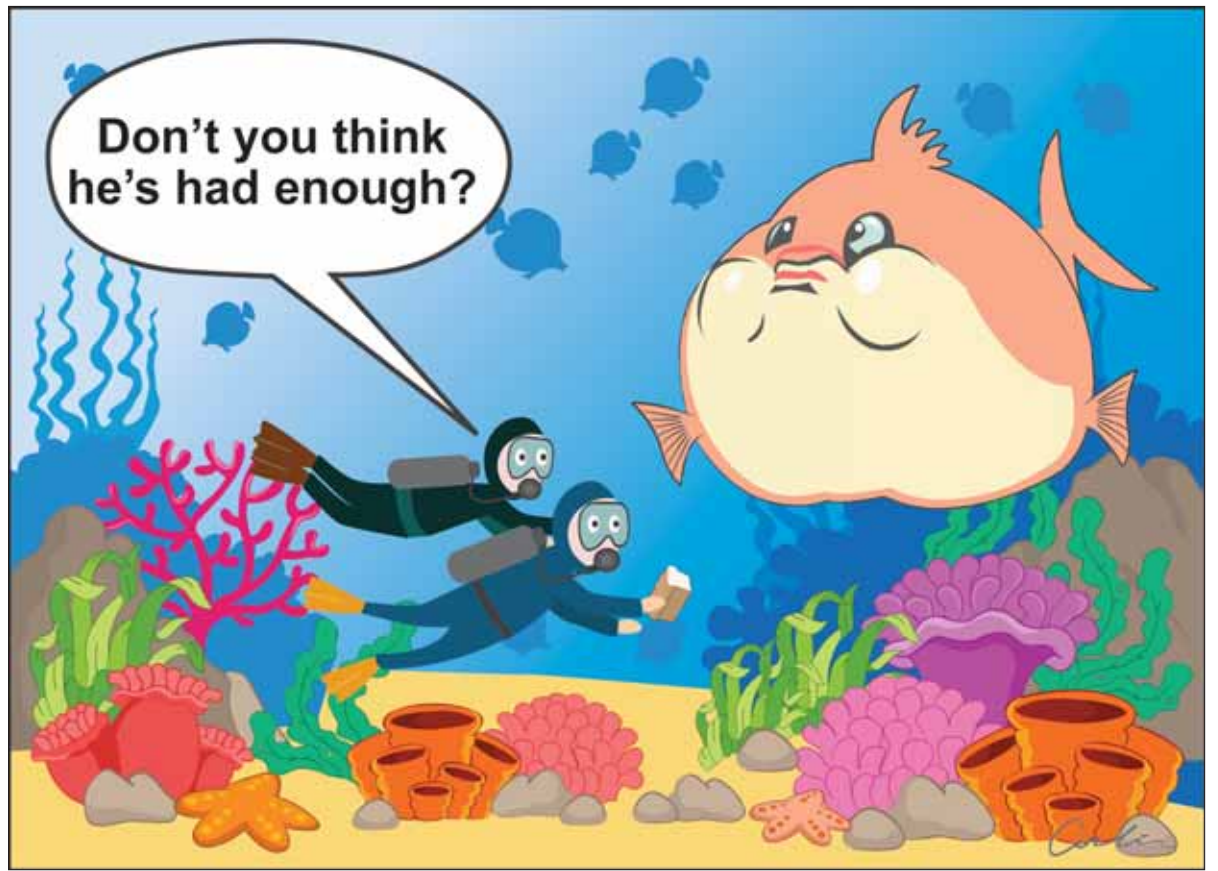
The most discouraging aspect of Mr Santi's statement is the apparent lack of understanding that when "small scale" behaviors that affect an ecosystem are applied to mass tourism, they will have wholesale effect.

One tourist hand-feeding some fish "only a little bit", when multiplied by tens of thousands of people each year doing the same, is likely to have a staggering effect on the marine life at that site.

If Phuket's leaders are unable to understand – never mind raise public awareness about – mankind's increasing role in rapidly-changing global ecosystems, both terrestrial and marine, then we are heading into ecological dire straits.

Phuket's dive tour industry has a history of raising awareness of environmental issues through real-life experiences that cannot be reproduced through classroom lectures.

However, dolphinariums, Phuket's pathetic private zoos and seawalker tours tend to have the opposite effect: reinforcing the belief that it is acceptable to treat the environment as if it exists solely for our benefit and amusement, and, after all the fun is over, our final dumping ground.



Let this be an example for all of us

Re: Gazette online, Czech busker on Bangla reunited with his family, January 15

And that, folks, is how every matter should be handled in this country.

Fairness on all sides, except the possible negligence of the driver who hit the child.

The guilty party paid as they should and the insurance paid as they should. The cops and immigration officers didn't haul him in for earning money without a work permit due to his situation, and then they drove him to reunite with his family.

You see, it's not that hard!

David
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

pared to Pattaya and Cambodia.

A lot of tourists are starting to realize that Phuket isn't the cheap holiday destination it once was.

The innocence is gone and cash rules everything.

I was there to party during the coup and spending every night locked in my hotel room at 10pm on a 12-day stay wasn't much of a party!

Be Ting Tong Dub
Facebook

No matter what the authorities say, mafia money paid to the right officers will always get these idiot operators back on the beach to start scamming tourists and again ruin the reputation of Thailand.

It's the governing bodies that are now seen as more corrupt than ever with ridiculous decisions like this. Thailand will be the loser.

Terry Chandler
Facebook

The fish can take care of themselves

Re: Gazette online, Bread crumbs no problem for coral reef, says Phuket official, January 15

We have to ask ourselves, why do people feed fish?

They do it for their own entertainment.

Does it benefit the fish? No.

Does it benefit the reef? No.

Fish already know how to eat, so why are we helping them?

John B Williams
Facebook

Clean up Karon

Re: Gazette online, I & A: Why are the beaches covered with trash?, December 30

I agree with the letter referencing the litter and rubbish on Karon Beach. It gives Karon a bad name both here and at home in England.

An even worse problem is the health risk from untreated, polluted water flowing into the sea. This is unacceptable, and spreads many germs to the sea fronting Karon Beach.

Our sea in England is tested daily, and if it fails water tests, the beach is closed.

Many people from all countries complain, which does not do Thailand's tourism any good.

Robin Syred
South Wales

Thailand's laughable licencing procedures

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Privatized driving tests – driven by cash, or care?, January 18

I first got my driver's licence in Canada in 1979 after a vigorous course of instruction and a strict test. I have also done the UK driving test.

The testing here leaves a lot to be desired, and the privatization will make it worse – but it will line some pockets.

If you have ever done a renewal here and sat through the video, it is a great laugh from the start, as you compare each example to what actually happens on the roads.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

The beaches really are beautiful again

Re: Gazette online, Sunloungers allowed during Patong Beach trial period, January 19

I was in Phuket two weeks ago and 12 months before that, and the beaches were so much nicer this time.

For a start, you could actually see the beach!

Hiring out the mats is a good compromise for those who insist on having something to lie on.

At least they don't obscure everyone else's view.

It would have been better without the umbrellas, but at least the whole beach isn't covered in them like before.

Tina Olsen
Facebook

Bangla of yesteryear has disappeared

Re: Gazette online, Mind Matters: Solution to island woes – re-brand Phuket, January 19

The Bangla that once was cheap has now become expensive com-

Thailand will lose this unfortunate battle

Re: Gazette online, Even tourists don't want jet-skis on Phuket beaches, says poll, January 15

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Happy Aussie Day

FIRST PERSON

ON AUSTRALIA Day, we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian, and to reflect on our domestic and international achievements.

In Thailand, the day also provides an opportunity for us, Australians and Thais, to celebrate our bilateral relationship, which has flourished for over 60 years.

Thailand is an important, long-standing partner for Australia.

It is Australia's eighth largest bilateral trading partner and our second largest trading partner in Asean. Trade between Australia and Thailand has grown substantially in recent years, particularly since the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement's launch in 2005.

This year we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Free Trade Agreement. Strong economic growth in regional Thai cities also means our bilateral trade will increasingly expand beyond metropolitan Bangkok to urban, regional Thailand. We also welcome growing Thai investment in Australia.

We also support Thailand's development through our regional aid programs. The Australian Government's regional assistance programs help Thailand respond to trans-boundary health threats, improve regional water management, safeguard human security and promote economic integration.



Paul Robilliard has been the Australian Ambassador to Thailand since October last year. A senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and currently First Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia Division, Amb Robilliard has served twice as Head of the United Nations Security Council Taskforce, and as Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister's Office.

Here, Amb Robilliard delivers his Australia Day message to Thais and Australians living in the Kingdom.

Australia shares many strategic interests with Thailand, and we continue to work constructively with the Thai Government in multilateral forums.

The Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police and Customs Services co-operate extensively with their Thai partners.

Education links between Thailand and Australia are very strong.

I look forward to continuing our engagement with Thailand in 2015 – my first full year as Ambassador to Thailand. Happy Australia Day to all Australians in Thailand.

Over 22,000 Thai nationals are currently studying in Australia, and our education links are growing. I am very pleased that this year 160 Australian students will come to Thailand to study and undertake work placements under the New Colombo

Plan established by the Australian Government. Their placements will help them develop an understanding of the country and reinforce links between Australian and Thai people.

The Australian Government continues to provide scholarships and fellowships to international students including Thais.

Since 2007, the Australian Government's Endeavour scholarships and fellowships program have been accepted by 155 Thais to undertake study, research or professional development in Australia and 35 Australians accepted an Endeavour Scholarship or Fellowship to undertake study, research or professional development in Thailand.

Nearly 900,000 Australians visited Thailand in 2014. Phuket remains one of the most popular destinations here for Australian tourists.

The Australian Embassy has continued to provide a high level of consular assistance to clients all over Thailand, including Phuket.

We conduct regular outreach visits to Phuket and Chiang Mai to assist Australians with notarial and passport matters.

We also encourage all Australians in Thailand to register at www.smarttraveller.gov.au and obtain relevant and comprehensive travel insurance.

I look forward to continuing our engagement with Thailand in 2015 – my first full year as Ambassador to Thailand.

Happy Australia Day to all Australians in Thailand.



Two of the confessed New Year's Eve shooters. Photo: Phuket City Police

Terrible teens

Island View

By Rae Kelly

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

SINCE mid-December, there have been four drive-by shootings reported in Phuket – three of which were fatal, and at least two of which were carried out by gangs of motorcycle-riding teenagers.

The fact that these latest three attacks have occurred within the last three weeks is truly horrifying, and is a far-from-comforting thought as the island's tourism season continues to move ahead at full speed.

In what was called a case of mistaken identity, two teen shooters given the pseudonyms "Joey", 15, and "James", 16, were arrested earlier this month for the December 29 shooting death of 19-year-old Chalong Netphetdang. The shooters told police they had mistaken Mr Chalong for a rival gang member attempting to overtake them on their motorbike.

Two days after Mr Chalong was killed, 15-year-old Sakorn Nitipoj was shot dead in front of the governor's house in Phuket Town. Five of the six suspects – all teens – have since turned themselves in, telling police that they had had an argument with Mr Sakorn the night of the shooting.

Then, early Monday morning, Songwit Vinyupradit, 49, was shot twice by two suspects on a motorbike in Thalang. Police are trying to establish a motive for the attack, which was allegedly also carried out by teenagers.

There is one similarity between all of these drive-by shootings that is particularly striking: the location. All four have either taken place in Phuket Town itself or in

central Phuket villages.

Few expats live in Phuket Town, but many of us have friends who do, and many of us certainly spend a lot of time in the area – especially at night.

With so many armed hotheads riding around on motorbikes and gunning down rival gang members after a heated argument or case of mistaken identity, it is only a matter of time before a friend, or a friend of a friend, gets caught up in a pride-storm fuelled by hormones and loaded with bullets.

The police need to re-focus their hunt. They need to target the people making the impressive homemade guns often seized in shooting cases and drug busts. These weapons look polished and well-crafted, which leads one to the conclusion that there are people on this island who are not only capable of building such weapons, but are also not concerned about handing them over to hyper-emotional youngsters.

Rather than occasionally cracking down on illegal firearms when asked by the nation's leaders, police should track down the builders of these firearms and eliminate them from the crime pool.

This won't put an end to all such violence, but it might, at the very least, decrease the number of senseless killings.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

Bringing spices and teas through Phuket's airport

I AM currently in India and want to bring back some spices and teas, what are the regulations?

The Thai Customs website says I should "refer to your local embassy". I have tried the contact page on several of the consulate pages for India, but the contact pages do not seem to work (says access denied).

Michael,
India

Arcom Preeda, chief of the customs control and inspection division at Phuket Airport, replies:

If you bring in spices and teas to Thailand through Phuket International Airport and declare them as miscellaneous goods, the

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

customs inspector will determine whether they are for personal or commercial use.

This depends on the amount and the estimated value that you bring in.

There is no exact amount stipulated in the regulations as to what volume of tea products or spices constitutes commercial use. It



Teas and spices need to be declared. Photo: Selena N.B.H.

depends entirely on the discretion of the individual officer inspecting the goods.

Usually not more than 2

kilograms of any commercial product is considered for personal use.

However, if the officer deems

that the volume of the consumer product being imported is substantial enough to be for commercial use, or that the estimated value of the goods exceeds 10,000 baht – as you will be importing a "listed food product", you will have to contact the Thai FDA for a permit to import and you will have to pay the applicable taxes and duties.

The limit for any other products that are not "listed" is up to 100,000 baht.

Please note that even if the inspecting officer deems the products to be for personal use, you will be required to pay 30 per cent of the value of the goods as determined by the inspecting officer, plus 7 per cent VAT.

Follow legal road to Oz

Secure visas to enter Australia, avoid dangerous pitfalls

By Simon Wetherell

RIGHTLY or wrongly, Australia has a reputation for being very difficult to gain entry into, even for a short stay tourist. And while Thailand has been considered a high-risk country, this does not mean getting a visa should be hard.

While there are many rumors and stories, the simple truth is that getting a visa to Australia is not difficult if you are a bona fide traveller who meets the eligibility criteria and purpose of the visa for which you apply.

Put simply, if you are a genuine applicant with a genuine reason for travel and can meet the basic standards required, then your visa application will be approved.

The good news is that Australian immigration law is easy to navigate if you know what you are doing. Though changes happen regularly, the principles and rules stay constant, so putting together a successful application is relatively straightforward.

Examples of recent positive changes are the working holiday visas for Thai citizens. Thais under 31 can now travel to Australia for one year, and are allowed to work to support themselves while on holiday. A word of advice: apply for your visa early, as there is a 500-person quota each year, so first in best dressed! The good news is that the Australian Government has just announced there will be a 20 per cent increase in numbers in the second half of the year.

The Partner/Spouse visas are also available to Thais who have an Australian partner, or an eligible New Zealand partner. One word of warning though, planning ahead is essential with these



There are untold wonders for those wanting to explore Australia, as well as opportunities for work and studying. Photo: Talib Meer

visas as there is currently a 12-month waiting period.

The best advice for getting a visa is to choose your visa carefully, tell the truth, provide all the required supporting documents as well as correct information.

Even if the visa is for a friend you have recently met on your holiday in Thailand, planning and preparing the correct application can be the difference between

getting a visa approved or wasting time, effort and money and facing in disappointment.

One thing many people do not realize is that the person needing the visa must apply. The application must be completed by you or your agent. If someone else completes an application in your name and they provide any incorrect, false or misleading information, there may be

serious consequences.

If, for example, your travel agent applies on your behalf with incorrect or insufficient information, your visa might be delayed or denied or, worst still, you could face a ban of up to three years before you can apply again.

The good news is that you can now get sound advice right here in Phuket from an Australian qualified lawyer, and your initial

consultation is free.

Simon Wetherell is an Australian, Cayman Islands and England & Wales qualified lawyer, as well as an Australian Registered Migration Agent (MARN# 1464995), who has been practicing law since 1999. He offers a free initial consultation to anyone looking for visa advice. To contact Simon, call 095 085 3355 or visit www.AustralianVisaPhuket.com.

Oil price plunge brings down consumer costs for construction supplies

FOLLOWING the collapse of fuel costs, the retail prices of building and other basic materials will be reduced in stages by 2 to 7.7 per cent to ensure fairness to consumers, according to the Internal Trade Department.

The first priority is five products: lubricant oil by 2 to 5 per cent; plastic pellets by 3.85 to 7.7 per cent; cement by 2 to 4 per cent, or 2 to 4 baht per 50-kilogram sack; roof tiles by 5 to 7 per cent, or 3 to 4 baht per piece, and steel by 5 to 10 per cent, or 1,000 to 1,500 baht per tonne.

Boonyarit Kalayanamit, director-general of the department, said on Monday that some products that rely heavily on transportation, such as construction supplies, as well as petrochemical by-products are first in line to cut retail prices because the effect of low oil prices on their cost of production is clear.

However, the department might not be able to adjust the retail prices of some products at all, or maybe by just a notch, because they depend less on diesel and have benefited only slightly from the lower



Prices for goods that need to be transported are to be reduced. Photo: Buriram Ruangsangthai

diesel price.

A 4.50-baht-per-liter chop in the diesel price will bring down the cost of goods by 0.01 to 1.04 per cent on average. Products that are heavy will benefit the most from softening transport costs, while the cost of

production for consumer goods such as shampoo, soap and detergent will go down by only 0.06-0.13 per cent.

The prices of agricultural products may not see a significant change. For example, pork will only see a price cut of 0.08 per

cent, eggs of 0.14 per cent and chicken of 0.17 per cent.

The department will continue to discuss with manufacturers and retailers about revising some of their prices if it finds that their cost of production has dropped due to lower fuel prices.

Initially, consumers will see only the prices of heavy and petrochemical by-products coming down, but the prices of other goods should also decrease in the future, as long as oil prices continue to stay low.

Other products that will see price decreases are chemical fertilizers to the tune of 10 to 30 baht per 50kg sack, and consumer goods, especially essential goods.

As a measure to protect consumers from unfair quotes, the department will dispatch teams of officials every week to the field to inspect prices and tags. It will also set up community markets in some areas to sell cheap products for consumers as part of the government's plans to help ease the cost of living.

— The Nation



Market new beacon of light

By Maciek Klimowicz

AIMING to appeal to a wider audience and expand its market reach, Phuket's Boat Lagoon Marina is launching the Lighthouse Market.

"We don't want to focus on one target group or one nationality. This is a market for everyone who enjoys quality – both expats and local Thais," explained Kanittha Prasopsirikul from By Kanittha, the company behind the new market concept.

"Boat Lagoon Marina is planning to re-brand as Boat Lagoon Marina Village," said Ms Kanittha. "The Lighthouse Market is our way to announce this change."

With a launch promotion price of 2,000 baht per month for vendors who previously rented space in Boat Lagoon along the boardwalk, it was easy to fill the spaces, Ms Kanittha said.

The new booths along the 300-meter boardwalk have been quickly snapped up by about 60 vendors representing quality goods and services from destinations throughout Thailand.

However, cheap retail space is not everything, as Ms Kanittha believes that it's the concept itself that attracted the vendors.

"Businesses spend a lot of time and money on self-promotion. Here, we join forces to do it



Kanittha Prasopsirikul explains that the promotional prices for the vendor booths aren't the only factor that led to the quick advance bookings.

together," said Ms Kanittha. "I don't think the vendors expect a lot of profit at the market itself. What they are aiming at is to get the customers curious and have them visit their

shops later," she explained.

On a larger scale, the market aims to do the same for the Boat Lagoon itself – invite more guests in and bolster the re-branding

efforts. What's really on display and on sale at the Lighthouse Market is the marina's new image.

The Lighthouse Market will be held on the last weekend of

each month with a break for the southwest monsoon season. The inaugural launch will be held on January 24-25 between 3pm and 8pm.

Pizza Hut wants bigger slice of Thai market

PIZZA Hut in Thailand has set a five-year strategy to more than double the number of its restaurants – its only Phuket outlet is in Patong – and to achieve annual double-digit growth in revenue.

Sabina Rizvi, the new general manager of Pizza Hut Thailand, said in an exclusive interview with *The Nation* that the company currently operates 97 outlets in various formats, ranging from delivery and dine-in to express.

"We want to more than double the number of our Pizza Hut stores in Thailand in the next five years. We will invest more than half a billion baht in our five-year expansion," she said, adding that about 70 per cent of the expansion would be in delivery outlets.

Pizza Hut has been in Thailand for more than 15 years. It says its menu is constantly revamped to meet the needs of Thai consumers.

"My vision is to make Pizza Hut



Sabina Rizvi, new GM of Pizza Hut Thailand. Photo: Veva Health

the most loved pizza brand in Thailand," Ms Rizvi said.

She added that the company had four strategies: to offer the most affordable pizzas; to drive growth by focusing on delivery services; to use digital technology so that customers can access the Pizza Hut brand in different ways; and to ensure world-class service so its customers keep coming back.

Ms Rizvi said Pizza Hut posted 8 per cent year-on-year growth in sales in the first three quarters of last year.

—*The Nation*



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If I could be 20 again

David reflects on his twenties and reveals the first steps to financial security

Finance

By David Mayes

I KNOW most people in their twenties are typically not interested in planning financially for their futures. Often, they are not very interested in planning for anything other than Friday night – I remember the days when I thought the same way.

What advice would I give myself now if I could go back and make decisions based on the lessons life's experiences have taught me?

One thing this thought process does is make me feel quite happy with some of the tough decisions I made early in life.

The best one was moving to Thailand while still a young man.

Surprising to many, Asia has always felt like more of a land of opportunity than my home country ever did.

I encourage all fresh graduates from university to get some international living and working experience as soon as possible.

In fact, when it comes to university, I would probably do the entire thing part time while working, if I were to do it again.

Maybe I would try to find a company to help pay for it, or transfer credits from a cheaper university to a degree at a more expensive one.

The return on investment in life-long earnings from a university is in a steady downward trend, and many programs already have a negative net present value.

In layman's terms, they're not

worth it.

I would also have tried starting side businesses at a much earlier age. I think that developing entrepreneurial skills will become an increasingly important factor in determining success in the future, as knowledge gradually becomes commoditized.

A piece of paper from an educational institution doesn't mean what it used to in terms of the security of your future.

The most important thing I would have done differently is recognize the power of long-term compounding.

I would have set aside 10% of everything I earned in my life and put it into an account (interest bearing or investments) specifically for retirement.

If I had followed this strategy fresh out of university – even given the crazy ups and downs of the markets and the financial crises we have been through – I would be so much better off.

It is now unpleasant to think about the opportunities I have wasted.

To summarize, the four most important things I would advise someone in their early twenties to do are

as follows:

- 1) Work during university to gain entry-level work experience and reduce the cost of education, which is increasingly becoming a bad investment
- 2) Experience life abroad
- 3) Gain entrepreneurial experience
- 4) Begin saving for retirement

There is no holy grail amongst these simple recommendations.

If I had followed this strategy fresh out of university, even given the crazy ups and downs of the markets and the financial crises we have been through, I would be so much better off.

I encourage all fresh graduates from university to get some international living and working experience as soon as possible.



It's never too early to start stashing money for retirement. Photo: 401(K) 2012



Students need to think more about their financial futures, says David. Photo: MalcaHyman

However, if taken together and followed seriously, I believe that they can significantly increase the amount of happiness you experience over the course of your life.

Plus, you will reach your

retirement in a much better financial situation.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates 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.

Ad spending down 10% in 2014

TOTAL advertising expenditure last year suffered a huge drop – almost 10 per cent – to 102.34 billion baht from 113bn baht in 2013, according to the latest survey by Nielsen (Thailand).

Partly because of the arrival of new terrestrial-based digital television channels and the economic slowdown, ad spending on incumbent analog TV channels witnessed a 7.9 per cent decline to 63.78bn baht from 69.25bn baht in 2013.

However, TV was still the most



Newspaper advertising fell 13.7% in 2014. Photo: Nist6dh

important advertising medium, accounting for 62.31 per cent of total spending.

Newspapers also faced a big drop of 13.7 per cent to 13.16bn

baht from 15.26bn baht the previous year.

Radio adverts saw an 11 per cent decrease to 5.62bn baht from 6.32bn baht. Magazines witnessed a 16.8 per cent drop to 4.72bn baht from 5.67bn baht.

Only transit and internet advertising enjoyed growth.

Internet spending witnessed 8.32 per cent growth to 950mn baht from 877mn baht, while transit media raked in 3.8bn baht, up 7.82 per cent from 3.53bn baht the previous year. – *The Nation*



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

January 23-26. 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.

January 23, from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. Taste of Siam Wine Dinner at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket together with Siam Winery Co Ltd present "Taste of Siam", an extraordinary wine dinner paired with limited-edition Monsoon Valley wines from Hua Hin Hills, Thailand.

The four-course menu has been created by the award-winning Dusit International Group Chef of Thai cuisine, Morten Bojstrup Nielsen, along with Dusit Thani Laguna Executive Chef Silvano Amolini and his team.

Meet with our honored guest speaker Kathrin Puff, winemaker and deputy director of technical support, who will share the vineyard's history throughout the night. Price: THB 2,200++ per person. Bookings are essential.

January 24-25, 3pm to 8pm. 'Shop Chill Eat' at Lighthouse



Market, Boat Lagoon

A weekend of fun activities at Thailand's most lively marina.

There will be a number of live performances, lighthouse tours and even a kid's corner.

Additionally, there will be an international food fair and food tasting.

A free shuttle bus will be available throughout the event and parking spaces will be provided.

February 14. Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, also known as Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, will be celebrated throughout the island.

Many resorts and restaurants are preparing special moments for courting and married couples. Best to plan ahead and book your table long before February arrives.

March 4. Makha Bucha Day

Makha Bucha Day, which falls

on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the ruling Chakri dynasty, founded by King Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

May 1. Labor Day

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 6. Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

June 1. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June.

The day commemorates three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date on the Buddhist calendar.

July 30. Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to five disciples after he attained enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Evening candlelight processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

AUSTRALIAN VISAS

WANT TO VISIT, LIVE
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*MUST BE PURCHASED BY 31 JANUARY 2015, EVEN IF LODGED AT A LATER DATE



YOUR Phuket

Transforming into an artist



OPEN FOR APPRECIATION: L to R: Rose Maitland Smith, local artist; Narong Pattamasaei and Poonsri Pattamasaei review the exquisite 'abstract expressionist' paintings on exhibit at the Boathouse by Montara.

Yachties to sail at full bloom



BOATING PARADISE: L to R: Gulu Lalvani, Chairman Royal Phuket Marina; Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports; and Nisit Jansomwong, Governor of Phuket, discuss the future of boating in Phuket at Royal Phuket Marina.

Taking to the roofs of Patong



PARTY ANIMALS RAISED THE ROOF LAST WEEKEND AT THE GRAND OPENING OF 'HIGHER' IN PATONG: L to R: Raissa Sheludkina, Stefan Strehl, Cherry Ohlala, Catherine Marguerite, Henriette Morel, Kanakorn Kamjatpai and Aliya Iriskina.



ROOF TOP JAM: L to R: Amber Thongtae, Siriamon Amonsuthum, Sophie Jing Sun and Tommy Tee.



STAY HIGH: L to R: Antonie Polfiet, Daniel Meury, Daniel Bosshard and Santeri Nurmi.

Words for Love at the Amari



ISRAELI POP: L to R: Pierre-Andre Pelletier, VP and area GM, South Thailand for Amari; Lior Narkis, Israeli singer; Sapir Narki; and Tipaporn Koonphol, deputy GM for Amari.

The KEE to success is here



THANK YOU: L to R: Kanyapoj Chaiprapan, marketing and communication manager for The KEE; Supanan Supawong, assistant sales manager, Phuket Gazette; Samornpun Somnam, executive director, The KEE; Thitichaya Phajanyor, PR Officer; stop by the Gazette office with a gift.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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

January 24 - 30, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

SUPERB PENTHOUSE



See page 16

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

phuket
home
services

phuket
property
inspections

See page 19

INVESTMENT of the week

INVESTMENT IN RAWAI



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

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.

SUPER MODERN

This supermodern Phuket house just came for sale in Rawai. The house is insulated in European style. For more info contact soi.saliga@gmail.com Price 13 MB. Tel: 080-530 6880 (English). Email: soi.saliga@gmail.com

TOP NEW CONDO RAWAI



36sqm and up, off Saiyuan in Rawai, furnished, large pool, rooftop garden with seaview. Start at 3million baht and 1.5 million baht, near golf. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bum rung515@gmail.com

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

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).

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, mountainside, panoramic seaview of Patong Bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).

LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

400sqm, seaview, Karon: 3.9 million baht. Also, house and land (120sqm, 400sqm) : 7 million baht. Tel: 091-040 2471. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

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

AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 beds, 3 baths, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Not for long price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI



New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8 pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MACRO. Start 9mn THB. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bum rung515@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT PALACE



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

LAND & RESORT IN YOUR BUDGET

Your Dreamy Pool Villa "The Andaburee Phuket"

Seaview, mountain view, Mission Hills Golf Resort view.

Starting from 18 million baht.

(include Steak furniture and home theater)

Contact: 083-389 7799, 082-894 6699

Email: pee_bang56@hotmail.com



KARON HOUSE SALE OF OWNER

2 bed, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet, furnished. 4 mn baht. Tel: 087-886 7029 (English & Thai). Email: svein.arild.johansen@gmail.com

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

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

PANORAMA SEA VIEW LAND



For sale 5.5 rai, Ao Makham, Chanote title, 12 million baht / rai call 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

KAMALA



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

BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community, Chanote title, 1,100sqm, flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

2-BEDROOM BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2 bdr / 2 bath, 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, 13.9 million baht. neg. Tel: 096-532849 (English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.com



Absolutely stunning sea view villa

At Cape Panwa - 4 bedroom suites, large pool, dining sala/bar, jacuzzi and much more. A true luxury villa estate in a fabulous location occupying a prime site of 3,500 square meters. Reduced to sell quickly to 85 million baht. Tel 089-873 7075.



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.

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

KARON BEACH CONDO

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

ONE SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

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

OCEAN FRONT VILLA



Brand new, fully furnished, 3-4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 10-meter infinity swimming pool, beautiful view. For quick sale only 19.5 mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

THE DECK CONDO FOR SALE

2 units condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project Studio unit no.0103309 Floor 3 Building A 31 sq.m. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 sqm. Price 4.5 Million THB. Fully furnished ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: omholland@hotmail.com

Properties For Rent

KATA BEACH

2-bed, 3-bath custom home 500 meters from the beach. Furnished. 25,000 baht per month. Available Feb 10th. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai), 086-385 0822 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA



2-storey trad. Thai-style villa. 3 bedrooms. In group of 4 homes. Short walk to Nai Harn Beach for 25,000 THB. Tel: 083-388 8036, 089-972 5378.

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>

4 MODERN POOL VILLAS



(2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, satellite TV, pool & garden. Located between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-8935 270. Email: mrdupouy@gmail.com www.tropical-house.net

SEAVIEW, FULLY FURNISHED

In town 1-BR condo: 16,000 monthly, 3-BR loft, private pool, maid: 95,000 monthly. Tel: 081-895 3628.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Near Laguna 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 098-732 7902.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



At Moo Baan Patak villa 2, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 big kitchen, 1 living room and car parking. Two-storey house with internet, WiFi, for rent, long and short-term – price flexible. Contact: 089-908 7830.

APARTMENT FOR RENT



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

PATONG 1-BED CONDO

Fully furnished, minimum 2 months, available now. 800m to beach, swimming pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nei in5nh6@gmail.com

CHALONG BEACHFRONT

2-storey pool villa. Seaview, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 lounge rooms, internet, cable TV. 30,000 baht / month. Tel: 095-046 4039.

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

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

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

LUXURY RENT KAMALA

Luxury villas and apartment for rent, modern style, big garden, jacuzzi, swimming pool, WiFi, 600 mt. from the beach with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Special price start from 3,000 baht per day. Email: francescobonta@gmail.com. For more info call Francesco 085-790 7816. www.villacheloni.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL

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

BEACHFRONT LUXURY KATA APT

5 star, pools, gym, quiet area. 30,000 baht long term. Available now. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com www.katasala.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

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished house in prime location, village near the Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

HOUSE NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, furniture, kitchen, WiFi, TV, community pool 25,000 baht / month. Tel: 083-388 8036.

4 BED, 4 BATH - CLOSE TO BIS



Aircon pool villa in a secure estate in Kathu, easy access to BIS, Central Festival and Patong. Avail March 10. 65,000 baht / PCM. Tel: 083-967 5777 (English & Thai).



STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

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

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

SURIN BEACH CONDO

1-2 bedroom, pool, 300m to beach. Furnished. Call mobile 088-823 4128 (English). Email: rapaljes@yahoo.com

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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

KATA BEACH SHOP + APARTMENT

On raised pedestrian walkway to beach (one minute). Please contact Kata Beach Adam Tour, 076-333142, 087-895 7270 (English & Thai). Email: juntana koliver@msn.com

GOLF VIEW 7-BEDROOM 4 RENT

Large house with private swimming pool, fully furnished, close to all international schools and shopping mall. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

2 bedrooms, furnished, 24,000 baht / month. Long-term tenant wanted. Pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV. 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: neiln 5nh6@gmail.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

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WAITRESS / FOOD RUNNER

Female, friendly, Good service mind, experience is advantage. Benefits: salary, service charge, tips, social fee, 2 meals/day, uniform. Job available at RossoVivo Ristorante Italiano e Pizzeria 5/38 wiset road, Rawai. Tel: 076-384 686, 083-103 3801.

FOOD / BEVERAGE MANAGER

Position available now. Salary range: 40 to 45,000 baht per month plus monthly SC. Work schedule: 8 hrs per day, 6 days a week. Minimum 2-year degree in Food Service or Restaurant Management. Thai Nationals only. Must speak English. Minimum 2 years in managing a high-volume restaurant. Experience in developing, planning and implementing innovative & exciting menu items. Thai & Western experience in controlling F/B costs. Knowledgeable in F/B sales. Email: gm@ccshideaway.com

CHINESE STAFF NEEDED

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

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

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

MARKETING FOR REAL ESTATE

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at Jungceylon, the Banana Walk shopping center and our Kata Beach office. A high salary and commissions will be given for the right person. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to admin@propertyinphuket.com or call us for an interview. www.propertyinphuket.com

FULL-TIME NANNY AND MAID WANTED

Twins baby start March, trial Feb. Salary negotiable on experience. Manik area - Mel 098-671 3740.

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

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

FULL TIME MAID, COOK WANTED

Full-time maid, cook wanted (2 staffs Thai nationals for private villa in Nai Harn, Rawai. Tel: 081-970 7633. Email: roberto.omini@gmail.com

SECRETARY

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

PROPERTY LISTING MANAGER

Leading Phuket Real Estate Company looking for an English speaker to join our friendly team, full time. The job involves creating property listings, research and data entry. Working hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6pm. Tel: 090-703 5023 (English). Email: paul@livephuket.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, work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

TELE SALES WORK FROM HOME

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

DATABASE UPDATER

Looking for a Thai national with basic English skills and computer knowledge. Own computer required. Full time job. Email if interested. Email: info@divethe-world.com

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.

NEW RESTAURANT IN LAGUNA

Now hiring: Chefs - all levels; Servers - all levels; Bar staff; Back of house staff; and a Personal Assistant. Basic English necessary, previous experience preferred. Must be under 35 years of age. For the right candidates, we offer an excellent salary, benefits, holidays and structured professional development. Please forward CVs and a current picture to Jamie @bam pot.co or call 092-130 3114.

SHOP MANAGER

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

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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

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

Phuket Gazette

Administrative Assistant Wanted: Looking for an organized and enthusiastic individual to join Phuket's main English-language media team.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- ☐ Thai national, aged 22 years and up
- ☐ Organized and detail oriented
- ☐ Reasonable command of spoken English
- ☐ Knowledge of basic office software

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to

Isaac@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

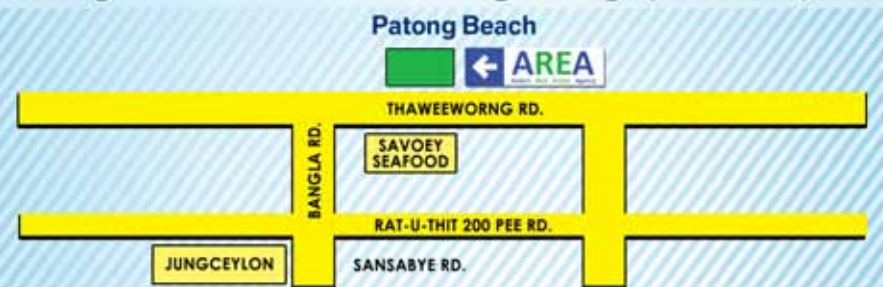
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

KARON

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

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TEACHER WANTED

Native English speaker, female, age 25+, for 4 children 6-8 years old. Mon-Fri, 9:00-14:00, starting salary 40,000 Baht. Tel: 081- 343 0777. Email : montha_Puket@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE CHEF WANTED

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION

- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

Laguna
HOLIDAY CLUB

Laguna Holiday Club, part of the Laguna Phuket family of resorts, permits members to own their holiday getaway in one of four luxury-room types based on a points system that allows great flexibility.

Laguna Holiday Club is currently seeking:

- **Room Division Manager**
(At least 4 years experience as Front Office Manager in international hotel chain operation)
- **Marketing Manager**
(At least 2 years experience in Marketing and understanding of overseas marketing and IT skills)
- **Sales Representative**
(English Russian / Cantonese / Chinese or Arabic Speaking)
- **In-House Sales Representative**
(English with Chinese or Russian Speaking ability)
- **Outside Personal Contact (Marketing)**
- **EP Team Leader / Tele-sales Agent (Marketing)**

Have experience in timeshare business for all positions. We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training and so on.

Send your CV to career@lagunaholidayclub.com

Call for more information: 076-362400 ext. 5140

www.lagunaholidayclub.com

Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified

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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call center 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

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

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

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.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

SALES MANAGER NEEDED

Sales staff needed for real estate business. Contact by email only. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

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).

QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

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

RUSSIAN REAL ESTATE 150K+

We are a leading real estate company in Phuket that is expanding fast and looking for a talented individual to join our young, dynamic team. Must be a Russian-speaking agent who has a number of years experience in real estate, and preferably in Phuket. CVs to paul@livephuket.com, www.livephuket.com

Employment Wanted**HEAD CHEF**

Hi, I'm 32 years old, with more than 10 years' experience as a chef. I am looking for employment. I am very hard working, experienced, reliable, easy-going, motivated and enthusiastic. Tel: 094-803 7306 (English). Email: m.dominici@email.cz

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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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081-536 5550

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Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net)

Business Opportunities

**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
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).

**MARKETING FOR
REAL ESTATE**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at Jungceylon, the Banana Walk shopping center, and our Kata Beach office. A high salary and commissions will be given for the right person. Thai nationals only. Please send your CV to Tel: 076-341045, 081-4590152. Email: admin@proptertypinhuket.com

**SPA & HERB SHOP
FOR SALE**

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

**RESTAURANT &
BAR FOR RENT**

A long-established, fully equipped restaurant with bar for rent in an excellent location on Nanai Road, Patong. The 105sqm premises include a fully equipped kitchen, restaurant and bar with ample seating for 50 customers and excellent parking facilities. For all inquiries, Tel: 081-892 8526 Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com

**RESTAURANT
FOR SALE**

Fully equipped kitchen, fully furnished, TVs, dart board, pool table. Up to 80 seats. Two units, Lease: 5+3 years. Rent paid until Sept 2015. No key money. Good location; next to Best Western. Tel: 084-626 4528 (English) Tel: 087-882 1445 (English). Email: drazen.johansson@gmail.com, For further details, please see our website at www.mamamamiaphuket.com/#restaurant-for-sale/c10f4

**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

**SWIMMING POOL
COMPANY 1.2M**

14 years operating in Phuket complete with 10 years remaining on registered 15-year lease. Modern 18m, main road frontage, air conditioned building in sought-after location. Tel: 081-893 4135 (English) 081-968 2017 (Thai). Contact info@mobilepooldoc tor.com

BAR FOR SALE

Prime Kamala location. High ST. Long lease available, very low rent, large size bar fully fitted outside garden area. Tel: 084-051 0891. Email: blackcatsmalc@gmail.com

**RAWAI RESTAURANT
URGENT SALE**

Area 3,800sqm. Reduced from 1.5mn to 980,000 baht. yearly rent 200,000 baht, includes 2 houses. Tel: 089-6467176. Email: bigredchili@yahoo.com

**PATONG
STEAKHOUSE**

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

**3 SHOPHOUSES
FOR SALE**

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

**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

**Bar &
Restaurant
Equipment****GUESTHOUSE
CLOSING**

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

Bulletins

**Alcoholics
Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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Patong**15-room Guesthouse and
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Fully Furnished, Equipped & Licensed

Long Lease 12 Years
B1.9M or nearest offer

Contact pauljames@spathotel.com

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified baht

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

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

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

PROMOTION PRICE
Your Ad on **PGTV**

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

I will move to Phuket soon.
Three yrs teaching in Bangkok.
Phone Mr Reece
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.....	(Headline)
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

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

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

Cameras & Equipment

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

OUR SERVICE

Engineering structural design service"- Steel structural design service"-retaining wall structural design service"-infrastructural design service"-renovation engineering service. Tel: 076-283549, 081-255 7003 (English & Thai), 089-652 0768 Fax: 076-283549. Email: 2homerestort@gmail.com

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Thai company, with western management, offering you a full range of construction services, from simple renovations to full builds, at affordable prices. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Tel: 085-576 6812 (English) Tel: 089-166 8090 (Thai). Email: ajb@thaiworldproperty.com, For further details, please see our web site at www.thaiworldconstruction.com

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

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

Club Memberships Available

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

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

LOCH PALM GC

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

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

Life membership at Phuket Country Club Kathu. 550,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 084-722 1520 (Ann, Kurt)

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

55,000 Baht. Tel: +65 094 569733. Email: agoodman_uk@yahoo.com

Pets

MISSING DOG



We miss our dog Quincy. An Airedale terrier, male, black and brown coat. He got lost on December 31 in Patong. 3,000 baht reward. Tel: 087-091 2798 (English & Thai). E mail: rudi.grimm1@web.de

CHIHUAHUA DOG FOR SALE

Male, 4 months old. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

Computer

SAMSUNG COMPUTER

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

Education

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

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)

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).

Audio / Video Equipment

HI-FI AV RECEIVER

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

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.

Mobile Phones

IPHONE 4S CALL NOW

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



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

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Will trade for big bike or 4x4. Tel: 087-983 4815.

HYUNDAI ELANTRA

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

BMW 5 SERIES

BMW 520i for sale. Only 2 years old. 28,000km, free maintenance at BMW Phuket for another 3 years (all warranties intact), insurance paid until November 2015. 2.7 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-846 9981, 081-537 8774 (Thai). Email: ursaebi@gmx.net

WHITE BMW 525 D

2,000km, 2011, sale 2,500,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

MERCEDES BENZ SLK200

White roadster, 2500km, 1 year old, sale 3,200,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

MERCEDES BENZ CLC 200

Sunroof sport coupe, year 2009, only 2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 4311.

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

Automatic 2006. Aircon. CD player. Price for sale 235,000 baht. Tel: 081-607 8567.

TOYOTA VIOS 1.5L, 2005

4 door; 5 speed. Auto windows, new air conditioning and clutch, one foreigner lady. 225,000 baht For more information, please call 089-970 5795.

MERCEDES BENZ 250 CDI

Silver, 2012, sale 2,100,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

VW BEETLE 4 SALE

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

Motorbikes

HONDA PCX 15

Black, first-hand, excellent state, 50,000 baht, 32,000km. Tel: 084-509 4306.

KAWASAKI 650 ER

2013, 2,000km, sale 240,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

HONDA MOTORBIKE +TRAILER

Will sell separately or both. Perfect condition. Bike: 60,000 baht. Trailer: 20,000 baht. Tel: 084-858 1917 (English). Email: pino.ellul@yahoo.com

HONDA CB500F

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

Rentals

CHEAP CAR FOR RENT

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

CAR FOR RENT

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

NEW CARS FOR RENT

Jazz, Vios, City, SUV, MPV, VAN. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com, Line ID: 246phuket line

Pick-ups

TOYOTA FORTUNER 2006

Black, one owner, 116,000 km. Fully serviced, best condition. Price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 083-388 8036.

2011 TOYOTA VIGO 4WD

Excellent condition with a low 18,500km. Dual cab, leather upholstery, manual gearbox, 3-liter diesel engine. No accidents, service history. Just not using it, so it must go. 700,000 baht or best offer. Please ask for Khun Aey. Tel: 076-527687, 095-410 2414 (English & Thai). Email: edshiels@gmail.com

Boats & Marine

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@andamanboat sales.com

KAYAKS FOR SALE

3x single Feelfree @ 10,000 baht each, and 1x double Feelfree @ 15,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0118 (English). Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

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

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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 Boat shedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH

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

JAENEAU 7.55 METER SPEEDBOAT – B2.55M

Twin 140 HP Suzuki – Low hours
Completely redone December 2014
1000 Watt JL audio system
American owned and maintained with no corners cut.
Turn-key ready to go for season
Call 062-061 0244

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

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

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

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

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

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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.

BERTRAM 35 FOR SALE

Excellent fishing boat for a super price, 2.5 million baht.
 Tel: 084-855 2097. Email: katanlupe@yahoo.com

250 HP RIB

Fully registered Swedish design RIB, 2008. 8.2m overall, seats 8-10 people, 250-hp 4-stroke Suzuki, newly serviced, 200 liter gasoline tank, and Garmin GPS. Priced to sell at 1,350,000 baht. Tel: 084-525 7222. Email: larsalfax elsson@gmail.com

GULFCRAFT 31 KHE SC 31

Quick sale, Thai Regis, excellent condition. Twin Suzuki DF 225, 200 H only. With trailer, Price new 5.9 MB. Asking price: 3 million baht. Tel: 081-4160 333. Email: Lemcloe@gmail.com

DIVING - SNORKELLING BOAT

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

LUXURIOUS YACHT FOR SALE

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
 Builder: S.E. Ward Shipyard, W.A.
 Type: Motor Sailer
 L.O.A: 19.80m (64.96ft)
 Draft: 1.82 / 3.05m (5.971 / 10.01ft)
 Rig: Schooner
 Hull: Aluminum
 Engine: Caterpillar 240
 Class: Germanischer Lloyd 100 A5
 1 master double-bed cabin and 2 twin cabins

Contact Amsbach Marine (S) Pte Ltd:
 Phone: (+65) 6734 9052 marketing@amsbach.com.sg
 Website: <http://www.amsbach.com.sg/15-yacht.html>

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

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

DEFEVER TRAWLER 44 (1981)

Generally in very good shape but needs new engines. Abargain for someone who wants to spend a little time and money Only US\$80,000 Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or 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:
 9. COFFEECUP: cough-hiccough 10. RAINFALL: fair(N)-all
 12. TEEM: meet[rev] 13. QUEASY: sequey 14. HEARING: hear-gin 15. AFTERWARD: after-draw[rev] 17. INTERFERE: inter-free 18. DISPUTE: sideput 20. SPHERE: sheep(R)
 21. AMMO: a-M-M.O. 24. BASELINE: beas-line 26. MASSAMAN: mass-a-man 28. ONLY: on-L-Y 29. STRAIN: trains 31. CHANTED: thencad 34. GUNTURRET: returngut
 36. CONTENDER: con-tender 38. SCARLET: scar-let 39. NARROW: orwarn 40. EVIL: live[rev] 41. PENTACLE: petclean
 42. FANTASTIC: fancastit

Down:
 1. SCOTLAND: soldcant 2. AFFECT: assume 3. ACCURATE: A.C.-curate 4. UPWARD: up-draw[up] 5. CRAYFISH: crash (if-Y[up]) 6. RIGHTTURNS: correct-acts 7. AFFAIRS: ifasfar 8. PLAICE: pla-l-ce 11. AGREEON: aregone 16. ROUTES: ourset 19. SNAIL: slain 20. seen 22. MEANT: metan 23. PALACE: p-a-lace 25. INTERSTICE: l-centerits 26. MEN: name 27. LONGISH: long-his 30. ATTENDEE: teendate 31. CONFOUND: con-found 32. DERELICT: de-relict 33. QUALITY: standard 35. NEARER: N-E-rare 36. CARAFE: raface 37. DEVOTE: voted-E

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OPENING WITH STYLE: L to R: Tita Chobthum; Michael Earle, editor in chief of Think Design; Hansruedi Frutiger, GM of Moevenpick Resort and Spa Karon Beach Phuket; are all happy to party.



STAY CLASSY MOVENPICK: Diego Gu and Jorge de la Torre Koch.



ICE CREAM. YOU SCREAM. WE ALL SCREAM: Pojanee Sawasdee (left) and Chanchai Panyao show how a party can have flavor and put a truly sweet smile on your face.



DIGNITARIES UNITE: L to R: Helene Fallon Wood, honorary consul for Ireland; Ian Coulson; Andrea Tammathin, honorary consul for Switzerland; and Kathy Coulson enjoy the evening.

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Words from the wise

"Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship."

— Buddha

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Medium



Hard



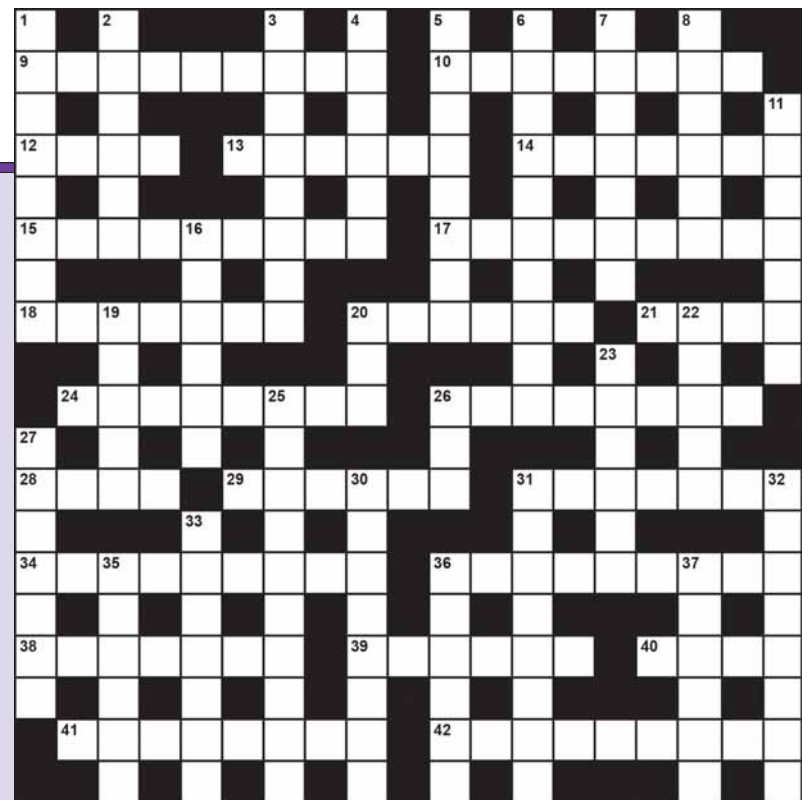
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Stimulating drink vessel causes noise, cough hiccup! (9)
 10. Maybe fair around the North, each and every downpour! (8)
 12. Be full of and meet back (4)
 13. Nauseous on S.E. quay, badly (6)
 14. Find out about gin blend trial (7)
 15. Following subsequent draw-back (9)
 17. Bury free, incorrectly obstruct (9)
 18. Side put out by argument (7)
 20. Sheep may be right in field (6)
 21. A married Medical Officer short of ammunition (4)
 24. Possibly be as direction of factor used as comparison (8)
 26. Host, a chap, makes Southern Thai dish (8)
 28. Solely on left unknown (4)
 29. Type of trains moving (6)
 31. Cad then wildly intoned (7)
 34. Return gut, perhaps in tank top! (9)
 36. Competitor against offer (9)
 38. Red mark allowed (7)
 39. Or warn arrangement constricted (6)
 40. Live turn vile (4)
 41. Pet, clean out the magic symbol (8)
 42. Wonderful, fan cast it out! (9)



Down

1. Place north of England sold, can't change (8)
 2. Assume influence (6)
 3. Precise type of current assistant clergyman (8)
 4. Out of bed, draw up towards the top (6)
 5. Crash about if unknown turns up in crustacean (8)
 6. Changes of direction to starboard are correct acts (5,5)
 7. Concerns if as far off (7)
 8. Fish I hide in place (6)
 11. Are gone around to mutually accept (5,2)
 16. Ways our set move (6)
 19. Gastropod slain, destroyed (5)
 20. Seen no new Bishop's domain (3)
 22. Met an unusual intended! (5)
 23. Place hiding a magnificent building (6)
 25. I moved its center to the intervening space (10)
 26. Number of males without a name perhaps (3)
 27. Hanker after his arrangement tending to be extensive (7)
 30. One who is there could be teen date (8)
 31. Swindle, establish and bewilder (8)
 32. Negligent of French widow (8)
 33. Standard feature (7)
 35. New echo rare, could be closer (6)
 36. The RAF's ace showed bottle (6)
 37. Voted out East to set aside (6)

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The New Moon can be excellent for starting out on a new path, or for bringing creative dreams to life.

However, as Mercury will begin its backward dance in your sign from midweek, it will help to test your ideas carefully so that they are not too unrealistic. The same goes for shopping where you could overestimate the value of something.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



This week the focus is on your private sector and encourages quiet reflection and deeper thinking.

In addition, you might enjoy being of service to someone who's in need. However, the Sun Saturn sextile suggests a dream or intuition could be useful and have practical application regarding an important ambition.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



This week could find you caught up in something of a dilemma. Should you continue on as you are or is it time to break new ground? The cos-

mos doesn't exactly help when it counsels both. The Aquarius New Moon gives you green lights to make dynamic changes. However, Mercury's retrograde hints that some things may be best left alone for now.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



As the Sun glides into Aquarius swiftly followed by a New Moon, it's time to promote yourself,

your ideas and your goods and even services – if you work for yourself. If you have a plan you can bet that others will want to hear about it, especially if it can help make their life easier in some way. This week self-belief is the key to creating a new successful reality.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



As Mars connects with Neptune it seems there are plenty of inspirational ideas flying around, and one of

them may be worth getting excited about. Even so, with Mercury regressing from midweek, do look to take the time to do your planning and research your options. In short, be curious - but don't make a start just yet.

YOUR
horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



You may feel you have no choice but to act. However, it might be better to ruminate before making

any hard and fast moves or judgments. Ironically, this week's alignments suggest the less ambitious your goals, the better. For now, be content to handle whatever is on your plate to the best of your ability and avoid unnecessary complications.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



The Aquarius New Moon puts relationships in the spotlight encouraging you to involve others in

your plans. This can be a good time to cement a partnership, collaborate with someone on an idea or make a greater commitment regarding a budding romance. Just be conscious that, despite this, misunderstandings can also show up.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



A Mars Neptune link suggests your social life can pick up steam, making this a good time to strengthen ties

with friends or business acquaintances. When it comes to a significant other though, make sure you're both on the same page, as this week's blend of energies hints there could still be some confusion between you.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Ideas going around may seem appealing. While it's good to investigate, don't get too excited just yet.

Use this week's New Moon to get solid advice and test the water. You'll be best to pace yourself too as energy levels can fluctuate, so avoid overdoing it. Later, a romantic offer could make your pulse race all the quicker.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Romantic inclinations and tender feelings are encouraged as a Pisces focus puts pleasure

and fun high on the agenda. If you can give yourself the gift

of a congenial evening out, it could be a perfect antidote to other pressures. Meanwhile, unexpected news might mean DIY or a family plan needs to be put on hold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



This week's New Moon hints at the arrival of a newcomer in your immediate area who you'll be

keen to get acquainted with. There's a good chance they'll be exactly on your wavelength and that they could make a supportive new friend. Additionally, a fine link between the Sun and Saturn can be excellent for making plans that are solid yet sparkle with ingenuity.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



A worry could interrupt sleep unless you take steps to analyze it, break it down into components and

work to resolve it. By applying practical thinking along with intuitive insight, you might find it's really nothing to be anxious about at all. Later in the week, shopping for an accessory for your home could enhance domestic efficiency.

Central Phuket rises up

By Maciek Klimowicz

PHUKET is changing in front of our eyes. And where some see trouble, others see opportunity. One of the latter is Royal Phuket Marina (RPM), whose latest development, La Reserve, is a luxury condominium property for the new, changing Phuket.

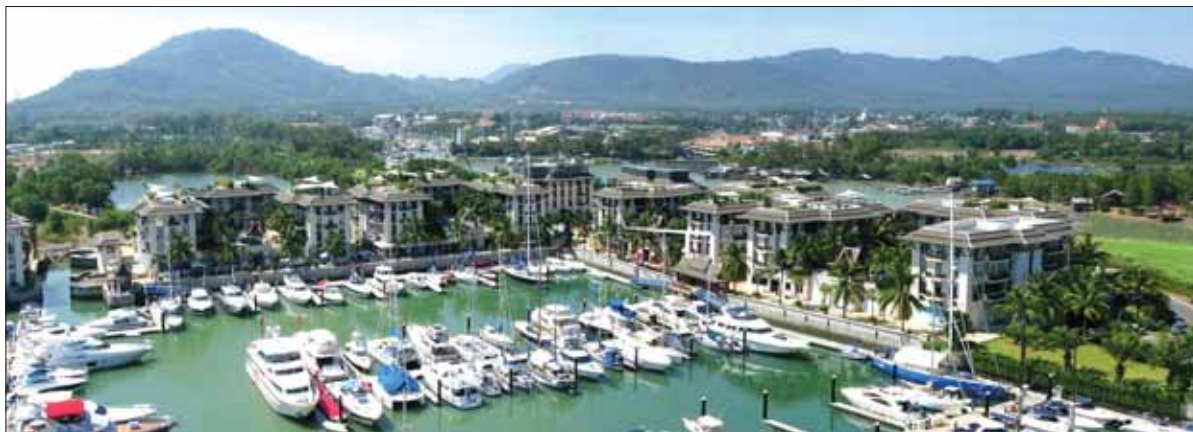
"Phuket is turning into a proper city, a proper town," says Ian Spurdle, RPM's director of sales and marketing for luxury property.

If you've been stuck in the island's traffic recently, you would know that Mr Spurdle is onto something. A trip to a shopping mall or even a morning ride to drop children off at school is becoming more of a challenge, if not a struggle.

This change can be seen not only on the roads, but also in the shifting market trends, and RPM believes it has spotted one such trend.

"The type of people we are attracting are not your typical property buyers, and it feels almost as though there is a new era of buyers altogether," says Mr Spurdle. "There are long-term expats, people who have lived in Phuket for many years, who are suddenly interested in a central location. I wouldn't say that they have fallen out of love with their private villas on a golf course, but they seem to be seeking more of a community-based lifestyle."

It's with this demographic in mind that the concept of La Reserve was born. Located in a



La Reserve has that international flavor that so many long-term expats in Phuket crave.

gated area of RPM, La Reserve will have four blocks, each comprising two five-story, 20-unit buildings, with prices starting at 5.2 million baht for one-bedroom units, 9 million baht for two-bedroom units and 14.2 million

baht for three bedrooms. The construction will begin soon, with the first two blocks expected to be complete next year. La Reserve is a perfect choice for the buyer looking for a central island location, says Mr Spurdle.

"With more facilities being built between the Heroines' Monument and Thalang, it is becoming almost like a micro-town and many people are attracted to this more communal lifestyle," he notes.

"I think we are very fortunate

that people in Phuket are beginning to enjoy this location and that the appeal of eastern Phuket is on the rise."

Mr Spurdle believes Phuket's rental market is undergoing a major change.

"Before, most investors would focus on the west-coast properties. But the high season seems to be getting shorter and shorter, so if you buy into west-coast property with rental in mind, you're looking at maybe three to four months' opportunity. Whereas here it's a 12-month opportunity," he says.

"People come here for different reasons. They come here for boating, and they come here to stay.

"It's a bit like in a city, where rental property is always going to be full."

Aside from RPM's location, it's the international – not to say western – feel of La Reserve and RPM that's also attracting buyers.

"The name is meant to convey that it's a slightly European and slightly more sophisticated project. Many people who have been in Thailand for a longer time crave something a bit more familiar. But it turns out that the name also resonates with Thais who want to get this slice of international lifestyle," explains Mr Spurdle.

"Once you come in through the main drive, you enter a different space. We all love being in Thailand, but RPM has this international flavor, which is very comfortable for many people."

Developers wait for EIA permit

CONDOMINIUM developers are so concerned that the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Committee is restricting approvals that many of them have decided to delay launching projects until they get the EIA permit.

"We will launch our condo projects when we get EIA permits. That will be safer for our business and our customers' confidence," Srettha Thavisin, president of Sansiri Plc, said on Tuesday.

Prasert Taedullayasatit, president of the Thai Condominium Association and managing director of Pruksa Real Estate Plc, said his association has tried to convince the EIA committee to announce EIA standards so that property firms can do business.

The process from applying for an EIA permit to receiving it takes from six months to a year, depending on a project's location and size.

For example, LPN Development Plc applied for an EIA permit for Lumpini Town Rangsit as early as the end of 2013, but did not get it until last month. The project had to be changed from only one phase with 10,000 units to three phases starting with 3,000 units, then 3,500 units and 3,500 units.



Developers are now waiting to have EIA permits in hand. Photo: Neajjean

"We had to divide up our project when the EIA committee did not believe that only one phase could provide the facilities to cover all of the homeowners' needs. That caused a delay in the launch of about one year from our business plan," said Opas Sripayak, managing director of LPN Development.

Not only do developers have to worry about the EIA permit itself, some of them also have to deal with problems when the community has questions and sues them even after the project's EIA has been approved.

For example, Aspire Ngam

Wong Wan, a 2.8-billion-baht project from AP (Thailand) Plc, had begun construction with both EIA and building permits in hand, but ran into opposition from some community members. It is already 70 per cent built and is scheduled to be completed next year.

Thai Condominium Association president Mr Prasert said the problems of the EIA permit, both the application process and after getting the permit, have to be solved.

There have to be standards, because that will give confidence to both developers and homebuyers.

– The Nation



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Our island retirement haven

International Living recently named Thailand as a leading retirement destination, but Amy says we can do better



Across the Land

By Amy Koh

THAILAND recently made the top 10 list of The Retirement Havens for 2015 by *International Living*, coming in at 10th place. The only other Asean country that made the list was Malaysia, which is sitting pretty in third place.

In Thailand, there are multiple locations for retirees to live, whether they prefer the hustle and bustle of a city such as Bangkok, the tranquil countryside up north, or the white sandy beaches offered the southern provinces, including Phuket.

Whether retirees are searching for a rental property or self-owned property, choices in the Kingdom are unlimited.

Lately, many property developers have been trying to tap into the retiree market by offering smaller properties, such as two or three-bedroom villas for sale for under 15 million baht.

Retirees tend to spend six months or more at a time in Phuket, where the weather is sunny and warm throughout the year. They spend the other six months back in their home countries, visiting family and friends or simply enjoying the summer months there.

For many retirees or semi-

retirees, the trend of renting a property and staying a couple of months in Thailand each year is becoming more and more popular.

Thailand has so many unique things to offer, which presents retirees with the change to try a different location each year, meeting new people and getting to know the local cultures. Time flexibility is also an advantage for this demographic, which means that they could choose to come during the low season when rentals are much cheaper.

I believe Thailand could rank as highly – or maybe higher – than Malaysia on the retirement havens list, if a few tweaks were made.

Having recently been caught up in the human traffic huddled at the immigration counters at Phuket International Airport, I was surprised to learn that even holding a non-immigrant B visa and a legal work permit doesn't get you into a separate, dedicated lane. No sir, not even foreign home owners who have multi-million-baht homes in Phuket and employ Thai staff are given any privileges. The same goes for retirees.

Thailand's neighbor, Malaysia, has pre-launched pilot express lanes dubbed the "Asean Lane" in both of Kuala Lumpur's international airports for passport holders arriving from Asean member countries. They will be fully



Thailand's beautiful beaches could be one reason why it made *International Living's* list. Photo: Gazette file

launched next month.

Malaysia also launched "Foreigner eGate" at Kuala Lumpur International Airport to improve the procedures of processing entries into the country. The gates are equipped with self-clearance systems that allow frequent visitors to easily go through this automated fast-track immigration process. This commenced operations on December 29.

There are quite a number of

expatriates, foreign home owners, retirees and frequent visitors to Phuket who would certainly appreciate a fast-track immigration process, or even just an assigned counter in the immigration hall of the airport.

If Phuket wants to maintain its status within the Andaman region and Asean as one of the top tourist destinations, as well as a haven for retirees, it should take a page from Kuala Lumpur's strategy

book. The Tourism Authority of Thailand spends billions of baht every year promoting Thailand domestically and internationally.

There is no need to re-invent the wheel, and even a small step in the right direction would be promising.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket. To contact Amy or for more information, visit www.engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket/

Cheap oil, steady construction costs keep home prices stable, say property experts

HOME prices should remain stable this year thanks to low oil prices and the cost of construction materials remaining about the same as last year, property experts have predicted.

Pruksa Real Estate president and chief executive officer Thongma Vajitpongpan said that if the global oil price stayed below US\$50 per barrel, that would reduce logistic costs by more than 10 per cent.

This is a good sign that property firms will be able to keep prices flat, when normally they rise by 3-5% a year.

Meanwhile, prices of construction materials, such as

cement and steel, are also stable.

Land & Houses president Naporn Sunthornchitcharoen agreed that prices would not go up, but noted that they also would not go down, as the cost of land would continue to increase in some locations.

"The drop in oil prices will cut logistics costs by 10-15%, which will lower overall residential costs by 1%. However, [the cost of] construction materials is staying the same, so residential prices will be stable this year," Mr Naporn said.

Saenphin Sukhee, managing director of Golden Land Residence Co, a subsidiary of Golden

■ We believe that maintaining [current] prices will help boost the demand to buy homes this year, both low-rise residences such as detached houses and townhouses and condominiums... ■



Steady construction costs should help to keep home prices stable. Image: Tpsdave

Land Property Development, said his company would also keep its prices at the current level, as construction-material costs were being maintained or even dropping in some cases.

However, the company cannot cut prices because land costs are rising by 5-10%, Mr Saenphin said.

"We believe that maintaining [current] prices will help boost the demand to buy homes this year,

both low-rise residences such as detached houses and townhouses and condominiums, after people delayed their decisions to buy a home last year," he said.

– *The Nation*

Family Sunday fun day

By Maciek Klimowicz

IF PHUKET has a favorite meal, it's got to be Sunday brunch. Just about any respectable hotel or resort has one on offer, and most are doing a great job with it – inviting guests for incredible food in spectacular locations.

Thanyapura, which has long offered a delectable Sunday brunch variation, recently came up with a new Sunday brunch formula – one geared toward the whole family.

All the brainstorming that has gone into it – no doubt fuelled by many a cup of freshly brewed coffee and some training sessions at the gym – has resulted in the Fun Family Brunch, a new weekly food event that takes place every Sunday between 11:30am and 2:30pm, at Thanyapura's famed DiVine restaurant.

The name really says it all – it claims to be fun, and fun it is! A special area has been set up for kids with a special buffet and free cooking classes, as well as a num-



Make sure you're hungry when you go to brunch, and be sure to visit the carving station. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

ber of activities, both indoors and outdoors. If you have smaller tykes, you'll appreciate a chance to enjoy your meal without having to chase your little ones around the table.

Even if you don't have kids, the Fun Family Brunch is still a smart

choice for just about any kind of family. DiVine represents a rare breed of restaurants that can conjure up sophistication in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Located next to Thanyapura's spectacular swimming pools with a backdrop of Phuket's hills, the restaurant

offers a truly family-friendly ambiance that stimulates conversation at the table and puts everybody in a lively mood.

All these elements are an integral part of the experience – as is the food. Whatever you reach for, you won't be disappointed.

You might want to skip dinner to save room for the Fun Family Brunch, as the delicacies served at the carving stations – the seafood and the BBQ – are irresistible.

Step away from the carvings and into a nearby wine locker, and you'll find an array of cheeses and mouthwatering desserts.

However, Thanyapura wouldn't be Thanyapura if they just dropped an unlimited supply of spectacular food on you and left it at that. With the brunch comes a special day pass. Valid for one week after the meal, it gives you access to Thanyapura's sport facilities, including the swimming pools, the gyms and one hour on the tennis courts. You'll need it.

Get your family together and head to Thanyapura to eat, play, talk and make Sunday your own.

Food is 1,290++ baht per person. Wine Buffet at 890++ baht per person. A dedicated buffet for children from 4-11 years old is 645++ baht per child. For more information visit www.thanyapura.com



The crabs are from a secret location. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Enjoy a crackin' meal at The Crab House in Patong

GET ready to get your hands dirty. With shells cracking, sending fragments flying all over the place, dining at the The Crab House in Patong isn't your average meal out – it's an experience.

"We have something very special here, something nobody else has – the biggest mud crabs in Thailand. They come from a secret location, and we have a supply for the entire year," says Narapong Phoneam, the restaurant's marketing director.

With four different kinds of crab on the menu, The Crab House is the crustacean's one true home in Phuket.

Served in a variety of styles and

with an array of sauces, the meat might be difficult to get to, but it's well worth the effort.


However, if you like to take it easy at the table, you can order pure crabmeat and let the experienced chefs do the cracking and extracting for you.

There are other seafood and non-seafood dishes on the menu – lobster, prawns, duck, pork and more.

They all taste great, but it's the giant mud crabs and their smaller counterparts that without a doubt steal the show at the The Crab House.

And it's a cracking one!

– Maciek Klimowicz







EAT. DRINK. ENJOY.

A little expert knowledge about food, certain beverage are the perfect garnish for a meal and can enhance your enjoyment. So especially for Phuket's food lovers, El Gaucho's Chef has crafted a four-course wine dinner with a choice of surf or turf, pairing each particular dish with the ideal beverage. While you delight in delicacies such as slow roasted spice rubbed lamb or baked Atlantic salmon, you'll discover how the right beverage can complement the tastes and textures of your meal.


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Reversals in life and love

Books

By James Eckardt

I NEEDED a break. After reviewing three 600-page books in a row, I found a nice change of pace in Paul Theroux's *Mr. Bones* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, 2014, 359pp).

This is Theroux's third collection of short stories, adding to his oeuvre of 28 novels and 14 travel

books. The 20 stories range widely in location – New York, Massachusetts, Ecuador, Thailand, Italy, Hawaii, Uganda – and in quality.

The two best stories are about romances between elderly American men and young Asian women.

At 50 pages, the longest in the collection, "Siamese Nights" introduces Boyd Osier, an American accountant on temporary assignment in Bangkok. With a wife home in Maine, he is on the verge of retirement. After much pressure, he accompanies two colleagues to a bar.

Here, he meets Song: "In the booth of four girls, only one was attractive – tall, thin-faced, slender, a bit aloof, possibly haughty or else shy, while the others fluttered around him."

Song takes him to her room, where he discovers that she is a ladyboy. But this plays only a peripheral role in their romance. The big change comes when Song's kind-hearted mother comes for a week's visit from her

village in the Northeast and the three become a temporary family.

Song no longer regards Osier as a client, while he finds love and happiness in the many weekends he spends in her room. Her English becomes better while his degenerates into bargirl pidgin. Their roles reverse as Song ends up in a dominant, public role in his life.

"The First World" takes place on the rich man's enclave of Nantucket Island where Jimmy Barghorn, "a mick from Southie", used to mow lawns as a college student. Now, after three failed marriages, he has gone into retirement, a self-made tycoon who got his start by selling scrap metal from Vietnam.

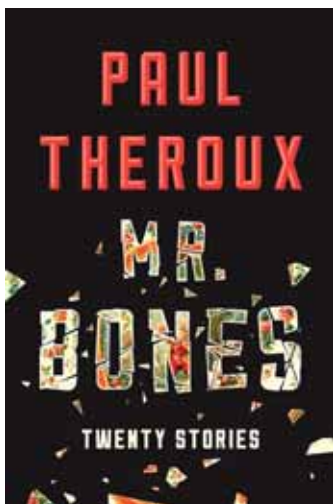
Nhu is his young housekeeper, a recent immigrant from Vietnam. Theroux has a lot of fun with her accent: tuss (touch), crean (clean), werry nye (very nice), fitching (fishing), noodoo (noodles), rishus (delicious), olinch (orange).

Barghorn hits on her but she forgives him and the two become the closest of friends, fishing, clamming and drinking together.

When he saves her life after a boating accident, the

friendship turns erotic. As his health fails, their roles also reverse: "I am her servant. It is what I want."

Similarly, in "The Traveler's Wife", the wife of a famed travel writer takes off on her own independent trips, leaving him forlorn



Song takes him to her room, where he discovers that she is a ladyboy. But this plays only a peripheral role in their romance. The big change comes when Song's kind-hearted mother comes for a week's visit from her village in the Northeast and the three become a temporary family.



'Siamese Nights' tells the story of a man whose life takes an interesting turn in Bangkok. Photo: Mathias Krumbholz

and impotent to write anymore.

Few of the other stories are so satisfying. Many are static portraits of moral monsters (a rich predatory homosexual, a malicious art gallery owner, a tyrannical construction chief) or dynamic ones of normal people who become monsters.

In "Our Raccoon Year" a retired lawyer abandons his two sons in order to wage maniacal warfare against the family of raccoons that have infested his house.

In "Mr. Bones", a mild-mannered churchgoer rehearses for a minstrel show and turns into a sinister, bizarre, hurtful, wildly

exuberant jokester.

In "Minor Watt" a rich art collector takes revenge on his much-beloved former wife as he moves to hand over to her a priceless Ming vase and then lets it drop.

"She let out a sharp cry as though she'd seen a precious creature die... He surprised himself by laughing – and because it was involuntary, like the reaction to a wisecrack, it was full-throated, a great guffaw, a joyous snort-honk of gusto that was like a sound of health."

In "The Furies", a dentist deserts his long-suffering wife to marry his hygienist of many

years, only to be punished by three harpies – former girlfriends – whom he meets at a high school reunion. More misused ex-lovers appear in his life, causing his new bride to flee home, divorce him and then demand ownership of it.

Two stories are experimental. "Voices of Love" are short ironic narratives of a couple hundred words each, summing up the love life of men and women. "Long Story Short" are similar stories from around the world about childhood, old age and death.

Like the rest of the book, these are short, sharp jolts of storytelling entertainment.

Nominee list released for 87th Academy Awards

THE awards season is upon us again, and many of the films, actors and actresses that have been given the coveted "Oscar nod" took home Golden Globes on January 11 for their stellar performances and well-received films.

Julianne Moore and Eddie Redmayne, who took home the Golden Globes for Best Actress / Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama for their respective performances in *Still Alice* and *The Theory of Everything*, are both among the Best Actress/Actor hopefuls this year.

Neil Patrick Harris, a seasoned veteran host of both the Emmys and the Tonys, will take the stage in Hollywood's Dolby Theater on February 22 for his first stint as host of the 87th Academy Awards.

In a statement to the press, Craig Zadan

and Neil Meron, who will be producing the show, said of Harris, "We are thrilled to have Neil host the Oscars. We have known him his entire adult life, and we have watched him explode as a great performer in feature films, television and stage. To work with him on the Oscars is the perfect storm, all of his resources and talent coming together on a global stage."

As usual, the night is sure to be full of laughs, famous faces and little golden men, so mark your calendars and stream the show live through the Academy Awards'



Julianne Moore. Photo: Siebbi

official website or YouTube channel.

Movie lovers around the world have less than one month to get caught up before the big night, so here are the nominees for Best Picture, Actor and Actress.

For the full list, visit www.oscar.go.com

The Theory of Everything
Whiplash

ACTOR

Steve Carell, *Foxcatcher*
Bradley Cooper, *American Sniper*
Benedict Cumberbatch, *The Imitation Game*

ACTRESS

Michael Keaton, *Birdman*
Eddie Redmayne, *The Theory of Everything*

BEST PICTURE

American Sniper
Birdman
Boyhood
The Grand Budapest Hotel
The Imitation Game
Selma

Marion Cotillard, *Two Days, One Night*
Felicity Jones, *The Theory of Everything*
Julianne Moore, *Still Alice*
Rosamund Pike, *Gone Girl*
Reese Witherspoon, *Wild*

– Mauri Grant

Amalaki: the anti-ager



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

THAILAND is blessed with so many rejuvenating and health restoring herbs, fruits and foods. Over the next few columns, I would like to share my favorites, which I recommend to clients and include in my own diet.

I want to start by saying that taking a few herbs or natural supplements to counteract a poor diet is putting the cart before the horse. You can't out-train a bad diet and you certainly can't out-supplement one. What you eat on a regular basis makes up the foundation of good health.

So, don't rely on these superfoods and herbs, but let them simply support your efforts – if you choose to use them.

Also, I would highly recommend doing your own research before you dive in, as many herbs, like drugs, have side effects. In regards to dosages, follow the directions on each label for proper amounts to take and the frequency you should take them.

This week, I want to start with amalaki – also known as amla berries, Indian gooseberries or, in Thai, *makham pom*.



The amalaki fruits are hard and quite bitter, so perhaps try it in a tea first. Photo: Gladson Machado

Ayurveda (which means knowledge of life) is one of the oldest known health traditions in the world, and has been practiced continuously for many thousands of years. As Buddha travelled through China with his physicians, he spread the practices of Ayurveda, which became the basis for Chinese medicine. In Ayurveda, amalaki is the "great rejuvenator". In Sanskrit, the word for amalaki translates as "the nurse".

Amalaki is classified as an

adaptogen, which means it promotes physiological balance in the body. Its list of claimed benefits includes:

- Helps rebuild and maintain new tissues including strengthening bones and teeth
- Improves red blood cell count
- Stimulates brain function
- Assists the body in elimination disorders (used for both constipation and diarrhea)
- Helps protect against heart disease by inhibiting atherosclerosis

• Assists in preventing nervous system disorders and degenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's

• Helps regulate blood sugar

A study published in the *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* found that amalaki has one of the highest antioxidant ratings of any food, which it demonstrates through exceptional free radical scavenging properties.

Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling (1901-1994) believed that providing the body with an opti-

mal amount of Vitamin C is integral to health. Amalaki is the key to reaching this goal, as it is naturally extremely high in Vitamin C, with over 3000mg per fruit.

Amalaki juice contains approximately 20 times more Vitamin C than orange juice. This extraordinarily high Vitamin C content provides amalaki with strong antioxidant properties.

Because of this, amalaki has become well known as an anti-aging and rejuvenatory food.

Now that you want it – where can you find it in Phuket?

I have found several health stores in Phuket that sell amalaki as a tea and in a powder form.

If you want to try the fruits in their natural form, you might be able to find them in a market in Phuket Town. However, be warned, the little anti-agers are hard and quite bitter.

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

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Aviation Club spreads wings



By Somchai Huasaikul

THERE has been a great deal of activity at Phuket Airpark in Pa Khlok recently, as ever more private aircraft arrive there, adding to the small but impressively diverse and growing fleet of fixed-wing aircraft, gyrocopters, paramotors and ultralights.

Pat James, who heads the Phuket Aviation Club (PAC) based at the airfield, said his growing association is seeking new members who have a "passion for aviation", which is the PAC slogan.

"It's a truly worthwhile club for anyone with the slightest interest in any type of aviation," he says.

"It is really spreading passion for aviation in Thailand," says Pat, a former US military combat helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

He explained that the PAC has joined forces with the Siam Aviation Association (SAA), a long-established aviation club in Thailand led by president Pol Col Amrung Chitpakdee and its secretary Peter Thomson.

"Together, SAA and PAC are committed to promoting general aviation in the region. Working together, PAC and the SAA each bring special talents and much-needed support to both current and future pilots. We provide everything from simple question-and-answer sessions for those hungry for information, as well as social events, fly-ins, regulatory support, newsletters and websites," Pat explains.

"SAA has organized flights both inside Thailand and internationally. The term 'general aviation', or GA, includes everything from paramotors and ultralights to light,



During Children's Day on January 10th, Phuket Aviation Club aircraft joined the Royal Thai Air Force at Wing 56 airbase in Haad Yai, where they performed flight displays and showed off their aircraft to the public.

single and twin-engine aircraft. These allow aviation enthusiasts to enjoy everything from local area flights to longer cross-country hops. These are just an engine start-away for our members," he says.

"General aviation communities around the world provide enhancements to their surrounding local communities. General aviation – in many ways similar to the yachting industry – is growing in leaps and bounds. New aircraft are arriving in Thailand at the highest rate ever, with new designs and less complexity."

PAC offers lifetime membership for a 25,000-baht fee that allows full membership privileges and voting rights, plus Department of

Civil Aviation (DCA) support for aviation requirements of up to 50,000 baht. There is also a 1,500-baht annual administration fee. Annual membership at 7,500 baht per year can be upgraded to lifetime membership on the member's fifth year of membership, or if the member owns a share in an aircraft at the Phuket Airpark, or is already in good standing with the DCA and Phuket Airpark regarding safety issues.

PAC wants to see members spend more time aloft and less time at their desks dealing with paperwork.

"The information made available to current members free of charge can save not only time and



hassle, but also money. PAC staff deal with the DCA and the Ministry of Transport every week on a wide range of issues. Aviation laws, regulations and policies change without notice in Thailand. By being informed early, many negative issues can be avoided," says Pat.

Membership includes newsletters published four times per year. These include information about upcoming regional aviation events, social activities and updated actions by important players in the regional aviation industry. There is also a section covering the DCA and business side of aircraft flying and ownership in the region. Other sections explore such im-

portant issues as proper aircraft maintenance and new products.

ANGRY BIRD

The newest arrival is the Airpark's third AutoGyro Cavalon, named "Angry Bird" by its proud owner Arnaud Verstraete. The long-time Belgian Phuket resident is getting the paperwork done so he can take the tiny aircraft aloft.

Other developments in the AutoGyro industry came with the recent first solo flights by Dane Torben Jensen and his business partner Best Wanamakok of real estate development firm Phuket Delux Group.

The pair, who have acquired the exclusive rights to sell AutoGyros in Thailand, finished their training under Captain Pat, who then cut off the back of their shirts as part of a ritual that started out in the US, intended as a symbolic show of confidence by their instructor in students' abilities aloft.

FOR THE KIDS

During Children's Day on January 10, the commander of the Royal Thai Air Force Wing 56 in Haad Yai requested the PAC to support their efforts in bringing a much-needed holiday to local residents from throughout Songkhla.

A small group of aircraft owners quickly agreed at short notice to fly south, where they offer both visual and flight displays to complement the impressive efforts of Wing 56, which operates out of its large airbase next to Hat Yai International Airport.

The successful event exceeded anyone's expectations. Estimated crowds of more than 30,000 excited parents and children took part, arriving in groups from sunrise to sunset. Air shows and non-stop demonstrations were provided by the many different elements of Wing 56.

For more information, visit www.phuketaviationclub.com, or call Pat James during normal working hours (Tel: 085 258 0006)

Industry lessors eye Asian airline market

HONG KONG's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying has announced the government's plans to turn the special administrative region into a major aviation finance hub capable of competing with the likes of Ireland and Singapore.

The newly revealed plans come as a direct response to the rising activity of local participants in the aviation finance market. Over the last couple of years, Asian banks and investors have been acquiring substantial aviation assets, either directly from the manufacturers, or via the acquisitions of the existing market players.

"Being the world's third-largest financial center, Hong Kong undoubtedly has the potential to evolve into a leading aviation finance hub. However, there is still a lot to be done. Firstly, when it comes to flexibility,

the existing tax system for leasing companies is still behind those of Ireland and Singapore," said Tadas Goberis, CEO and chairman of the Board at AviaAM Leasing.

Japanese Sumitomo Mitsui and Mitsubishi UFJ Lease & Finance Co, have already invested billions of Hong Kong dollars in several European and US-based leasing businesses, while Cheung Kong Holdings recently entered the market with its own initial portfolio of 60 aircraft.

In addition, global aviation lessor Macquarie AirFinance is on the brink of signing a deal with AWAS to buy 100 newly built and on-order airplanes, while China Aircraft Leasing Company has placed an order for 100 Airbus A320s.

In a move to diversify their business, the aviation leasing industry is shifting its atten-

tion to Asia where the demand for aircraft is growing. Typically, Asian carriers prefer to partner with local lessors, prompting Asian leasing companies and other financial institutions to buy new aircraft.

Moreover, a substantial drop in oil prices has provided airlines with a breath of fresh air, enabling carriers to look at fleet renewals and prolonging the service of mid-life airplanes and current generation aircraft types.

"Lower jet fuel prices may allow the current generation of narrow-body aircraft to remain economically competitive with next-generation aircraft," said Tomas Sidlauskas, VP of sales at AviaAM Leasing.

"Low fuel costs may also support airline profitability, lowering potential default risks in the near term. If the operating cost



An Air China Boeing on the tarmac at Hong Kong International Airport. Photo: Luke Ma

differential between current and next-generation aircraft decreases, demand for the B737NG and A320ceo families could prove more resilient than forecasted and cash flow securitizations would be positive," he added.

– Phuket Gazette

Slashing red tape

Minister tackles foreign-flagged charters, visa issues

EXCLUSIVE

From page 1

...voiced about yacht crew visas and the chartering of foreign-flagged superyachts at a Cabinet meeting slated to take place in early February.

Current legislation allows boats entering Thai waters to remain for six months. However, captains and crew receive visas on arrival or entry on visa-exemption status, which allow stays of only up to 30 days.

"I will talk [with Cabinet members] about what we can do concerning yacht crew visas. Actually, the government has been talking about [making changes to] other types of visas that would be best for the country," Ms Kobkarn said.

"I give my full support to tourism, but there are of course internal security and safety measures that must be considered. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is in charge of visas, so, as you can see, this is beyond my authority to approve."

Mr Lalvani had noted during their discussion that though Phuket is "miles ahead" of Langkawi, Malaysia, as a yachting destination, current legislation was a barrier for foreigners wanting to base their megayachts in Phuket.

"People who own yachts are above-average wealthy individuals, which is the kind of tourist we want to attract to Phuket," Mr Lalvani told the *Gazette*. "We have enough volume, what we need now is people with money who can support the economy."

Foreigners who own foreign-flagged yachts in Thailand must register them in the Kingdom and pay 7% VAT to charter them – a stark contrast to the warm



Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn plans to bring yachting charter, visa issues to Cabinet.

welcome offered by Langkawi, Mr Lalvani pointed out.

"One of the reasons Phuket is among the best destinations in the world is because people can go boating all year round," Mr Lalvani said. "Even in the peak of the rainy season, there is still beautiful sailing on the east coast – the water is very calm and pleasurable for boating, while the west coast is less protected from May through September."

"My aim is to make [Phuket] like the Riviera in the south of France; don't just stay at a beautiful hotel, but charter a luxury yacht for a week or two."

"Allowing foreigners to charter their yachts will bring Thailand more tourists and

establish the island as a yachting destination on par with the rest of the world, as it will allow wealthy tourists a larger choice of luxury yachts to choose from."

Ms Kobkarn confirmed to the *Gazette* that she will also table issues about foreign-flagged superyachts being used for charters.

"We will look at what can be done to decrease the VAT to support yacht tourism. However, this will take time," she said.

"We have to work step by step to make changes to support superyacht tourism. At this stage, I have no idea when we can make such changes. Other ministries must be consulted and the subject must be debated to determine what is the best for Thailand. I can't do it alone."

The minister's strong stance in pushing for legislation to develop the yachting industry in Phuket follows Minister of Transport Air Chief Marshall Prajin Janthong heading a meeting on the island pushing for multi-million-baht harbor expansion at Phuket's Deep Sea Port.

"When PM Prayut Chan-o-cha was informed about the project, he insisted that I work together with the ministries of Tourism and Sports, Finance and the Interior to expedite the project. He sees it as a great opportunity to bolster the tourism industry and the image of Thailand," said ACM Prajin.

The development is designed to establish the province as the main port of call between Singapore and Myanmar for cruise ships and yachts.

Despite Governor Nisit standing firm in his belief that Phuket could successfully carry out the port expansion project, he explained to the Transport Minister that there would be bumps in the road.

"We could face some issues with launching this project, such as the environmental concerns associated with it," he said.

Since 2011, Phuket officials have been trying to get the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) passed so that the project could officially begin.

Governor Nisit also explained that Chaophaya Terminal International Co Ltd, which has the government concession to operate Songkhla and Phuket ports, has already drawn up the expansion plans for the port.

"Chaophaya Co Ltd has put the project on hold for now, as the Treasury Office regulations now allow only one-year concessions for use of marinas. The company does not want to go ahead with the project if they have only one year to complete it," Gov Nisit confirmed.

Gulf Craft invests US\$100mn in Dubai luxury yacht facility

GULF Craft, which had four yacht models on show at this year's Phuket International Boating Show (PIMEX), has announced a US\$100 million investment into developing a new luxury yacht facility in Dubai Maritime City (DMC).

The company, one of the leading superyacht-building shipyards in the world, will spread the investment out over the next five years as it develops the approximately 900,000 square-foot freehold plot located within the marine district of DMC. The state-of-the-art facility will be used to build a shipyard for the manufacture of megayachts and superyachts.

"A presence in Dubai Maritime City is a much anticipated move for the company and will open a new horizon for Gulf Craft's prospective global plans at a strategic level. A prominent footprint and operations within Dubai will place us at the heart of the regional and



Gulf Craft had four yacht models on display at PIMEX.

international market," explained Mohammed Hussein Al Shaali, chairman of Gulf Craft, in October last year.

At PIMEX this year were some of Gulf Craft's smaller boats such as the Majesty 56 and 48, the Oryx 42 and Silvercraft 36HT. Gulf Craft maintains a presence in all boating markets globally through its Majesty Yachts, Oryx and Silvercraft brands.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Where the wild things are

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ON LAND, wild animals are a rare sight, especially in their natural habitats – discounting monkeys attacking tourists for ice cream in Phuket, of course.

In the United States, a unusual creature that isn't a squirrel or a chipmunk will, at the very least, get a good pointing at; and the rare moments when a fox slips into view leaves a person with a story to tell for a month. However, divers quickly grow numb to the awe-inspiring moments when they spot wild animals. (When was the last time you got worked up about seeing a parrot fish, starfish, sea urchin, porcupine fish, butterfly fish or sweetlips?)

It is the frequency of these underwater encounters that sets marine sightings apart from those on land. A dive with no marine life in Phuket is an absurdity, though a jungle trek where the only living thing of interest is the elephant you're riding on is very plausible.

To venture beyond the beaches into the underwater world – either through diving or snorkelling – is, at first, exhilarating due to the sheer number of creatures you can spot. Every lion fish, scorpion fish and massive school of glass fish, is reason for pause. Then, you adjust to being a non-threatening creature in an ocean setting, and hardly notice of the vast majority of animals, who are equally ambivalent to your presence.

It is here where we have the opportunity to go beyond mere sightings. Here is where we are treated to those moments that *National Geographic* photogra-

phers spend days motionless in the jungle for: we witness animals in action – eating, fighting, fornicating or even building homes.

Perhaps one of the most common, though nonetheless fascinating relationships for divers to witness in Phuket waters is that between gobies and blind pistol shrimps.

The classic symbiotic relationship between the two can be found in the sands off nearly any popular, shallow dive site in the region. Though gobies are a bit skittish – with a flick of their tails they signal the blind shrimp to stop digging their shared burrows and hide – it takes only a minute or two of waiting motionless in the sand nearby to see them get back to work.

While out on the sand, there is also an opportunity to see bluespotted stingray, also known as Kuhl's stingray, hunting. Gently flapping their pectoral fins, the rays root through the sand before devouring benthic invertebrates and bony fishes.

Back on the reef there is also a chance to spot a moray eel or even a sea snake

slipping through corals like a ribbon on the breeze, before diving into a hole, only to emerge somewhere else moments later. In fact, the volume of creatures you see going about their daily business can be almost overwhelming.

And there are of course those special moments like octopus fornication – no, not tentacle erotica. A dive instructor on Phi Phi filmed two octopi copulating about a week ago. With only about 10 per cent of the 300 known species of octopi having been scientifically studied, a vast number of the species' lives are completely unknown, including how they have sex. In some re-



Photo: Beckmannjan

And there are of course those special moments like octopus fornication – no, not tentacle erotica.



Bluespotted stingrays out on the hunt are one of the many moments that continue to amaze. Photo: Orin Zebest

searched species this turns out to be complex, sophisticated and rife with rivalries (for detailed information look to studies by the University of California,

Berkeley).

After watching the video, it is hard not to be jealous (of the diver, not the octopi).

This was a rare moment, but

it seems more often than not, dives are filled with rare moments in the life of one species or another – assuming you know where to look.



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Some divers quickly grow numb to sightings of certain sea creatures, such as the butterfly fish. Photo: Leonard Low

Aussie Rules, ok?

Thailand-Malaysia demonstration match coming to Phuket

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT HAS been 19 years since the first international match of Australian Rules was played in Thailand, between the Thailand Tigers and the Hong Kong Dragons at Bangkok's Kasetsart University. Since then, the sport has grown significantly in the Kingdom, and it is now coming to Phuket.

Saturday, March 7 will see the first-ever Aussie Rules football match played in Phuket with the country's oldest club, the Thailand Tigers, taking on the Malaysian Warriors.

"We've been planning a game in Phuket for quite some time and there are a few reasons for this," explains Rut Ngarnarayakul from Thailand Tigers, who is responsible for local development of the sport.

"Firstly, there are a lot of Aussies in Phuket, both expats and tourists. We're hoping people will come to watch the game and parents will bring their kids for the Auskick session in the morning.

"Secondly, it's a great destination for a tour. Most of the teams we play have visited Bangkok multiple times, but this gives our opponent a chance to enjoy the wonderful island of Phuket."

According to Rut, Aussie Rules – which is formally known as Australian football or AFL, after the Australian Football League – does very well in Thailand. The Tigers play about three to four internationals per year, plus annual tournaments: the Indochina Cup, which features Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar; and the AFL Asian Championships, which takes place each year and hosts approximately 12 teams from all over Asia.

"Part of our club's focus is to expand and promote the game beyond our current membership base," says Rut, adding that goal is part of the drive behind the Phuket exposition match.

"While it's an Australian game, we currently have many different nationalities playing with us, so we encourage all ages and nationalities to join in.

"We're especially interested in expanding our local base by encouraging more Thais to play the game."

To help achieve that goal, the upcoming international in Phuket will be preceded by



Aussie Rules has been present in Thailand for 19 years and is now coming to Phuket with an international match on March 7. Photo: Reuters

an Auskick clinic in the hope of finding Phuket-based AFL enthusiasts who would like to get involved and take part in regular Auskick sessions.

"Our club is open for anyone interested in the game. Some people grew up with the game and enjoy the chance to continue

playing in Thailand. Others may not have played before, but enjoy the fitness side of the game and learning a new sport," concludes Rut.

The first Aussie Rules international game in Phuket will take place at the Alan Cooke Ground on March 7.

The game starts at 1pm and is preceded by an Auskick Junior AFL Clinic at 11:30am.

All juniors interested in joining in can email bangkokauskick@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.Thailand-Tigers.com

The 'rules' Down Under

AUSTRALIAN rules is like rugby, and it's origins lie in Gaelic football, but it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. It's unique, it's Australian, and now it's here in Phuket.

Officially known as Australian rules football – but commonly called football or just "footy" in the land Down Under – Aussie Rules is the most popular sport in Australia. There, a fully professional league operates, and the games lure thousands of spectators to the stadiums.

The sport's origins date back to the 19th century, with its rules being codified for the first time in 1859. The annual AFL Grand Final is the highest attended club championship event in the world.

But, what is Aussie Rules? Firstly, it is a contact sport featuring two teams of 18 players trying to score points by kicking the ball between two goal posts. Sounds con-

ventional so far, right? Well, keep reading.

The field is egg-shaped and so is the ball, which can be kicked, hand-balled and run with, but cannot be thrown.

The player must not get caught holding the ball, and the best way to retrieve the ball from the opponent is by various and often spectacular hand and body tackles.

However, these moves are kept reasonable and safe. The penalties for infringements include free kicks, distance penalties and in some cases, suspensions for a number of games.

To tell you the truth, reading about Aussie Rules is like watching Formula 1 on TV – it doesn't do it justice. You simply have to be there to experience it. And now you can. See you on March 7 at Alan Cooke Ground!

– *Phuket Gazette*



Full contact tackles are allowed, but dangerous play, including pushes in the back, are not be tolerated. Photo: Reuters

Thais score gold at Pencak Silat world titles

THAI fighters walked away with four gold, one silver and six bronze medals at the 16th Pencak Silat World Championships, which drew to a close at Saphan Hin last Friday.

Six gold medals were up for grabs on the final day. In the first fight of the day, Surasak Dekli defeated Tri Juanda Samsul Bahar from Indonesia to win the third gold medal for the Kingdom in the men's 80-85kg division.

Nantachai Kansakorn won gold for Thailand against Aprin Ardianto from Indonesia in the men's 50-55kg division, the fourth and final gold medal for the Thai squad.

Pham The Hung from Vietnam had earlier defeated Eldiansyah from Indonesia to win the gold medal in the men's 85-90kg division.

Sheik Farhan Bin Sheik Alau'ddin from Singapore won gold after he defeated Mach Quoc Hung from Vietnam in the men's 90-95kg class.

The gold medal in the men's above 85kg division went to Hoang Van Bac from Vietnam. The silver went to Samir Ghanim from Great Britain.

Siti Rahmah Binti Mohamed Nasir from Malaysia was able to fight off Thailand's Suparat Keukaew in the women's 65-70kg division to bring home a gold.

Indonesia took home the most gold medals in the competition – a total of nine – along with seven silver and three bronze medals.

"So many people attended the closing ceremony to cheer on Thailand. There were lots of students and teenagers from Phuket and other provinces – the 4,000-seat stadium was packed," said Chayanee Saiyasuk, presenter and representative of the event.

"This event was even more successful than we expected – the Thai people were so supportive and proud. In the future, we would be delighted to come back to Phuket."

– Chutharat Plerin



Pornthep Poonkaew (center) holds up his world title gold medal. Photo: PSAT

Nina shines at blustery Langkawi

By Chris Husted

PHUKET sailors dominated the Multihull class in blustery conditions at the Royal Langkawi International Regatta to claim the top two podium positions in the division.

Grenville Fordham and Bob Mott co-skippered *Andaman Cabriolet Nina* well in winds of up to 25 knots to claim overall honors in the Multihull class.

"We've won this regatta before, but this time was the most satisfying," said Fordham.

"The competition was tough and, for the first time, we were scored on a performance-handicap system – which meant that every time we did well our handicap got worse!"

"As a rule of thumb, the winner under this system is the boat that improves most over the series, so big thanks to our crew for their hard work. The final positions were decided on the last

day, so there was no chance to ease up along the way."

Racing in 28-30 knots of apparent wind, a sudden big gust lifted *Nina's* starboard hull high out of the water, he reported.

"We were sure we were going over, but quick action by the crew fortunately got her safely down again," Fordham said. "This may be par for the course on a small racing catamaran, but it's scary for a 38-foot liveaboard yacht."

"After calculations, we estimate that our hull-flying adventure had the starboard hull at approximately 30 degrees, putting it almost three meters – half our beam – out of the water. It was a true 'brown trouser' moment for yours truly on both helm and main sheet/traveller!"

The near-capsize was a first for *Nina*, Fordham noted, but added that another "first" for *Nina* was, in retrospect, more amusing.

"Having been forced onto the windward mark at the last round-



Nina in full sail on her way to winning the Multihull class. Photo: RLIR

ing, the buoy got stuck under our bridge deck and was unmovable," he recalled.

"The race officer announced to the whole fleet of 40 yachts: 'Your windward mark is now the green

catamaran *Nina*.' It will take a while to live that one down..."

Nina's nearest rival was another Phuket boat and ACYC regular racer, Kirill Stashevsky's stealth catamaran *GaleForce*,

which placed second in the class.

Fellow Phuket sailor Niels Degenkolw on *Phoenix* also raced well in the strong winds to place third in IRC 2. Another ACYC regular, Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom on *Sansiri Windstar*, placed sixth in the class.

Fordham praised the regatta organizers for putting together such a successful event. "The Langkawi Regatta is a firm favorite and I would recommend it to any Phuket-based yacht," he said.

Meanwhile, Fordham and his crew are looking ahead to make the most out of the Phang Nga Bay Regatta and the ACYC race series, which gets underway mid-March.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming Bay Regatta and ACYC race series as opportunities to get ready to compete with even stiffer competition in the two July regattas," Fordham said. "We believe we're the boat and crew with the most room for improvement – so watch this space."

Yokohama FC players arrive ahead of pre-season friendlies

ABOUT 50 players and support staff from the Japanese football club Yokohama FC arrived in Phuket on Monday, ahead of their two friendly matches against Phuket FC at Surakul Stadium.

The first friendly was scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 22, and the second to be held on Sunday, January 25.

The squad will be here until January 26. They will train at the Republic Phuket football field at Chaofa Thani housing estate on Chao Fa West Road in Chalong, said Phuket FC public relations liaison Praphaphon Songnissai.

"The team is on tour before the new season begins in Japan," she said, adding that Yokohama FC is in Division 2 of the J League.

While on the island, the Yokohama squad will hold football clinics for children over the course of two days.



The players in training at the Republic Phuket football field. Photo: Phuket FC

"Children who are members of the Phuket FC fan club and those from the Japanese community in Phuket can attend free," said Ms Praphaphon.

"People wanting to see the Yokohama FC players in action before the two matches against Phuket FC can see the squad in

training at the Republic football field every day from 9:30am to 11am and 3pm to 5pm."

Both matches against Phuket FC will begin at 7pm, she added.

For more details about the football clinics, call Ms Praphaphon at 076-280144.

– Chutharat Plerin

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