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Phuket Gazette

Aussie expat in Patong killing

Charged for fatally stabbing bouncer in street confrontation

INSIDE TODAY

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■ **'CONCERNS VOICED OVER JET-SKIS, FOREIGN TOUTS'**

Volunteers back on Bangla beat

■ **Police volunteers have returned to keep tourists safe**

By **Chutharat Plerin**

VOLUNTEER police officers working the streets of Phuket's main party town ended their six-day strike on Wednesday.

Royal Thai Police Region 8 volunteers had gone on strike due to a series of issues they faced with Patong Police officers in their roles assisting foreigners and tourists.

"We have had a series of issues [arising from] working with the police, especially new police with little or no English [language skills]. I can understand their frustration as well," said Wal Brown, long-term Phuket expat and co-ordinator of the Royal Thai Police Region 8 volunteers on the island. "I haven't condemned the police. I realize they have an agenda, but they have to help a bit. Work with us and treat us with respect."

Though the volunteers stopped joining patrols on March 5, Patong Police Superintendent Chaiwat Auikam on Tuesday told the *Gazette* that he was unaware of any friction between his police officers and the...

Continued on Page 6



Police volunteers were pleased with the meeting on Wednesday and have returned to work.

SPECIAL REPORT

Uncorking the wine industry in Thailand

THOUGH many foreigners, and some Thais, often succumb to strong cravings for fermented grape juice, Thailand's wine industry is metaphorically, and literally, in ferment.

The *Gazette's* Patrick Campbell investigates.

Full Story Pages 4-5

Skimmer gangs tip of iceberg in paradise isle

POLICE are searching for connections between two French nationals arrested in Krabi and five arrested earlier this month, all for bank-card skimming.

The men told police that the cloned cards found in their possession were sold to them by a foreigner in Patong.

Full Story Page 6

Gov Nisit not worried about beach protest

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong has said that he is not concerned about beach vendors overstepping the provincial government and filing a complaint against him and his beach management policies directly with the Prime Minister's Office in Bangkok.

Full Story Page 7

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This Week



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Villa Market branch to open in Boat Lagoon this month. **Page 11**



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Centrally located Kathu is perfect for island-dwellers. **Page 30**



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Three Artsketeers hold first-ever exhibit at BISP. **Page 31**



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Nikki Beach Club's Sunday Brunch has it all – but with flair. **Page 32**



Environment
Take stock in renewed beauty of Phuket's beaches. **Page 36**



Sport
Multiple records set at Koh Lanta freediving competition. **Page 38**

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Monday



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Officials firm about beach wedding ban

By Voratuss Intasee

A RESORT in Cherng Talay received a warning on Monday for holding a wedding ceremony on Pansea Beach on March 6.

"I have only issued a warning, as this is the hotel's first offence. If the hotel holds any more banned events, it will be fined up to 2,000 baht, under the Public Health Act," Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), told the *Gazette* on Monday.

Mr Ma-ann declined to name the resort.

Mr Ma-ann, who was made aware of the wedding via a Facebook post, said that policing this particular beach was especially tricky, as there is no public access to it via land.

"Police and related officers have been checking the beach via boat. This makes it easier for hotels with direct access to the beach to break



Ma-ann Samran issued a warning to the resort for holding the wedding.

the rules," Mr Ma-ann said.

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak also told the *Gazette* on Monday that he was unaware of the wedding, but confirmed that such ceremonies and events are banned from every beach on the island.

"Even though such events can

bring publicity to Phuket, we cannot allow them to take place on the beach," he said.

"However, wedding photos are allowed to be taken on the beach. I think that this is a good compromise, as it promotes Phuket and provides a nice place for wedding photos."

British expat found dead in Thalang home

A 58-YEAR-OLD British expat was found dead at his home in Thalang on Monday.

Police and rescue workers arrived at the at about 3:30pm to find the body of Dennis Arthur New.

"We believe Mr New had been dead for about 10 hours before we arrived. There was no sign of a struggle," Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Thalang Police said on Tuesday.

Police were notified of the death by Lee Hunt, Mr New's friend who lives in Patong, said Lt Kraisorn.

"Mr Hunt told officers that Mr New had been living in Thailand for a year, working in the condominium construction business. He was staying in



Mr New died in his Thalang home on Monday.

Phuket with his wife and daughter," Lt Kraisorn said.

"His family had left for England on Sunday."

Mr Hunt said that he had been contacted by Mr New's wife on Monday, after she had been unable to reach her husband, and that she had asked him to go and make sure that Mr New was okay.

According to Mr Hunt, Mr New suffered from a history of heart problems and high-blood pressure.

"We believe that he died as a result of his medical condition. However, we are waiting on hospital staff to confirm the cause of death," Lt Kraisorn said.

– *Thawit Bilabduddar*

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Phuket Immigration Office chief denies extortion allegations

THE Phuket Immigration chief has asked foreigners who believe they have witnessed extortion at the hands of his officers, while applying for address verification letters and other free services, to report such incidents directly to him.

"There is no fee for this service or for 90-day reporting. If any foreigner is asked to pay for these services by one of our officers, he or she should come to my office to report the matter," Phuket

Immigration Office Chief Sunchai Chokkajaykij told the *Gazette*.

Col Sunchai's statement follows a report from a *Gazette* reader that officers were openly charging 300 baht per person for address verification at the immigration office in Phuket Town on Monday.

"I doubt that this really happened. However, if it did, or does happen, please give me the name of the officer and I will deal with it," said Col Sunchai.

Last year, similar allegations of extortion were made against the Patong Immigration Office, which also falls under the authority of Col Sunchai.

That complaint was filed with the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall and was taken up by Governor Nisit Jansomwong. The case eventually led to the removal of the offending officer.

— Kongleaphy Keam



Col Sunchai has denied allegations of extortion by his officers. Photo: Gazette file

Aussie expat kills nightclub bouncer

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AN AUSTRALIAN expat confessed to killing a nightclub bouncer near the entrance of Phuket's primary party street – Soi Bangla – early Wednesday morning, Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

Long-term Phuket expat and Rotary Club of Patong Beach member Mark Hamilton Pendlebury, 59, fatally stabbed 25-year-old Sanya Khueawaengmon after an argument on the street, explained Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"Nightclub employees told us that Mr Pendlebury was trying to take a video clip of a confrontation outside of the club," Col Sutthichai said.

Mr Pendlebury was attempting to record Tai Pan bouncers dealing with two groups of tourists. The tourists had an issue inside the club and had been removed, police explained.

"Mr Sanya approached Mr Pendlebury to stop him from taking the video. They ended up getting into an argument and Mr Pendlebury stabbed Mr Sanya," Col Sutthichai said.

Mr Pendlebury was apprehended by the club's employees in front of the Bangkok Bank Patong Branch on Rat-U-Thit



Mark Hamilton Pendlebury confessed to killing Tai Pan bouncer Sanya Khueawaengmon after an argument.

200 Pi Road.

"He still had the 20-centimeter-long knife used in the slaying," Col Sutthichai said.

Mr Sanya was rushed to Patong Hospital with a fatal punc-

ture wound to his chest. He was pronounced dead shortly after arriving.

Mr Pendlebury sustained some head trauma during the confrontation, police said.

"He confessed to us that he was the one who stabbed Mr Sanya," Col Sutthichai said.

Mr Pendlebury has been advised by his lawyer to make no further comments to the media.



Mr Schatz was found safe.

Austrian goes missing in Phi Phi, surfaces at airport in BKK

AN AUSTRIAN tourist reported missing on Phi Phi island has surfaced safe and sound in Bangkok.

Mario Schatz, 23, was reported missing to Krabi Tourist Police on March 5.

"He came to Ton Sai with three friends on [March 4]. His friends told us that at about 2pm he went to do some laundry and never came back," a Krabi Tourist Police officer, who declined to be named, told the *Gazette*.

"The three friends could not reach him, so they filed a missing person report to us at about noon [on March 5]."

Mr Schatz reportedly contacted his friends on March 6 via Facebook, telling them that he was in Bangkok and waiting for them at the airport.

"We don't have any details about what happened or why he left his friends," the officer said.

"The friends are now taking a bus to Bangkok. We have asked them to send us an email with a photo of Mr Schatz confirming that he is okay."

— Chutharat Plerin

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Fire guts homes in Phuket Town

TWO men escaped injury after their houses caught fire in Phuket Town early Monday morning.

Firefighters were called to the scene, inside the Sapan Ruam 1 Community, at about 6:30am and spent an hour battling the flames.

The owners of the homes, Sombut Dechapan, 49, and Prakob Suwan, 62, were both asleep when the fire broke out, but managed to escape and watch as firefighters put out the blaze.

Both houses were completely gutted in the fire, which caused an estimated 100,000 baht in damage.

"We believe that the fire started in Mr Sombut's house. He told us that he was asleep when he started to feel heat coming from something," said Lt Col Amponwat Sangruang of the Phuket City Police. "He woke up to find the back of his house on fire."

"Though he rushed to get firefighters, the flames managed to spread to Mr Prakob's house. Luckily no one was injured."

Phuket firefighters had issued a dry season warning just three days earlier, after a field blaze broke out south of the Heroine's Monument on Thepkasattri Road. "This time of year, during the



The fire gutted two homes before it was put out. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

dry season, the grass fields get very dry and become fire hazards. People must be very aware of this and not throw away anything that could start a fire, such as cigarette butts," Amnach Suthjit, a Srisoonthorn Municipality firefighter, told the *Gazette*.

An official warning was passed down from Bangkok to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket

office last month, ahead of the Chinese New Year celebrations, said Santhawat Riweung, chief of the DDPM Phuket office.

"We had already sent the order out to local administrative organizations to warn them of fire-prone conditions and to have fire trucks ready at all times," said Mr Santhawat.

— *Thawit Bilabdujar / Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Thailand

THOUGH many foreigners, and some Thais, often succumb to strong cravings for fermented grape juice, Thailand's wine industry is metaphorically, and literally, in ferment. The Kingdom produces a limited amount of premium wine, not nearly enough to satisfy demand. In addition, the import business is riddled with taxes, making fine wines all-the-more expensive. In steps Thai ingenuity – and the popular, fruity boxed wines.

Patrick Campbell investigates.

WINE accounts for less than two per cent of the total alcohol beverage market in Thailand.

The World Health Organization puts it lower. But wine is, according to a Global Agricultural Information Network assessment, enjoyed by ten per cent of the population. The reason? It is in demand from "farangs", whose tittle it was back home and who still have a hankering for the stuff, and from affluent Thais who believe that a meal with a glass or two is a sign of social status.

If you'll pardon the pun, ferment is an appropriate epithet. While there is a perceived demand in Thailand for the fermented grape, the industry is also metaphorically, and literally, in "ferment".

The Kingdom produces a limited amount of premium wine, not nearly enough to satisfy demand. But the import business is saddled with punitive taxes, making fine wine expensive.

In September 2013, changes to supposedly simplify the liquor-excite tax were implemented. For "wine made from grapes", a new tariff was set at 1,000 baht per liter of 100-per cent pure alcohol, or 300 baht per liter of product value – whichever was higher. Products above 600 baht were to be additionally taxed at 36 per cent of the last wholesale price, though budget wines below 600 baht were exempted. So, fine wines were hit particularly hard.

Indeed, one retailer's expert assessment is that, taking everything into account, "there is over 700 baht in tax on a bottle of [imported] wine sold at 1,000 baht. Thus, if the wine costs 10 dollars [say 310 baht] at source, then the importer is [already] losing money and needs to increase the price to make any sort of profit. Hence the crisis in Thailand's premium wine industry for bona fide importers."

As always, amazing Thai ingenuity has found ways and means of getting around these difficulties. If the excise tariffs and taxes are still high, especially on fine wines, and if the country has relatively

few premium producers – Chateau de Loei, PB Valley's Khao Yai Winery and GranMonte (which has received many international awards) are among the most well known – then why not import grape juice or even concentrate in bulk, ferment it here and avoid most of the levied imposts? Or, even more cost-effective, leaven the mix with local ingredients?

Prices for budget wine have also been driven down by the Australian invention of the environmentally-friendly wine box, a device which has not only reduced transport costs from abroad, but, more importantly, has permitted wine to stay drinkable for up to six weeks.

Bottled wine, once opened and exposed to the air, oxidizes and lasts only a day or two, even in the fridge. But the bag in a box, with its polyethylene, metalized bladder and air-locked tap, has signalled a revolution in quaffing culture.

A ubiquitous example which embraces all of these new trends is Mont Clair, a boxed wine familiar to anyone who frequents the liquor section in supermarkets, or hangs out in bars. But where does Mont Clair come from?

According to the label, this fruit wine hails from Breede River Valley, South Africa. The blurb adds, "Our wine makers have selected *cabernet sauvignon* grapes from South Africa to blend and create a wine for your everyday enjoyment." What the label does not say, however, is where fermentation actually takes place. Nor does it say if other ingredients have gone into the mix.

The producer is in fact Siam Winery, a massive Bangkok enterprise which handles much of Thailand's fruit wine production, and whose website boasts a capacity of 1 million units per day.

There are two important clues to understanding the provenance of such wines.

One is the term "fruit wine" and the other is the orange or blue customs seal, an indicator of origin. The term fruit wine is now found on more and more bottles

Just as the world long ago habituated itself to the taste of Coca Cola, so its wine lovers are inuring themselves to the fruity delights of a cheap but perplexing product.

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wine industry in ferment

and boxes. It means that native fruit juice, readily available and mellow tasting, is blended with imported grape juice. The result is a quaffable and less tannin-heavy wine, a drink more amenable to a local palate that craves sugary beverages. An added bonus is that it not only skips some of those burdensome taxes, but is cheaper to produce. A winner all around.

Peter Vella is another widely promoted red-fruit wine. Produced in association with Gallo, one of the world's biggest vintners, the maker states on the container, "We continue a long tradition of Californian wine-making in our family," adding "it is full of red fruits and berries."

While there is, again, no outright distortion of the facts, the orange customs seal confirms final processing in Thailand from Californian grapes and possibly other red fruits and berries. As with its stable-mate Mont Clair, it is unclear whether Peter Vella's fruits and berries are part of a single fermentation process.

What Thai blends have in common is a competitive price, a fruity taste – a recurrent word – and some connection with the noble grape, *vitis vinifera*, in its various manifestations. As beverages, they are drinkable and alcoholic – to the tune of 11 to 14 percent.

If the roselle extract, mulberry, blueberry, pomegranate juice or whatever – all rich in vitamin C – is added later, then conceivably the nutritional value of the product is enhanced. A worrisome thought, though, is whether or not other



These grapes are Californian, but you can never be sure what might end up with them in a 'fruit wine'. Photo: Ian L

substances have found their way into the mix: sugar to sweeten or promote secondary fermentation, finings to clarify, even raw alcohol to give it more strength.

Not only are consumers ignorant about what exactly goes into these concoctions, they are, in some cases, unaware of where they are made. This is where the customs tag (orange or blue) comes into play.

A blue label signifies a wine that is vinified elsewhere and imported into the Kingdom. This is an important guarantee, because in wine-producing countries such as

Australia, consumer laws demand stringent laboratory analysis: without full compliance, no wine is permitted to leave the country.

In orange-tag Thailand however, no one demands a certificate of analysis, so once an entrepreneur becomes involved, the way is left open for him to do whatever he wants. A cheap and cheerful outcome? Yes. But there are potential health risks – a sobering thought.

I do sometimes drink these blends in local bars because that is all they stock. But, I would be far happier if I knew what went

into them, or where they were boxed or bottled. If you are a consumer of budget-priced drinks, try to identify the blue seal and drink boxed imported wines such as Castle Creek, Bodegas and Cedar Creek. In theory, these are reaping the benefits of container technology, an Antipodean wine glut and a trade agreement on wines from Oz.

But even here, alarm bells are ringing. Castle Creek, described as a "wine fruit product" contains not only sulfites but also milk and egg. Presumably, these are added during the process of fining,

whereby impurities and solids are removed from the bottom of the fermentation tank. While it is reassuring that these additives are at least mentioned, as they are in another fine red wine with fruit juice called Brookford, there is no reference to their possible role as allergens. Milk and egg are two of the world's top eight causes of allergic reactions.

Even if there has been some progress with ingredient labelling, it is still inconsistent. The use of orange and blue customs seals can also be confusing. For example, Belleville is identified as an Australian wine and carries a blue customs seal. But this wine owes its blue tag not to antipodean grape juice, but to the fact that it is rustled up in Vietnam. Imported, yes, but only from across the border. The grapes may be Australian, but the finished product is not.

Just as the world long ago habituated itself to the taste of Coca Cola, so its wine lovers are inuring themselves to the fruity delights of a cheap but perplexing product. And the supermarkets are catching on fast. My local Makro has at least ten examples, mostly boxed, of fruit wine. As for fine wines, crippled by taxes and undermined by smuggling rings that supply many resorts, they are beyond the financial reach of most consumers. No wonder the up-scale trade is in crisis.

For those of us in Thailand who yearn for something worthier of the name of fine wine, we continue to pay for the privilege through the nose – or the wallet.



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The slot machines were seized.

Slot machine stash found in Phuket Town

POLICE are hunting for the owner of 40 illegal slot machines, worth about 2 million baht, which were discovered in Phuket on March 5.

The gambling devices were found packed into a small rental house on Yaowarat Road by the owner of the rental property, who police declined to name.

"The owner of the property said that a Myanmar woman had rented the place for January and February – paying the full sum in advance. However, she did not pay the rent for March, so the owner went to investigate," said Lt Col Somsak Thongkiliang of the Phuket City Police.

"The owner went to the property and saw the machines through the window, then notified police."

Because there was no rental agreement, the identity of the Myanmar woman remains unknown, police said.

"We believe that the woman was working for some businessmen who hired her to hide the slot machines," Lt Col Somsak said.

"We will find the Myanmar woman and also start questioning neighbors to see what we can find out about this stash."

The machines were seized and taken to Phuket City Police station as evidence, said Col Somsak.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Man arrested in possession of more than 300 species of rare fish

A MAN was arrested by police on March 6 in possession of more than 300 live, rare species of fish being smuggled in plastic bags.

Kan Amtrakul, 63, was arrested at about 5pm on Wiset Road, heading from Rawai to Chalong in a Toyota pick-up truck.

The value of the fish was estimated to be more than 100,000 baht, said Tanet Munnoy, chief of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Phuket office. The collection

included mainly pennantfish, butterflyfish, triggerfish, angelfish, lionfish and spotted golden goatfish.

The arrest followed a tip-off, which provided authorities with a detailed description of the pick-up, Mr Tanet said.

Mr Kan admitted to police that he had been hired to transport the fish to the Phuket Bus Terminal where they were to be put on a bus to Takuapa.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



The fish were found in plastic bags.

ATM skimmers busted

By *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

POLICE are investigating whether or not two Frenchmen who were arrested in Krabi for skimming ATMs in Krabi and Phang Nga are part of a network that includes five French nationals who were arrested for skimming in Phuket on February 28.

Julien Patrick Alandis, 22, and Adrien Char Baptiste Hemour, 21, were arrested on March 6 by Krabi City Police in possession of 265 counterfeit ATM cards, marijuana and more than 200,000 baht.

Police also seized a Toyota Yaris and an iPhone 6 from the pair, Krabi Police Commander Nantadet Yoinual told the press after the arrests.

"Late last month we received a report from a bank employee about suspicious behavior by foreigners at random ATMs in Krabi and Phang Nga since January," he explained, adding that police were withholding the name of the bank.

The bank sent police CCTV footage, allowing officers to track down the suspects and gather evidence to make the arrests.

The men both confessed to police that they had paid 2,000 Euro to a dark-skinned foreign man in Patong for the ATM cards in January, Gen Nantadet said.

"They also admitted that they



The two Frenchmen confessed to buying the fake ATM cards.

bought the drugs from a bar employee in Patong," he added.

Gen Nantadet confirmed that Krabi City Police are now working together with Phuket police to investigate the ATM suspects to determine whether or not the cases are related.

"We believe that they are part

of the same gang that the dark-skinned French nationals arrested in Phuket were part of. We also think that these men are part of a bigger network overall," he said.

The men have been charged with electronic card fraud and possession of a Category 5 drug.

The bust in Krabi came one day

after three alleged Russian skimmers were arrested in Phuket. Police are now searching for the suspected leader of the gang.

Russian nationals Stanislav Komarob, 34; Vitalii Korobkov, 39; and Panteley Akbash, 36, who also holds a Moldovan passport under the name Panteli Acbas, were arrested at a shop in Kata in possession of 33 counterfeit ATM cards, a laptop, an electric card reader and a pile of ATM receipts.

"We went to the shop and waited until we saw Mr Komarob and Mr Korobkov walk out from the shop to Mr Akbash's car. At that point, we presented ourselves and searched the premises," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchua.

"We found the counterfeit ATM cards in Mr Komarob's backpack, and the electronic card reader inside the shop."

"During questioning, they told us that the shop owner, Vladimir Orlov, was responsible for the skimming operation, as he owned the electronic card reader and was having the money transferred to his account."

"The suspects were charged with electronic card fraud, but they all denied the charges."

Police are now searching for Mr Orlov, Col Prawit said.

Police volunteers end strike

From page 1

...police volunteers.

The following day, eight volunteers, including Mr Brown, attended a meeting with Col Chaiwat and his two deputy superintendents to voice their concerns.

"The meeting went very well today. We will of course continue assisting the Patong Police," Canadian volunteer Matt O'Connor told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We voiced our concerns, specifically about the beach and Bangla Road. What we talked about today was [in regards to] the jet-ski scams on the beach and the increase in foreign touts working on Bangla, who are also drinking while on the job on the street," Mr O'Connor stated. "These are ongoing problems in Patong. It will take time for things to be worked out."

Col Chaiwat confirmed to the *Gazette* that he would address the



Police volunteers have rejoined Patong Police patrols. Photo: Gazette file

volunteers' concerns about jet-skis and foreign touts, as well as communication issues between volunteers and the new Thai officers.

A breakdown in communication was one of the major issues originally cited by Mr Brown.

"One of our concerns is lack of communication and [knowledge of] what police feel is important," Mr Brown said. "There are 35 volunteers – say, 25 working. They come from so

many different cultural backgrounds, and trying to get them all working together with the police, people on the street and expats, [all] with a different idea of what is being communicated by the authorities, has meant a trying time for all [of us]."

Col Chaiwat agreed to have monthly meetings with the volunteers, twice a month if necessary, to ensure that those working to protect the people of Patong were all on the same page.

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Beach rules stay

By Chutharat Plerin

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong has vowed to keep the Phuket beach-management system in place, despite beach vendors overstepping the provincial government and filing a complaint in Bangkok.

About 150 beach vendors arrived at the Prime Minister's Office in Bangkok on March 3 and submitted a letter of complaint to be given to Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, alleging that the governor was creating rules to help only a select few business operators, as well as not looking after the best interests of the province.

The new rules set in place allow vendors to operate limited services in designated areas that comprise no more than 10 per cent of any given Phuket beach.

"The vendors have the right to file the complaint. However, the 10 per cent rule will not change," Gov Nisit told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We cannot let the sunloungers back on the beaches to occupy



Governor Nisit Jansomwong has vowed to uphold the new beach rules in order to keep Phuket's beaches beautiful. Photo: PR Dept

them like they once did. We have come this far, we can not start to relax and allow the vendors to return to their old ways."

The provincial policy on beach management is based on balancing the needs of all stakeholders in the island's beach businesses,

Gov Nisit explained.

"We listened to all parties before announcing the 10 per cent rule," he said. "I want to make Phuket beaches beautiful and clean."

Gov Nisit pointed out that following the beach cleanup last year, nothing was allowed back on the beaches.

"Now we are combining the need of vendors to support their families with the need to keep our beaches uncluttered and beautiful," Gov Nisit said. "However, the vendors can't have everything they want – some people don't want umbrellas and chairs all over the beaches."

Gov Nisit is confident that the beach management plan will succeed in creating a fair middle ground for everyone involved.

"Many tourists have told me that they are fine with following the rules, as long as they are clear. We cannot compare Phuket with other places. We have our own rules, and we must live together and follow them," he said.

Police hunt gibbon tout on Phi Phi



Ms Glebova. Photo: Instagram

PHI Phi Island Police are investigating the exploitation of animals on the island following former Miss Universe Natalie Glebova posting a photograph of herself posing with a gibbon in Ton Sai on Instagram on March 2.

The photograph showed Ms Glebova smiling and holding the baby gibbon. Under the photograph on her private account, the Russian-Canadian beauty queen wrote, "Cutest gibbon in the cutest little outfit!"

Police on the island said on March 5 that they had been unaware of the post, or of Miss Glebova's visit. However, they vowed to start looking for the protected species and the tout that owns it. – *Voratus Intasee*

Bang Tao Beach vendors fined for encroachment

NINE beach vendors who had crept back onto Bang Tao Beach with sunloungers and makeshift stalls were fined 2,000 baht and had all of their items seized on March 6.

"We went to inspect the beach and found that nine vendors had violated the new beach rules by setting up sunloungers, stalls, tables and other structures on the sand," Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), told the *Gazette* following a raid of the beach.

"This is their first warning – a lenient one. Next time, we will file a complaint with the police."

All items were seized and taken to the *OrBorTor* office.

"We seized the items because not only were these people encroaching on the beach, but they were also operating illegal businesses outside of the 10-per-cent vendor zone," said Mr Ma-ann.

"We are simply following the provincial beach rules as ordered by Governor Nisit Jansomwong. We must respect these rules."

Joining Mr Ma-ann was



The offending structures were removed. Photo: Thalang District Office

Thalang District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol, who assured that the raid was carried out fairly.

"We had no intention to pick on any particular person or business. We are aware that beach vendors must make a living, but they must follow the regulations," he said.

Mr Ma-ann visited the beach on March 7 to follow up on the previous day's raid.

"I went to check the beach this morning. No illegal vendors had returned to the beach," he said.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

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AROUND THE nation

TAT launches 'Muay Thai' video contest for big prizes



TAT wants your best Muay Thai videos. Photo: Gazette file

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched an online "Muay Thai" video contest through social media networks designed to increase exposure of the Kingdom's "Thainess" niche-market products.

Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, TAT Governor Thawatchai Arunyk and well-known Thai boxer Buakaw Banachamek attended the recent launch of the "One and Only" contest at The Peninsula Hotel Bangkok, reported *The Nation*.

Buakaw Banachamek told the media that he was honored to be taking part in the new online activity and proud that the TAT had adopted Thai kick-boxing to promote the country.

The campaign covers a variety of topics, including "Thai Garland", "Thai Dance", "Thai Food" and "Speaking Thai Language".

Competition winners voted to have the best Muay Thai video will win round-trip tickets and other prizes worth more than 1mn baht.

Applications for the "One and Only" contest are now being accepted from foreigners.

Thais wishing to take part can register in May.

For more information, visit www.tourismthailand.org/discoverthainess.

Grenade linked to Siam Paragon blast last month

THE people responsible for the grenade explosion outside the Criminal Court on March 8 are linked to those behind the two small blasts outside Siam Paragon mall last month, the national police chief said on Monday.

Gen Somyot Poompanmoung said that both groups of perpetrators were "in the same movement", but had different methods in carrying out their attacks, reported *The Nation*.

Gen Somyot said that police investigators would summon any individual mentioned by the suspects, if a connection could be established.

These include former armed forces Supreme Commander Chaisit Shinawatra, who is linked to the Pheu Thai Party, and former Metropolitan Police chief Lt Gen Kamronwit Thoopkrajank.

"If there is a connection with the people mentioned by the suspects, we will question all of them, without an exception," Gen Somyot said.

Both Gen Chaisit and Lt Gen Kamronwit on Monday denied any connection with those arrested for throwing the grenade at the court.

Gen Chaisit said that some



Former armed forces Supreme Commander Chaisit Shinawatra has denied any connection with the arrested suspects. Photo: The Nation

people tried to link him to the latest bomb attack because his name and phone number appeared in a notebook of one of the arrested suspects. He said that could be because of his family name.

However, he said he was ready to cooperate with police in their investigations. "I am ready to give the information I have. And I will not flee," Gen Chaisit said.

Gen Kamronwit also denied any

involvement with the perpetrators, saying that he had not been involved in politics since leaving the force. He said that he had just learned that his name and contact number appeared in a notebook of one of the arrested suspects.

Meanwhile, red-shirt leader Suporn Attawong went to the Royal Thai Police headquarters on Monday to file a report with police that his volunteer defence group, which was dissolved shortly after the coup, had no involvement with the arrested suspects.

He noted that a white scarf, associated with his group's image, had been found among the suspects' belongings.

The two men being held in connection with the grenade attack were arrested after a brief shoot-out with security forces. The attack caused minor damage to the court building car park, but there were no injuries.

Arrest warrants have been issued for another man and two women from the same group.

The Metropolitan Police appointed 38 senior police on Monday to be responsible for investigating the grenade attack, the second since the coup.

Motorcycle bomb explodes by Narathiwat train station

A MOTORCYCLE bomb exploded in front of Rusoh Train Station in the southern province of Narathiwat on March 8, wounding eight people and killing one.

Ranger Sergeant Thaweevat Onkwanphetch, 29, succumbed to his injuries on Monday, reported *The Nation*.

The vehicle had been stolen from a teacher, Chatsuda Ninsuwan, after she was shot dead on her way home on December 3, 2012, in the same province.

However, it had its licence plate replaced with one from another motorcycle, whose owner had it reported as missing.

Lt Montri Janmueang of the Rusoh Police said that the blast took place in the parking area of the train station.

"The explosive must have weighed about 10 kilograms and was triggered by a radio-

communication device," he said.

Six vehicles suffered minor damage, Lt Montri added.

Police said that by the time they arrived at the scene, all of the wounded had been taken to nearby hospitals.

Former Narathiwat MP Jeh-aming Tohtayong said that the militants could still stage violent attacks in the deep South partly because security officials could not set up full-scale checkpoints to defend local people.

"It is now necessary that besides using military measures, authorities must also actively engage locals in ensuring safety," he said.

While authorities need to enforce laws to protect the peace, they also need to respect human rights and refrain from overreacting, Mr Jeh-aming said.



The motorcycle bomb exploded outside of the Rusoh train station. Photo: The Nation

First auction of disgraced crime-buster's seized possessions a hit

MANY antiques and other expensive items, including those seized from the network of former Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) chief Pongpat Chayapan, sold like hot cakes on March 5, the first day of an auction organized by the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO).

The office expected to earn 130 million baht from the auction on its first day, far exceeding the items' initial estimated value of 50mn baht. It was later concluded that the first day of the auction saw a total of 220 items sold and earnings of 15.7mn baht, reported *The Nation*.

Some 500 bidders showed up at the "1st Anti-Money Laundering Auction to Return Money to the Country", which ran until March 8 at the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, in Bangkok's Lak Si

district.

A second round of auctions will be held from March 23-26. Those interested in the items to go under the hammer can check them out on March 21 and 22.

The most expensive item sold in the first auction was a set of four Rolex wrist-watches. The starting price was set at 950,000 baht, but they were bought by an unnamed bidder for 1.5mn baht.

Some of the items were sold at two or three times their original price.

However, some 21 items – many of them



The first days of the AMLO auction were a big success. Photo: The Nation

expensive watches – were held back after the former owners wrote in to protest.

AMLO has put some 1,000 seized items up for sale in the next auction and will be auctioning off as many as 250 objects per day during the events.

Most of the items are antique furniture, paintings, sculptures, silverware, chinaware, watches and wine.

So far, 1,159 bidders have registered with a total of 13.4mn baht in guarantee money.

The most expensive item in the auction

is a century-old oil painting, with a starting price of 15mn baht. However, as of Wednesday, no bidder had shown any interest in it.

AMLO chief Srihanart Prayoonrat said that proceeds from the auction would go into the agency's bank account.

He also explained that if any item auctioned is found to have been unlawfully acquired, then the amount earned from its sale would be added to the country's coffers.

However, he said that if any item is found to have been lawfully acquired, then the former owner would be given the proceeds earned from auctioning it, plus interest.

Mr Srihanart also confirmed that none of the items would be recalled from the new owners.

Put safety first

FIRST PERSON

I HAVE seen so many accidents happen in the work place, the majority of which have involved electric shock, or falls at construction sites. Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers have rescued mostly construction workers involved in these kind of accidents.

While it is impossible to predict when an accident is going to happen, they can be prevented by exercising caution at all times, especially when working in a potentially dangerous environment.

Believe it or not, most accidents involving electric shock are caused by laborers using mobile phones, while working near high-voltage power lines. It is imperative that workers do not use their mobile phones when they are near power cables. It has cost many lives already and will no doubt cost even more in the future.

In fact, using a mobile phone while doing any kind of construction work is very dangerous. Workers should refrain from using them during their shifts, because they are distracting – no matter what you are doing – and can cause you to make stupid mistakes. It only takes a second to change your life, so caution is important.

I know from personal experience how quickly things can change, if you do not think through your actions carefully first.

When I jumped into the sewer to help those workers, I hadn't taken time to think about the consequences of my actions. I did not know that the gas was so dangerous. In retrospect, we should have contacted the engineering



Jessada Janpen, 27, from Ranong, has been a Kusoldham Foundation rescue worker for eight years. Last year, he almost lost his life doing what he loves. On March 26, Jessada was the first to respond to an accident in which four workers had passed out in a sewer in Phuket Town. Wasting no time, he plunged into the sewer to rescue the men. Seconds later,

he also passed out due to the continuing build-up of hydrogen sulfide fumes.

Luckily, Jessada was saved, and after a long recovery, has returned to work. In June, he was awarded the Rotary International Family and Community Service Award for his bravery and commitment to community service.

Here, he talks about the importance of safety on work sites in Phuket and what he has learned.

team who take care of the sewer to find out what risks were involved. We also should have taken the time to protect ourselves before diving in.

The foundation and its members learned a lot from that accident – the first serious one affecting rescue workers in our foundation.

We now have regular meetings to ensure that we always plan ahead before we go on a rescue mission. On arriving at the scene of an accident, we now evaluate the situation carefully before moving in. This ensures that none of our rescue workers make the same kind of mistake I did.

When it comes to construction and work sites on the island, I cannot truthfully say that working conditions here are safe.

To begin to change this, work-

ers must be diligent and always assess a situation before starting a job. If they believe that they or their colleagues are at risk, they should immediately inform their supervisor. Workers must not ignore red flags and continue to work in dangerous situations.

It truly comes down to team work, proper protective gear, equipment and communication within departments and with superiors on the work site.

Adequate training for all workers, including rescue workers, is also of the utmost importance.

For example, Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers have been trained by the Phuket Marine Police in water rescue, including diving. We also train often so that we are always improving and ready for any emergency.

I feel blessed to be able to rescue people. My own accident taught me so much about safety, and helped me realize that what I'm doing is important and worthwhile.



Jet-skiing is a legitimate sport that should be recognized in Phuket.

Promote the sport of jet-skiing in Phuket

JET-SKIING is a sport. It's a real sport that deserves a great deal more respect than it is given in Phuket. Banning Phuket as a water-sport tourism destination for jet-skiing is ridiculous. Banning the current operations and tourist hooligans allowed on them, however, is understandable.

Given the history of violence, death and extortion via the well-protected jet-ski operators it is no surprise that the *Gazette* poll asking whether or not they should be banned revealed the overwhelming desire to clear the island of them by locals, expats and tourists.

Nonetheless, it was incredibly disappointing to see that the skills displayed by the jet-skiers during the Asian Beach Games did nothing to change popular opinion. These athletes got out in Patong Bay and were able to show hundreds what the sport is really about: nerves, agility, strength and stamina. When people think of jet-skis, they should be thinking of these performances, not the cowboys who seem on the verge of killing tourists on what seems to be a weekly basis.

What Phuket needs to do is establish one or two jet-skiing parks along the coast that have courses set up for racing and designated areas for free-style jet-skiing. These should be "no swimming" beaches to prevent any accidents with people not associated with the

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

sport. Phuket has so many beaches that are not completely overrun with tourists that it should be possible to set up these parks in areas that will have a minimum effect on hotels and others who are dependent on providing beach-swimming access to clients.

And those taking part should have to wear proper safety gear, including a life jacket and helmet. Additionally, newcomers should be taken out by an instructor and given at least 10 minutes of basic training before being allowed to join in on the fun.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut should make an effort to create a situation that does more than simply protect jet-ski operators and their families. He doesn't need to take any extreme steps, such as banning all jet-skis, but he should try to understand the activity and help provide a safe place for tourists to participate in it. Hopefully, Governor Nisit Jansomwong will continue to push Mr Phuripat to make a real change – a change that is good for tourists, jet-ski operators, the island's image and the sport itself.

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

Where can I complain about my busted bean bag chairs?

I RECENTLY purchased two bean bag chairs from Index Living Mall. Within a couple of days they started to fall apart, the seams opened and the contents started to fall out.

Yesterday, I found the time to get them back to Index and ask for a solution to this problem.

I was surprised to hear that they don't offer any quality warranty on their products and was told that the only way I could make an exchange would be to bring back the faulty product in good condition!

All of my efforts to make customer service staff understand that I needed to exchange because of bad quality, not because I didn't like the color, were pointless.

In the end, I was told that there is no quality warranty for any product in Index Living Mall.

Does a government office or organization monitor companies like this? Shouldn't they be forced to offer some kind of quality assurance or at least have a big sign

on entrance saying, "Anything you buy here has no guarantee." Although that wouldn't make much sense, as these days you can buy a US\$5 product in China and still get warranty on it – and the sellers actually honor the promise.

Where can I complain about situations like this?

AZ
Phuket

Natcharin Siri, consumer service staffer from Index Living Mall, replies:

According to our policy, customers can exchange products purchased from Index if the problem is a result of production failure,

such as the seams coming apart. However, the exchange must be made within 12 days.

The customer must present the receipt from the purchase before we can exchange the item.

I can confirm that Index will always exchange products for customers as long as it is within 12 days of the purchase date.

In this particular case, the chairs were purchased more than 12 days ago, so we cannot exchange them.

Prapan Kanprasang, head of the Damrongtham Center, replies:

If consumers ever have a problem with goods they have purchased, they can file a com-

plaint at the Damrongtham Center, located at Phuket Provincial Hall. It is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The complainant will need to bring a copy of his or her passport, warranty documents, any evidence of the sale or purchase of the item, a picture of the item and any other related documents.

After the complaint is filed, we will start by checking the documents and negotiating with the company who bought or sold the item or items in question. The end result will depend on the case.

For more information, please call 076-213203 or send mail to: damrongtum_phuket@hotmail.com

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Phuket: Skimmers' paradise island

DESPITE efforts nationwide to upgrade automatic teller machine (ATM) card technology to make it more secure, the arrests of three groups of international ATM-card skimmers in Phuket in a week demonstrates that ATM fraud is rampant on the island.

ATM users – which includes just about everyone with a bank account – should continue to exercise a great deal of caution when conducting transactions to ensure that they do not fall prey to these high-tech, low-life embezzlers, who appear to have established a hub for their nefarious activities right here in Phuket.

The recent arrests started with the apprehension of five French nationals operating in Chalong and Kamala on February 28, followed by the arrest six days later in Krabi of two more Frenchmen found in possession of hundreds of cloned ATM cards, all said to have been purchased from a foreigner in Phuket.

Believing that both groups involved in the arrests were part of a wider network, police continue to investigate in order to track down the ringleaders, suspected to be based in Patong.

Meanwhile, at the time of going to press, Phuket Provincial Police were also hunting down Russian national Vladimir Orlov, the alleged mastermind of another ATM-card skimming operation run out of his shop in Kata. Thanks to surveillance and cooperation by security personnel at the affected bank, three of his alleged accomplices were taken into police custody at the premises on March 5.

These arrests, as well as the evidence collected thereupon, seems to indicate that all phases of the ATM skimming process are taking place on the island, from stealing digital information to using it to clone cards and conduct illegal transactions.

Thailand and Indonesia have been identified by the non-profit group European ATM Security Team as the two countries with the greatest risk of ATM skimming. It is particularly rife in mass tourism destinations such as Phuket and Bali, where so many people come and go, and many tourists still use old-fashioned magnetic strip ATM cards. Once a user's personal identification number (PIN) is obtained, either by covert camera surveillance or simply by peeking over the shoulder of an unsuspecting ATM user, it is only a matter of time before his or her accounts are emptied.

Fortunately, a few simple and easy precautions can go a long way in protecting cardholders from having their hard-earned assets plundered. These include such easy steps as regularly changing one's PIN and covering the keypad when entering the number.

ATM skimming is just one part of an increasingly complex and ever-changing world of digital crime that reflects the head-spinning pace of technological change that can easily overwhelm even the most tech-savvy among us. With so much out there, it becomes necessary to decide which technologies to focus on – and which to avoid.



A round of applause for the president, please

Re: Gazette online, Bang Tao beach vendors fined for encroachment, March 7

A standing ovation for President Ma-ann Samran for throwing these vendors out.

What Phuket needs is consistent enforcement like this. The beaches have never looked better.

This is how to make Phuket better. Thank you.

This encroachment is happening at every beach in Phuket. There must be more of this.

Bravo!

*Pinot
Gazette forum*

Bring in tourism gurus

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials firm on beach wedding ban, March 9

What is going on here?

Why doesn't somebody with some pull in the tourism industry and in the government step in and sort this mess out for the sake of Phuket and Thailand?

The management of the beaches at municipal and village levels has turned into a comic circus and will drive tourists away and keep them away.

Let's have someone who knows tourism step in and help.

*Mr Richie
Gazette forum*

Have some respect

Re: Gazette online, Felling of century-old banyan tree outrages local conservation group, March 6

It is unknown which individual or group ordered the felling of such a majestic, century-old tree, but I cannot imagine the reason for doing such a thing.

Far too often do these types of actions happen, not just in Thailand, but everywhere in the world.

There is so little respect for nature worldwide that it is no

Letters to the Editor

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

wonder our environment is in the state it is in.

I commend the Big Tree Club for what they do and hope that they help spread and inspire love, respect and reverence for nature, so that future generations will avoid making the same mistakes as in the past.

*Tree hugger
Cape Panwa*

suffocating once extraordinary ecosystems.

The list of things we do that kill tourism in the region is as long as a piece of string and as deadly as a noose.

*Tony Kleinschmidt
Chalong*

Don't fight the change

Phuket beaches are changing.

They are going back to the way they were 30 years ago. This is the only way to stop corruption.

The older tourists complaining about no beds must realize, as cruel as it may seem, that they are on the way out.

We introduced the beds, we brought the jet-skis and parasailing and all the rest of the things that happen on the beach.

If these are stopped now, the new breed of young tourists won't need these amenities.

Sitting here at Bondi Beach, one can see that it is packed. There are no sunbeds, no corruption and its full of young people.

Yes, it's time for a change. Give the beaches back to nature.

*Brian Hardaker
Australia*

Actions speak louder

Re: Gazette online, Marine Police sign MoU against human-trafficking with fishing business operators, March 7

The gov't has found fishing business operators are especially vulnerable to these kinds of illegal activities.

No, they are not vulnerable; they engage in it all the time. Nothing will be any different, this is utter lip service.

If you really want to make a difference, do it with sincerity – impound the boats.

*Yeah right
Gazette forum*

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Editor-in-chief: Isaac Stone Simonelli
News Manager: Chris Husted

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

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net
Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net
Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net
General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) **Fax** 076 615240
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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Slice of Koh Kaew market

Villa Market to open third Phuket Branch in Boat Lagoon

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE doors to Villa Market's third branch on the island open on March 20 with the Grand Opening Ceremony in Boat Lagoon taking place on March 27.

The Grand Opening, organized by Kanittha Prasopsirikul from 'By Kanittha', will be the highlight of the Boat Lagoon's monthly Lighthouse Market, which offers a variety of vendors the opportunity to showcase their wares and services – something that Villa Market plans to start participating in either this month or next.

Villa Market's Boat Lagoon branch will be classified as a "C" store with about 900 square meters of space, of which about 750 square meters will be retail – making it smaller than both the "A" class Chalong and Cherng Talay (Laguna) branches.

Despite the smaller size, the store will be no different than either of the other stores, Villa Market Area Manager Adrian Lanter confirmed to the *Gazette*. This will include Villa Market's significant range of imported items not available anywhere else on the island.

The new market is expected to have little to no impact on the Chalong branch. However, Mr Lanter expects to see some migration of clients from the Cherng Talay branch, which will be monitored through Villa Market's Vplus reward card information.

Mr Lanter and Villa Market's business development manager, Stefan Cariola, will be using a multi-pronged approach to ensure that they attract as many new cus-



The Grand Opening of the Boat Lagoon Villa Market branch will be held on March 27. Photo: Voratuss Intasee

tomers to the new store as possible.

The store will focus on yachties; parents of students at the British International School Phuket, who are forced to do the u-turn and head back toward Phuket Town after picking up their children; office workers and the

multitude of people moving into the new developments in Koh Kaew.

Mr Lanter has set a conservative bar for Villa Market customers at the new branch at about 50 per cent, pointing toward both car-less yachties and residents in new developments in the area.

To cater better to the yachties, Mr Lanter is considering a club car delivery service within Boat Lagoon, which might be extended into the Royal Phuket Marina.

"The old super market is closed, the yachties can't get any beer, they can't get any drinks, they can't get any food, and these

guys have no cars, so usually they take a taxi to the 7-Eleven or SuperCheap – so for them it's easier if we could deliver," Mr Lanter says.

The prices at Villa Market for general goods – those that aren't imported – are on a par with 7-Eleven, Makro, Tesco Lotus and SuperCheap, Mr Lanter confirms.

There will be outside seating at the new Villa Market for those wanting to eat ready-made meals, such as sushi, chicken, salads, sandwiches and so on. Currently, ready-made meals have been doing very well at both at the Chalong and Cherng Talay branches, so Mr Lanter expects to see similar success at Boat Lagoon. Additionally, Baked has taken the reins as the bakery and cafe for the venue.

With ample parking space – an estimated 100 car slots – Mr Lanter expects the convenience of the location, as well as the quality of products, to make Villa Market the standard "neighborhood" grocery store.

Phuket is already home to two of Villa Market's most successful stores with the highest spending per capita, with Laguna taking the number-one position and Hua Hin keeping the Chalong branch at bay, making it the third highest out of 30 stores in Thailand.

Mr Lanter and Mr Cariola confessed that they would have to remain flexible after the opening and see which shopping trends arise in order to cater best to the varied client base and push the Boat Lagoon branch up the ranks, so it can eventually join Phuket's other two branches at the top of the highest spending per capita chart.

Energy Policy Administration Committee drops petrol price

THE Energy Policy Administration Committee has resolved to reduce petrol's contribution to the Oil Fund by 2 baht per liter from the present 9.15 baht, that of gasohol 95 to 2.25 baht per liter from 3.25 baht and that of gasohol 91 to 1.25 baht per liter from 2.25 baht.

Energy Minister Narongchai Akrasanee said that global oil prices were trending upwards again, so the committee had to use the Oil Fund as an instrument to keep retail fuel prices at appropriate levels.

The Oil Fund will also subsidize the retail price of E20 by 80 satang per liter instead of collecting 20 satang per liter and reduce the E85 subsidy to 7.23 baht per liter from 8.23 baht.

The committee cut the diesel contribution to the fund to 3.15 baht per liter from 3.35 baht.

All these changes took effect on Tuesday.

As a consequence of these



Petrol prices to drop by two baht per liter. Photo: aebaker13

changes, Oil Fund revenue will fall by 3.155 billion baht per month from the present 7.821bn baht per month.

– The Nation




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Make realistic assumptions

THE first step when making a retirement plan is to have realistic assumptions about your retirement. Unfortunately,

I have found that many of my clients, regardless of whether or not they are expatriates – still working or already retired – have at least one or more of the following unrealistic retirement assumptions:

I will retire some place cheaper: Retiring to an emerging market may seem affordable right now, but such countries may not remain affordable in the future. After all, inflation is usually much higher in emerging markets than developed countries and then you will have to contend with fluctuating exchange rates which may make your intended destination more expensive. Finally, retiring some place cheaper may depend upon selling the home you live in right now and getting what you paid for it back – something many retirees will be unable to do.

My living expenses will go down in retirement: You can't automatically assume your living expenses will go down in retirement – especially if you retire abroad and/or intend to have an active retirement (e.g. recreational travel, trips to see family, an active social life, or regular visits to the golf course). Moreover, you may have to deal with unexpected expenses such as high health care costs, or the need to provide so-called "economic outpatient care" for adult children or grandchildren who are struggling financially.

My taxes will go down: You may think your taxes will go down when you stop working or retire abroad. However, politicians in western countries are increasingly hard pressed to pay for spending with off-shore expatriates and retirement plans you thought were tax free or tax deferred being



Finance

By Don Freeman

potentially good targets for so-called "tax reforms" that inevitably raise your taxes.

I can rely on my spouse/family/children for support: Don't assume your family will be in any position to help you financially or provide you with other types of support. For example: You and/or your spouse could suffer a stroke or otherwise become disabled and require expensive round the clock nursing care from a professional care giver for a long period of time.

I can rely on my defined pension plan: If you still receive or will receive a payment from an old-fashioned defined pension every month, congratulations for being lucky as most private-sector employers have long since ditched such plans because they are too expensive to maintain. And if your defined pension plan comes from working for a government, it's probably underfunded and may not be completely safe given what happened in Greece, and what is starting to happen with the various municipal bankruptcies in the United States.

I can assume a high rate of return on my investments: With interest rates near record lows in many countries, you will need to be very realistic about investment returns. In fact, John Bogle, the founder of Vanguard, the world's largest mutual fund company, told filmmakers of a documentary called the Retirement Gamble that the American retirement system is headed for a train wreck because too many defined retirement plans assume an unrealistic 8% per year return when a conservative 5% annual return is more realistic.

I can retire when I choose to: You may intend to retire at age 65, but your employer may decide to lay you off at age 62 or worst,



Be sure to plan wisely, especially if you plan to play a lot of golf. Photo: Powerplaygolf

go completely out of business. Likewise, you could suffer a debilitating injury or something that prevents you from working (and saving) until the age you intend to retire.

I can work to supplement my retirement income: Retiring overseas to an emerging market like Thailand will probably eliminate any opportunity to supplement your income with paid work. Moreover and even if you have the opportunity to work, you may not be physically or mentally capable of doing so.

I won't live to a very old age: Don't assume that just because various family members did not live until a certain age that you won't live well past that age. In fact,

health care advances mean that living past the age of 80, 90 or even 100 will increasingly become common place – meaning your retirement investments and income will need to last just as long.

Don Freeman, BSME is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, financial planning and UK pension transfers. Don can be reached at 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

Chairman stresses preparation for AEC in Thailand

THAILAND MUST put preparation for the Asean Economic Community (AEC) on the national agenda for small and medium-sized enterprises so they are able to deal with the new competitive landscape, said Somkid Jatusripitak, chairman of the Advisory Board to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

Speaking at a Bangkok Bank AEC business forum, Mr Somkid noted that when the AEC is fully realized at the end of this year, Asean would be an economic and geopolitical powerhouse as the production and supply-chain base of Asia.

In terms of geopolitics, Thailand will be at the center, but that will not be enough to ensure the country's ability to attract foreign investment, Mr Somkid said.

Thailand must achieve political stability, as the country has lost opportunities in the past decade from political unrest. The interim military regime has attempted to reform the country in a bid to help



Somkid Jatusripitak says that Thailand must prepare its businesses for the AEC. Photo: Gunawan Kartapranata

restore the confidence of foreign investors, he said. However, even though the country is preparing to accommodate the AEC with improved infrastructure, its incentives should go beyond tax measures. If it fails to provide sufficient land or labour, and if the private sector is ill-prepared to deal with the AEC, the competitiveness of the country will not improve.

Mr Somkid said SMEs should be worried because many have limited capital and are unable to adjust quickly to competitive challenges.

Unlike large corporations, SMEs have no exposure to doing business abroad, so under the AEC agenda, the state must help them change their mindsets on doing business outside Thailand. Government agencies should have national campaigns to urge

preparation for Asean integration. However, it is difficult for SMEs to adapt quickly, Mr Somkid said.

Referring to what Japan did to encourage its SMEs to dare to invest abroad, he said the Japan External Trade Organisation took the lead in promoting outbound investment and providing information on destination countries for these companies. Jetro set up of-

fices in those countries to ensure they were appropriate locations for investment.

Japanese banks followed Jetro by establishing footprints in several countries to serve SMEs.

Mr Somkid said Bangkok Bank was doing the right thing establishing a strong presence in Asean. However, Thai banks should give importance to the role of business development rather than just lending.

He said one barrier for SMEs was high interest rates: In Thailand, they are charged 7 per cent per annum, while in Malaysia, the rate is only 3 per cent.

Chartsiri Sophonpanich, president of Bangkok Bank, said on the sidelines of the seminar that some SMEs were interested in expanding in Asean, so the bank fully supported them in the countries where BBL has a presence.

Neighboring countries are destinations for Thai SMEs because people there are familiar with the brands.

– The Nation

WHAT'S ON

in Phuket

March 23-27. BISP IB Art Exhibition, 8am to 5pm.

British International School, Phuket (BISP) welcomes everyone in Phuket to its 2015 IB Art Exhibition, where the works of three of the school's most talented artists – Mimi, Jaratchai and Boram – will be on display.

The exhibition is open to the general public, with the Grand Opening at 2:45pm on March 23. For more information, contact art teacher Kathy Coulson: kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th

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.

May 5. 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 Buddha.

July 30. Asahna 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 will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand, with festivities taking place throughout the country.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.



Now on

SUNBOX

PGTV

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

LOCAL COVERAGE

Phuket Cable
Coverage: All of Phuket
Channel: 1
Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm
Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm

Rawai Cable
Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon
Channel: 1
Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm

KDTV
Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay
Channel: 10
Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm

NATIONAL COVERAGE

MCOT World
Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm
Wednesday: 6.10pm
Thursday: 1.10am
Friday: 1.10am
Saturday: 1.10am
Sunday: 6.10am

Truevisions Channel: 79
PSI Channel: 223, 320
Dynasat Channel: 106
Thaisat Channel: 185
Infosat Channel: 185
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YOUR

Phuket

Serving up a little something new



Thanyapura recently launched their new menu, created by Chef Udomsak Boonsopone, also known as Chef Dom. There are more than 20 new items, including a variety of organic salads, healthy main courses and desserts. Next time you're there try the wild rocket salad, avocado and mango salad or the poached roulade with sea bass.

Holding the KEE to the Sky Lounge

KEE Sky Lounge held a crazy party night with DJ Bebe, who entertained guests and got them onto the dance floor with the thumping house music on March 8.

The beats will be turned up again on March 15 with a 'Ladies Night' themed party starting at 9pm.



Wonders of Thai hospitality reach far beyond the Kingdom



Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket (right), welcomes Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong to the resort's booth area at ITB Berlin, which took place from March 4-8.

Pretty in Pink at Xana anniversary party

XANA Beach Club with Attica celebrated its third anniversary with a pink-themed party on March 7. The night featured Grammy Award-winning DJ Paul Harris from the trio Dirty Vegas.



PERFECT PINK: (L) Alpha Eldiansyah, executive assistant manager for Angsana Laguna Phuket; Kaniittha Detmak, front office manager for Angsana; Sree Valsan, F&B director for Angsana; Katekanok Kamonmartayakul, head of the Oncology Center at Bangkok Hospital Phuket; Pajaree Sawasdee, business development specialist for Bangkok Hospital Phuket; Niyompong Torwong, deputy manager of marketing division for Bangkok Hospital Phuket; and Sherry Jan, sales executive for XANA.



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March 14 - 20, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

NISEKO, JAPAN
ASIA'S TOP SKI RESORT

See page 17

JOB of the week


The Attitude Club™

See page 20

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES of the week



**GUESTHOUSE
FOR SALE**

See page 22

BOAT of the week



See page 25

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

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Properties For Sale

**LUXURY POOL VILLA
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Spectacular villa. Walk to Bang Tao Beach. Built to European standards. 24hr security. Management, maid service. Great rental income. 3 king bedrooms w. en-suites. 260sqm living area. Jacuzzi. Sold by owner. Fully furnished. Freehold, BVI company. 21.9mn baht negotiable. Email: villafsale@gmail.com

5 BEDROOM + POOL

Nai Harn. 2 houses. 560sqm. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. Quick sale 7.2 MTB. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

LOVELY POOL VILLA

Leasehold in Nai Harn. Incl. apartment. Only 4.9 million baht ONO. Tel: 092-821 1612.

MODERN THAI / BALI VILLA

Modern Thai / Bali Private pool villa for sale. Located in a quite soi in rawai. 3 beds, 4 Bathrooms. Modern western kitchen, Fully furnished, and tastefully styled. Green garden. Land 500sqm. Asking 12.5mthb but any offers considered. Tel: 089-973 1180, 084-460378 (English & Thai). Email: garyfordham@hotmail.com www.phuketrawaivilla.com

3.5 RAI LAND AT LAGUNA PHUKET

Wonderful land for sale. Yellow zone. Chanote title. 3.5 Rai. Only 5.75 MB / Rai. Email: soipasak8@gmail.com

HUGE FIVE BED BIG POOL VILLA

This huge five bedroom villa with massive feature pool in Rawai is greatly reduced for urgent sale at 12.5 MB. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

STUDIO FOR SALE

In Phuket Town. 5 min to Central, Big C. 2nd floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassaraabee@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE SALE / RENT

Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000 baht/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3bedrooms, 2 Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**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 8433,
Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

LAND FOR SALE KATA

444 sqm. With sea view. Perfect for pool villa. Tel: 089-290 5594 (English), 086-593 3434 (Thai). Email: henryasia50@hotmail.com

2BDR BEACH CONDO BY OWNER

2bdr / 2bath ens. Open concept. Huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant. In 5* resort with access to their gym, spa. Ideal for family. Separate storage. Furniture incl. Fast owner sale, leaving Asia. Tel: (65) 096-532849. Email: laura@tilaholdings.com

3 BED FOR SALE / RENT

Furnished house in Chalong. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

FANTASTIC CONDO

Stunning one bedroom, 54sqm condo located on the 3rd floor of the sought-after Haven Lagoon development. Overlooking the lovely gardens, the condo features leather sofas, 2 LCD televisions, dining table, king-size bedroom, fitted dressing room, fitted kitchen including washing machine and fridge, a fantastic double rain shower and so much more. It's ready to move in and start enjoying the 2 pools, the gymnasium and the great location. Tel: 082-542 2121. Email: sgiandubh69@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE FOR SALE

Thalang area, near Phuket airport Land area: 4 rai (6,400 sqm). Space available: 900 sqm. Staff house: 320sqm. Contact: 081-536 9252. Price: 38 million baht. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

NICE SEAVIEW CONDO

100% foreigner freehold. 100sqm. Sea view. Car parking. Common pool. 12th floor. 1 living room, 1 bath, 1 bedroom. Western kitchen. 2 terraces. Plus a separate second apartment with bath and nice kitchen. Good for family, friends or rental income. B7.6mn. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

WATERFRONT HOME

Stunning architectural design. 4-bedroom lakefront home in Loch Palm Golf Club, Phuket. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English).

SEAVIEW STUDIO CONDO

100% foreigner freehold. 50sqm. Sea view. Common pool. Car parking. Terrace. Kitchen. 12th floor. B3.7mn. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English).

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KATA HOUSE SALE

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222,700 BAHT / RAI PHANG NGA

26 rai in Phang Nga. Mountain view, small creek. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 084-992 8432. Mam.

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

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 Sqm. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 sqm. Price 4.5 million THB. Full furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornholland@hotmail.com

URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED

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

Properties For Rent

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

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

PATONG TOWER BEAUTIFUL CONDO

Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available from 7 May, 2015. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com, www.patongtowerrental.com

COZY HOUSE FOR RENT

Near Nai Ham a high-grade built house. Furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Ham beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Air-cons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht / month. Contact K. Nui at 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

For long-term rent. Fully furnished. Ms Fon. Tel: 084-629 3244. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

RESORT

For sale or rent. 2.5 rai Chanote for sale, or 2 rai with 16 years' lease left. 9 bungalows, 22 double rooms, some with kitchen. Restaurant. Bar. Pool. Office. Big well. Parking. Sale 27mn baht. 16-year lease. 16mn baht. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860 (English). Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th www.bigasailing.com

TONSAI HOUSE FOR RENT

European standard. Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, private pool, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, European kitchen, two-car parking. Garden. WiFi and True vision. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com www.rentphuketpoolhouse.com

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Fully Furnished, Good & Safe Location. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: www.BaanPhi tak Taweep.com

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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

3 BED, 3 BATH HOUSE

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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

TOWNHOUSE - SUPALAI CITY HILL

Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000Bt/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3BR, 2Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 ACs. Good for family. Avail from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annano1@hotmail.com

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3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1 aircon, furnished house, near Phuket Central Festival. Tel: 081-5379878 (English & Thai). Email: lek265@hotmail.co.th

GUEST HOUSE FOR RENT

1 bed, 1 bath, living room, kitchen. Safe & quiet area in Rawai. Pool. WiFi. UBC. 12,000 baht. Tel: 086-279 7301.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

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We are a global company and we are now seeking an experienced Thai Manager for our Phuket Office. We are looking for a dynamic, well-presented individual from Thailand, ideally degree qualified but this is not essential, to take over the administrative running of the Phuket office. Experience in diving, medical or tourism is recommended. Training in the core business provided at company expense. A remuneration package based on experience and background is on offer. Tel: 087-022 6697 (English). Email: pculiffe@sss network.com

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Siam Real Estate require 2 Thai persons for our north and south offices with excellent English, both spoken and written, and who are computer literate and experienced in office administration. Must be intelligent, highly organized, friendly and good with foreign clients and prepared to work hard. Good salary provided. Tel: 076-288908. To contact, send CV by email to jobs@siamrealestate.com, www.siamrealestate.com

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Must be able to shoot video, edit, take photos. Please call Alex 085-212 8447.

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Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht per month plus service charge + potential bonuses. Assist as evening manager in 42-room boutique hotel in Karon. Oversee dinner for Food and Beverage department. Experience marketing restaurants and with special events. Ability to seek out wedding planners and organize events. Bachelor's degree in Hotel/ Tourism Management or related degree. Two years' experience in Food/Beverage & Event planning. One year's management experience supervising five or more staff. Tel: 086-604 1333. Email: gm@ccshideaway.com



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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

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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

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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.

LOOKING FOR MAID

Household in Layan Beach is looking for a maid. Should be dog friendly and speak English. Tel: 084-007 7553 (English). Email: liz22gap@yahoo.de

**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.

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.

SALES COORDINATOR

Siam Real Estate requires an experienced naturalised English speaker to administer and co-ordinate sales/rentals enquiries at our Rawai office. Must be a strong organiser, have a pre-emptive approach, be computer literate and have good people skills. Salary + WP provided. Possibly part time work acceptable. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

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

**CHINESE
PROPERTY AGENT**

Phuket's leading Real Estate agency is now looking for a Chinese Real Estate Agent to join our successful team. You need to be able to write and speak Chinese fluently. Main job description is to introduce Phuket properties to our Chinese investors and buyers. High earnings are expected for the right candidate. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@propertyinphuket.com

Employee Termination Announcement

Please be informed that Mrs. Pennapa Seangrocha (Khun Ae) (นางพนัสนิศา แสงโรช) as a manager of Business Group Ordinary Partnership and Richhome & Décor Shop (Kathu), was terminated as an employee on February 4th, 2015.

Company shall not be responsible for any related activities that cause damage or misrepresentation, if the indicated person arrogated company name. Our company reserves the right to file a claim under the law to above indicated person.

The actions of any group of people, the company will not be liable in any way. If you have any inquiries please contact Mr. Somchai Lertworrattanakul.
Tel: 081-892 1775.

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 Tel: 076-282403
(Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

PATONG

- NEW ▶ Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoeys 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 Tel: 076-255425
(Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

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

**MAID WANTED
FOR HOUSE**

Looking for full time maid for private house in Nai Harn. Tel: 081-970 7633 (English). Email: roberto.omini@gmail.com

**DIGITAL CONTENT /
MEDIA ASST.**

Knowledge in Graphic Design / VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred). Fluent in written and spoken English (native-Level Preferred Thai national). Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Email: aey@princessyacht.ssea.com

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).

SWIMMING COACH

REQUIRED. Current SAT Babies & Toddlers Learn to Swim Qualification or equivalent. Minimum of 2 years' experience teaching babies & toddlers. Bachelor Degree. Enthusiastic, dynamic and energetic. Must be in good health - non smoker is a must. Punctual and reliable. Native English speaker. PACKAGE DETAILS: Salary (Negotiable for the right candidate). Accommodation allowance. Health Insurance. Work Permit. Minimum contract period: 2 years. Tel: 086-687 0224.

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

**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).

**QUALIFIED
BOAT CREW**

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

**PERSONAL
ASSISTANT**

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

Phuket Gazette**MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER**

THE PHUKET GAZETTE, the island's leading multi-media organization, is now recruiting a proven Manager to take over all aspects of its rapidly growing business in the marketing and promotion of high-quality, high-impact events. Responsibilities will focus on creation and delivery of service packages across the following platforms:

- The Phuket Gazette (the island's main newspaper)
- The Phuket Gazette Nationwide Edition
- The Phuket Gazette Airline Edition
- The Nation daily newspaper (50,000 readers)
- The Gazette Online (Google's No. 1 for Phuket)
- The Phuket Forum.Net (more readers / more perspectives)
- Facebook (Phuket's most active FB page)
- The Gazette Private List (35,000 subscribers - no spam)
- Island-wide English-language radio (24/7)
- Island-wide Thai-language Radio (24/7)
- PGTV / 'Phuket Today' (Phuket's only NATIONALLY broadcast TV Show)
- The Gazette YouTube Channel
- The Gazette Air Force (Aerial event promotion / banner towing)
- Phuket Tickets (Phuket's only free home delivery ticket service)

Working in coordination with the company's editors, reporters, artists, Broadcast Media Group and Sales & Marketing teams, the successful candidate will develop Sponsorship Proposals; monitor and coordinate the delivery of our services; and ensure a quality performance right through to post-event publicity.

To qualify for an interview, candidates must have/be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 30 to 45
- ▶ Previous management experience in sales and marketing AND/OR administration of projects
- ▶ A university degree in any field
- ▶ A high degree of competence in English, written and spoken
- ▶ Respect for deadlines and details
- ▶ Sociable, upbeat, outgoing and happy to attend / participate in the island's leading events

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email to: Anna@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
iTree Complete Printing Service



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Nan: (076-255425)

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

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

Live in Patong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Taurus Travel



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

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

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

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!

Bulletins

Business Opportunities

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink
that is your business

If you want
to stop
that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

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

WORK FROM HOME

Make up to us \$5000 a sale Working only 20hrs a week. Sales experience is not essential as full training is provided. No MLM and ethical product. Must have computer. Great opportunity for ex-pats. Tel: (61) 04-99178152. Email: tracy_j_cooper@hotmail.com, www.globalsuccesssolution.com/pages/marley/4108

EXCELLENT WELL ESTABLISHED

Business for sale with TAT licences, 45 bikes, 4 rental rooms, good location, annual turnover, 2million baht year. 2.3million baht Chalong. Email: kay@phuketan.damanrealestate.com

INVESTOR / PARTNER WANTED

Commercial business requires added funding. B15m-B25m (min/max) with shares based on funding. State-of-the-art company will bring exceptional ROI. Active/silent partner. Will respond only to serious inquiries. Complete information provided to qualified investors. Tel: 088-491 3857 (English), 082-258 1153 (Thai). Email: mdra nnan@freshgardenfarms.com

BAR SOI TIGER FOR SALE

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

RESTAURANT / BAR BANGLA RD

Restaurant on Bangla Rd. Four floors. Laundry on 2nd floor and rooms/apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Rent is 100,000 baht per month. Four year contract that can be renewed. Furniture, aircons, laundry machines and a fully fitted kitchen included! Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-5821 756 (English). Email: matte_zz@hotmail.com

BAKERY FOR SALE

Reduced price! Was B2.2mn, quick sale for B1.5mn. Located in Chalong. Bakery training provided after sale. Exsiting delivery- customer base included. More details call: 081-895 1848.

TOP PATONG RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Located 30 meters off Patong Beach Road. Seats 60 pax indoors and outdoors. 2 kitchens, large walk-in chiller & totally equipped for a modern restaurant operation. Dedicated building with 3 en-suite guest rooms on top floor. Fully renovated 12 months ago, and 3 years left on the renewable lease. 2 car parks and ample motorbike parking. Sold as ongoing business, with Thai company and two foreign work permits. Reasonably priced; for details please contact 081-970 7007.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

In Bang Tao. Fully equipped. Fully furnished. TVs. Dart board. Pool table. Tel: 084-8423 5400, 084-626 4528(English), 087-882 1445(English). Email: drazen.johansson@gmail.com www.ma mma mail.com #restaurant-for-sale/c10f4

PATONG STEAKHOUSE

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

UNDER TIGER DISCO



Good situation (middle, line 4). Fully equipped, 1 full year contract (expires end February 2016). 1.4 million baht [value: 1.8 million baht]. Tel: 093-575 1969(English). Email: thai-pascal@hotmail.com

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.

SPA & HERB SHOP FOR SALE

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



Patong 15-room Guesthouse and Sports Bar for sale

Fully Furnished, Equipped & Licensed
Long Lease 12 Years
B1.3M or nearest offer
Contact pauljamese@xpathotel.com

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Special font / layout | 250 baht | Tick here: |
| 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 500 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: 980 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box:
1,480 baht (incl VAT) →

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

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

Phone Mr Reece
(02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Computer

IMAC 21.5" (2010)
Intel Core i3 3.2Ghz/4GB
MACBOOK PRO 15"
(2009) Intel Core 2 Duo
2.8Ghz/4GB 18,000
Baht. Tel: 076-510 143.

**ENGLISH
COMPUTERMAN**
English computer man. All
computers except Apple. Tel:
084-0639 223 (English). Email:
computermanphuket@gmail.
com

Club Memberships Available

**BLUE CANYON
INDIVIDUAL**

Individual membership avail-
able. 2015 dues fully paid.
850,000 baht, inclusive of
transfer fee. Tel: 65-967 9
600(English). Email: art.mille
r63@gmail.com

**BLUE CANYON GOLF
MEMBERSHIP**

Individual, fully transferable
membership for sale at 900,000
THB. Tel: 083-176 6068. Email:
max@payex.co m

LOCH PALM GC

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

**GOLF
MEMBERSHIP
480,000**

Country club lifetime fam-
ily membership. 480,000.
Includes transfer fee.
Email: williamsanig@y
ahoo.co.uk

**GOLF
MEMBERSHIP SALE**

Life membership at Phuket
Country Club Kathu. Tel:
088-382 7166.

PHUKET COUNTRYCLUB
Golf membership 450,000
baht. Tel: 081-089 1407. Must
sell.

**BLUE CANYON
MEMBERSHIP**

Maintenance paid through 2014.
including Transfer Fee. Tel: 091-
224 1773 (Eng lish).

GOLF !!!.....GOLF !!!

Lifetime family membership at
Phuket Country Club, Kathu.
540,000 baht, including transfer
fee. Tel: 086 282 0700 (Werner).

**GOLF MEMBERSHIP
SALE**

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

Business Products & Services



**DINO
DAYCARE CENTER**

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

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

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

Pool Tables

STYLISH POOL TABLES

Style is a way to say who you
are without having to speak.
White 'Tokyo' model pool
table. Tel: 085-797 0005, 085-
7970 303. Email: ying@phu
ketpooltables.com

**BAR CONTENTS -
URGENT SALE**

1 pool table, 50 bar stools,
15 fans, 4x42" LG TVs, 2-door
fridge, sound system, 10 con-
crete tables, 4 timber top
tables, shelving all new. Tel:
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ACTIVE BUILDERS

Experience in all work - we can
fix it. Free quotes. Tel: 095-440
3255.

**SEX THERAPY
MASSAGE (NO SEX)**

Gents, ladies. Prem.
ejac.? Important? Satisfy
high libido? And much
more! Natural. No drugs. Dr
Dave (20 yrs' experience).
Tel: 094-652 2029.

Dive Gear

**CHEAP DIVE
COMPRESSORS**

Bauer Mariner 250, year
2006. For sale 140,000
baht. L&W 245 year
2002 + another L&W 245
as spare parts. Total
70,000 baht. Tel: 081-370
3376.

**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.

Building
Products &
Services**OUR SERVICE**

Engineering structural de-
sign service- Steel struc-
tural design service-retain-
ing wall structural design
service-infrastructure design
service-renovation en-
gineering service. Tel: 076-
283549, 081-255 7003
(English & Thai), 089-652
0768 Fax: 076-283549.
Email: 2homerestort@
gmail.com

STAMPED CONCRETE

Stamped pattern and coloured
concrete for driveways, path-
ways, etc. Many different pat-
terns and colours available.
Prompt and efficient service, at
competitive rates. Tel: 085-576
6812 (English).

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**TAO SEX
EDUCATION**

Therapy counselling, gents,
ladies, couples, for prem
ejac, sex addiction, impo-
tent, stress and much more
Dr. Dave Phone 094-652
2029.

Lost & Found

MISSING PERSON

**Have you seen this
man?** His last known
whereabouts is Phuket. He
is 56 years old and 183 cm
tall. On behalf of his wife
and two daughters please
contact Jesper Elming. Tel:
+45-30101113. Email:
orjesper@dokuko m.dk
**Any information will be
highly appreciated.**

Golf Stuff

PING G25 SET

Brand new set China made Ping
G25. Played only 9 holes.
Driver, 3, 5, irons, SW, PW and
putter. Stand bag and carry case
included. Only 7,000 baht. Tel:
081-894 1530.

**BLUE CANYON
MEMBERSHIP**

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



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

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

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

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

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net

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

3.5 METER R/B

Aluminium botom hypalon 1 week in water like new THB. 85,000. Tel: 087-145 9428.

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

VESSEL "SANITY"



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

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

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

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

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M



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

KETTERING JE29 TRIMARAN (2007)

Carbon fiber, deck-stepped, rotating mast. Genoa & Genaker both on furlers. Yamaha 8 Hp Hi Trust Outboard. Reduced to only US\$64,950 OBO Contact Alan Giles at Boatshed phuket. com on 084-842 6146 or alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com

21M CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE

Charming 21m motor-sail Gulet yacht, ideal for charter, 55 people. US\$150,000 ONO. Tel: 085-666 5504 (English). Email: info@jabudays.com www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/423591747727674

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

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: bo at andamanboatsales. com

YACHT 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: 2.7 MB. Tel: 084-6255 090. Email: Lemcloe@gmail.com

WOODEN TEAK JUNK BOAT

45ft HK teak junk, excellent family day boat. Extensive refit, single engine Caterpillar, full galley and bathroom. USD 105,000. Email as above, or call Hong Kong 852-9238 9114. Email: blanny2000@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

BENETEAU EVASION 34



1981 50 HP Perkins Motor Sailer, many extras, best state. 1,290,000 baht. Nihat Gunduz. Tel: 086-274 6272. Email: nihat_gunduz@hotmail.com

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

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Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

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

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE

Schionning Wilderness 1620 (2007)

Asking \$699,000 AUD

Built light and strong with top speeds of up to 20 knots under sail, Thor offers comprehensive electronics and the latest technologies, along with air-conditioning and luxurious accommodations.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact our team at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:

P +66 (0) 76 238 117

M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530

E info@multihullsolutions.asia

www.multihullsolutions.asia



SALE | POWER | NEW | PRE-OWNED

Lagoon 500 (2007)

Asking 485,000 EURO

Educat is the popular Lagoon 500 in the five cabin version, including crew quarters. Her flybridge helm station and foredeck lounging areas are perfect for entertaining.
Lying: Langkawi, Malaysia

Leopard 46 (2009)

Asking 420,000 USD

Double Fantasia is a very comfortable blue-water catamaran, featuring four air-conditioned cabins each with en-suites. Thai registered and ready for charter use or private cruising.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

THE 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. CASTIGATE: cast-1-gate 10. MORIBUND: *morbid(un)* 12. TIED: *diet* 13. PARENT: *partner* 14. FLOWERS: *slewfor* 15. MATERNITY: *timetryan* 17. TORMENTOR: to-R-mentor 18. NEUTRAL: *realnut* 20. SCRIBE: describe 21. STUD: *dust* 24. MENTALLY: men-tally 26. FREQUENT: common 28. NODE: nod-E 29. UGLIER: U-*girl(E)* 31. SUNTRAP: S-un-part[rev] 34. GARROTTED: *rag-rotted* 36. DOWNRIVER: *owndriver* 38. MAPHRAO: *ahaprom* 39. NUDISM: *inum(D)* 40. FREE: free 41. MALAYSIA: *amailsay* 42. CLEVEREST: Cl.-Everest

Down:

1. SCOTSMAN: *scamsnot* 2. ASCENT: a-scent 3. PALATIAL: *tailapal* 4. CELERY: *cryeel* 5. IMITATOR: *itorimat* 6. PREFERABLE: Pr-*barefeel* 7. ABDOMEN: *bandemo* 8. INVEST: *svenit* 11. ASTRIDE: *disaster* 16. RARITY: *itary* 19. UPEND: up-end 20. SAY: S.A.-Y 22. TENOR: *note-R* 23. RUNNER: runner 25. LIGHTHOUSE: *thoughlies* 26. FOR: F.O.-R 27. ENDGAME: *genmade* 30. INDENIAL: *inendail* 31. SAWASDEE: *seesawad* 32. PERMEATE: *matepeer* 33. DOORMAN: *roomand* 35. REPEAL: re-*plea* 36. DEDUCT: D-Ed.-*cut* 37. VORTEX: *voter-X*

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I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



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Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit.
100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Horsepower: 260 | Gross Weight: 3140 lbs |
| Top Speed: 166 kts | Empty Weight: 2094 lbs |
| Cruise Speed: 157 kts | Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable |
| Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts | Range: 700 nm |
| Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm | Fuel Av Gas 100LL |
| Ceiling: 17,400 ft | 1 crew plus 3 passengers |

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430
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Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder.
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Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

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TECNAM P-92

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

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Life is a box of chocolates



Renowned chocolatier Chef Jean-Marc Bernelin of Callebaut Chocolate joins Joerg Delin, director of F&B for JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa; Dietmar Spitzer, executive chef for JW Marriott; and Chakapong Masoo, executive pastry chef at Siam Deli.

Former Phuket senator, hospitality dynamo receives Asean award



Tunyaratt Achariyachai, owner and vice president of Kata Group Resorts Thailand and former senator of Phuket, wins 'Outstanding Asean Women Entrepreneurs 2015'. She is one of only 10 women in Thailand who has received the prestigious award.

Mawynn joins Kata Sea Breeze team



Ornachporn 'Koy' Sangsre, public relations manager for Kata Sea Breeze Resort Phuket launches, the resort's new mascot 'Mawynn' at the 34th Thai Teaw Thai travel expo at Queen Sirikit Convention Center, Bangkok, on March 5-8.

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88

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Words from the wise

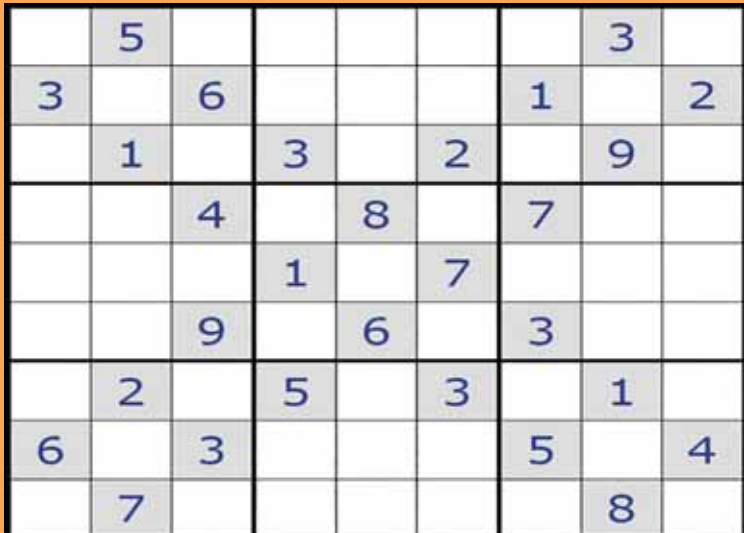
"It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

— Mark Twain

"Never mistake motion for action."

— Ernest Hemingway

Medium



Hard



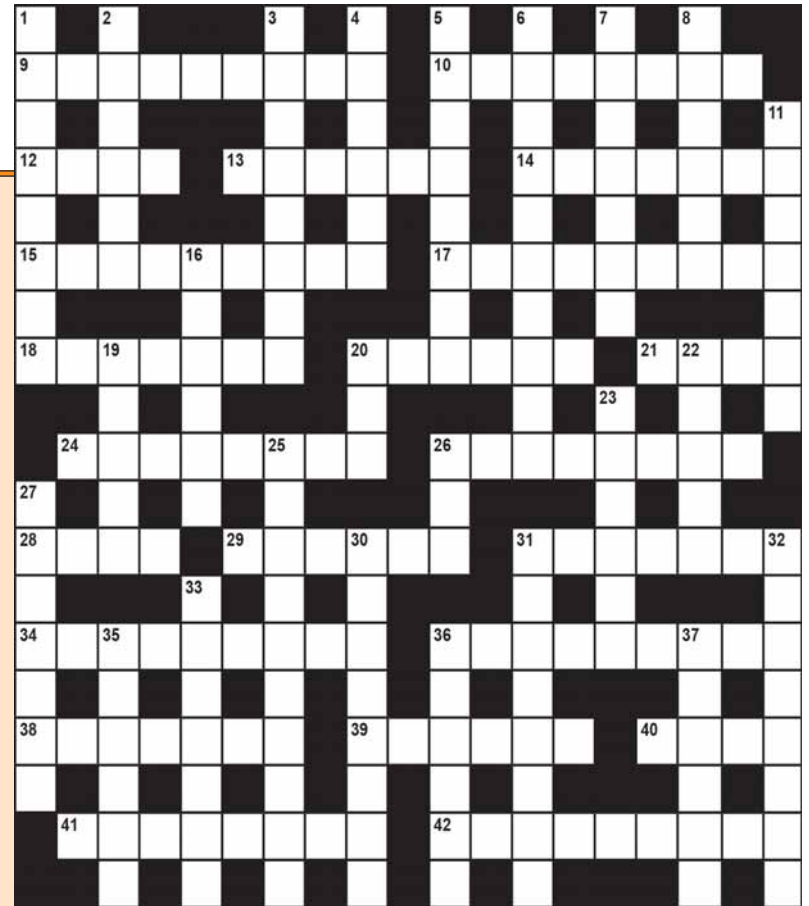
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Throw one opening to criticize (9)
 10. Maybe morbid about one in France near the end (8)
 12. Fixed diet organized (4)
 13. Partner possibly not right as father (6)
 14. Randomly slew for floral tributes (7)
 15. In time, try an arrangement for motherhood (9)
 17. One causing suffering to right adviser (9)
 18. Taking neither side as real nut involved (7)
 20. Not of French, describe marking instrument (6)
 21. Group of breeding animals disturbing dust (4)
 24. Males add up in the head (8)
 26. Go often to common (8)
 28. Demonstrate agreement, note central point (4)
 29. Less attractive University girl maybe hiding Euros (6)
 31. South, one French part turning into a warm spot (7)
 34. Throttled with rag perhaps, decomposed (9)
 36. Own driver wildly going away from the source (9)
 38. Aha, prom constructed in island off Phuket! (7)
 39. Cult of the unclothed in sum could be hiding daughter (6)
 40. Release without charge (4)
 41. A mail, say, could be from a neighboring country (8)
 42. Most intelligent class on the highest peak (9)



Down

1. Scams not arranged by a Caledonian (8)
 2. Rise of a perfume (6)
 3. Luxurious tail a pal ruffled (8)
 4. Cry el wriggled into vegetable (6)
 5. Mimic it or I'm at a muddle (8)
 6. Pair, possibly bare, feel more desirable (10)
 7. Ban demo. about stomach (7)
 8. Put money in, Sven, it changes (6)
 11. Foot on either side could be disaster, not small (7)
 16. Maybe I tarry, an uncommon thing (6)
 19. Out of bed, stop, topple (5)
 20. Declare South Africa Year (3)
 22. Male voice note could be right (5)

23. Sort of bean for an athlete (6)
 25. Beacon for vessels, though lies destroyed (5,5)
 26. In favor of Foreign Office right (3)
 27. Gen. made changes in final stage of negotiations (3,4)
 30. Unwilling to accept, in end ail badly (2,6)
 31. Sees a wad displayed, gets a Thai greeting! (8)
 32. Mate, peer around, pass through (8)
 33. Change room and porter (7)
 35. Revoke concerning plea perhaps (6)
 36. Date Editor possibly cut discount (6)
 37. Voter changed times of thing drawing bodies to the center (6)

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Money may come in the form of a small windfall, bonus or cash that's been delayed. But there's a good chance it might disappear just as quickly if unexpected bills or other expenses need to be paid out. To avoid anxiety hold back from overspending. However, don't hold back from working on an imaginative idea. With energy and commitment this could boost your income.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



You may need to combat a desire to rebel against life's limitations. Although a lively Mars-Uranus link can act as a catalyst, encouraging you to break away from your usual routines, it could also cause you to clash with those who rely on you. However, by the weekend, you might want to reconsider the benefits of being so impulsive.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



A powerful inner restlessness could be the reason you do something out of character and

surprise those closest to you. Perhaps a healthier way to channel such feelings might be to focus them into projects that need a bit of a kick to get them off the ground. By the weekend, more sociable options could be perfect to help you unwind.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



If someone has an idea that sets you thinking, you may be better to research the facts first, particularly where resources and costs are concerned. Over the weekend, information gleaned might suggest a practical and less disruptive way to get the same result, and avoid stress and saving money in the longer-term.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Feelings of excitement may be down to a new opportunity or an ambition that's close to being fulfilled. You could though, find yourself in a dilemma, if your plans threaten to upset a close relationship. However, by the week's end you might realize the benefits of a compromise rather than being a little too stubborn or willful.

YOUR
horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



What's to stop you heading off into the big blue yonder early this week? Your job or general responsibilities, perhaps? However, the desire to get away may be so strong that travel plans become an urgent necessity. Also, a potential conflict concerning a budding romance suggests there could be some personal issues you need to pick through too.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



A relationship with someone who enters your orbit may prove very tempting, but with a potent line-up of planets in Aries hinting at the potential for ill thought – especially where romance or money are concerned – what may seem like a good idea early in the week could appear foolish by the weekend. A chat with a close friend might be your saving grace on this occasion.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A quirky idea suggested by a friend may boost your spirits. However, in general, the people in your life can seem a tad unpredictable, and leave you wondering precisely where you stand. Be determined not to let others in your life upset your emotional equilibrium, even if it means you standing up for yourself and telling it like it is.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You may have to deal with unexpected demands on your time, which can cause you to renege on a promise or deadline. Furthermore, if you are driving or operating machinery around midweek, concentrate particularly carefully to avoid any mishaps. As an antidote, romantic and leisure options could help you relax, especially over the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



The idea of new adventures may conflict with the reality of your financial situation, leaving you feeling upset and uncertain of your next move.

However, on Friday Mercury's long awaited move into Pisces spotlights more emotional communication, and urges you to pay attention to your inner voice. Doing so could help avoid some regrettable actions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Tensions may be apparent on the home front due to talk of an idea that's quite ambitious. Family members may be in conflict about the best course of action, making it difficult to forge ahead. You'll likely find however, that a binding decision is possible, if you can gather everyone together and talk about things in a more diplomatic way.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Much excitement could be building around a plan that is a harbinger of very positive change. But this might be a case of no pain-no gain, and could bring a degree of chaos that proves to be a source of stress. If you need help to move on from the old way of doing things to a new and more upbeat format, friends or even family members may be able to offer you helpful advice.



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Kathu: A golfer's paradise

Kathu, situated in the center of the island, is the perfect location for easy access to golfing, shopping, beaches, schools, marinas and more



Phuket Pads
Patrick Lusted

KATHU, in the center of Phuket, has a number of advantages over other locations on the island when it comes to residential property.

Its central location means that it's as easy to get to Patong on the west coast, as it is to visit Central Festival shopping mall, or Phuket Town on the east side.

It's also within easy reach of many international hospitals and is an ideal location for commuting parents that want to place their children in schools such as British International School Phuket, QSI, Kajonkiet or HeadStart.

Futhermore, Kathu is in easy reach of three golf courses: Phuket Country Club, Loch Palm and Red Mountain. And it should also be noted that marinas such as the Boat Lagoon and Royal Phuket Marina are within a reasonable distance.

The central region is therefore an ideal location, whether you want to be near golf courses, schools, malls, hospitals or the marinas. Property developer Sansiri has already built one large condominium in Kathu, which

sold out within days of its launch.

For expats, families and retirees who don't need the kind of high-priced properties that command sea views, Kathu is the most convenient place to buy, or rent a property.

We have one particular three-bedroom property in Kathu, that will provide any potential resident with complete a golf-course view. It's located just three kilometers from Phuket Town and only six kilometers from Patong's colorful entertainment strip – Soi Bangla.

With a very modern design, the living space of this residential property is built on three levels (184 sqm), with a car port and a boundary that ensures complete privacy.

The first floor hosts an open-plan living

area. The designer kitchen, with gloss-white cabinets and built-in stainless steel appliances, includes a hob, a designer hood, an oven and microwave.

The dining area seats six, and flows into a generously sized lounge, which in turn, opens onto the pool terrace. A guest lavatory and laundry room are also located on this level.

The pool area has been designed for relaxation, and elevated con-

The central region is therefore an ideal location, whether you want golf, schools, shopping, hospitals or the marinas.



This beautiful three-bedroom property in Kathu will provide its residents with full golf-course views.

crete steps take you over the pool to the small garden, which opens to views of the golf course.

The second floor holds the master bedroom suite and features a cozy lounge, built-in wardrobes, a private balcony and a spa-style bathroom with ample windows

and a bathtub.

The two guest bedrooms sit on the top level – both with ensuite bathrooms.

The property is available for rent at 45,000 baht per month for one year's rental agreement and at 60,000 baht per month for six

months rent. The sale price is 12.5 million baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate and quote reference number: HSIL7227. Tel: 076 288 908, www.siamrealestate.com

Land and house tax to be submitted to the Cabinet

FINANCE Minister Sommai Phasee said on Tuesday that he has already adjusted the land and house tax rate and will submit it for Cabinet approval before the end of this month.

The exemption will cover houses valued at no more than 1.5 million baht.

Previously the exemption was only applicable to houses priced at less than 1mn baht. The minister said that those who own more than one house would only have to pay for the most expensive one. The ministry is also looking into a possibility of including houses worth less than 45mn baht under the same criteria as houses worth less than 3mn baht.

He said that the adjustment might reduce the national tax revenue injected into local administrative of-



The exemption will cover houses valued at no more than B1.5mn. Photo: Ernie & Katy Newton Lawley

fices. The details of the tax collection scheme would be tabled to Cabinet for consideration within the next 12 weeks.

The Finance Ministry would also propose amendments to the excise tax collection law and lottery acts at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting. – *The Nation*

Condo market to see only small growth, says leading developer

THE condominium market in Thailand is expected to see only a slight growth from last year, with launches accounting for only 80,000 units, up 2.5 per cent over 2014, while still lower than in 2013, when new projects nationwide launched 85,000 units.

However, the condominium market still accounts for 50 per cent of total residential market volume in Bangkok and its suburbs, said Opas Sripayak, managing director of Thailand's leading condominium developer LPN Development Plc.

Mr Opas added that the company is cautious about buying land, as domestic demand for high-rise buildings has weakened and banks are restricting lending



Demand for high-rise buildings has weakened. Photo: Gazette file

to home buyers.

Several property developers have changed strategies to focus on single-detached houses and town homes after bookings for

condominiums slowed in recent months, he said.

"It [the market for condos] is clearly on a downtrend because most developers are trying to reduce building condominiums, especially those that cost less than 3 million baht per unit," Mr Opas said.

LPN, the property market leader in medium-to-low-priced condominiums, missed its revenue target last year, as it was hit hard by weak demand from consumers after the months-long political unrest.

Rising household debt is slowing condo demand in Thailand and banks are getting cautious about giving loans to home-buyers, Mr Opas added.

– *The Nation*

'Artsketeers' launch exhibit

By Maciek Klimowicz

FOR most, art is just a break, a temporary escape from the daily routine, but three British International School Phuket (BISP) IB Visual Arts students want to make it the theme of their lives. In fact, thanks to their own determination and the support of their school, they are already on the right path with the upcoming BISP 2015 IB Art Exhibition.

The exhibition, which runs from March 23 to March 27, will see the three students – Mimi Siriwang Santi, Jaratchai "JJ" Chongjaroenjaj and Boram Lee – presenting their works to the public for the very first time.

The young artists call themselves "Three Artsketeers" – a

The young artists call themselves 'Three Artsketeers' – a name that provides a much needed courageous boost for the trio, who are still trying to cope with the stress and anxiety of having their oeuvre out in the open, for everyone to see.

name that provides a much needed courageous boost for the trio, who are still trying to cope with the stress and anxiety of having their oeuvre out in the open, for everyone to see.

"I'm quite nervous, but also excited. This is the first time I'm showing my art to the public. My parents are coming as well," says Boram, who likes to draw from her Korean heritage during the creative process.

"Korea represents me the most. I only came to Phuket three years ago, and I didn't know any English, so it's Korean culture that has impacted me the most."

Her fellow Artsketeer JJ is mostly anxious about his parents' reaction to his pieces.

"What I fear the most is showing my artwork to my parents for the first time. My parents disapprove of my choice of [pursuing] art, as they are very business oriented," JJ says. "I just want to

see them happy."

JJ, who is considering becoming a graphic designer in the future, utilizes his art to talk about identity and social issues.

"I mostly talk about flows in human nature. I explore many different art forms, such as installations, but I'm most confident with pen drawing," JJ says.

Mimi shares JJ's fondness for graphic design and finds inspiration in the works of contemporary Thai artists. Her intensely colorful works have a pop-art quality to them and deal with a vast array of topics.

"I'm interested in the identity of people and how we perceive each other in different ways," Mimi says.

Out of the trio, it's Mimi who seems to be the least concerned with showcasing her pieces.

"Success is being happy with your work and letting other people understand it. I'm happy with my work, but I feel I can still develop," she says.

To help nurture that development, BISP art teacher Kathy Coulson encourages the students to experiment with a variety of media.

"I want them to do installations, push beyond their boundaries. This is the true challenge, and a learning experience," she explains, adding that the IB Visual Arts course rigorously challenges every student to expand themselves creatively and visually.

"To pass the course, the students have to show personal reflection and cultural and historical awareness, as well as artistic quality."

But while all of this is quite chal-



THREE ARTSKETEERS: (From left) Mimi Siriwang Santi, Jaratchai 'JJ' Chongjaroenjaj and Boram Lee.



Mimi Siriwang Santi stands in front of her artwork to go on display at British International School.

lenging and time consuming – as confirmed by the students themselves, who all agree that art takes up most of their time and attention – studying art is not time wasted.

According to Kathy, skills

acquired during the course can be applied to other life activities.

"The world of art helps the students expand their personal boundaries, their critical thinking skills and problem solving skills," she says.

"It's a mind-opening experience that makes them ready to tackle new challenges."

The exhibition, which runs from March 23-27, is open to the general public, with the Grand Opening at 2:45pm on March 23.

Brunch by Regent- a true culinary experience

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Every Sunday, the Regent Club at Regent Phuket Cape Panwa becomes a celebration of delicacies from around the world. Choose from sumptuous Sunday Roasts cooked from free range & farm raised meats, oysters, fresh lobsters & seafood, organic salads, artisanal cheese, handcrafted bakery & pastries, healthy & organic raw juices, European cold cuts, made-to-order Belgian waffles and desserts that will surely revive your senses. Accompany the celebration with tempting beverages offers and fine wines.

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From brunch to beach

Nikki Beach Club's Amazing Sunday Brunch has it all

By Mauri Grant

AT THE end of most Sunday brunches, as the meal winds down and champagne diminishes, you start to think about the day ahead, and how to make the most of it, so the impending doom of an inevitable Monday doesn't seem so bad. The focus of the event is often only the food – as delicious as it may be – without anything exciting to follow it up.

This is not the case at Nikki Beach Club's Amazing Sunday Brunch. This isn't just a brunch – it's a spectacular event. The jovial energy is palpable and the atmosphere is unlike any other Sunday brunch I have attended (and I've enjoyed my fair share of them).

As you are graciously welcomed to the open air venue, you can see Layan Beach ahead of you, just beyond a restaurant packed full of relaxed diners enjoying an impressive spread of irresistible foods.

It's immediately evident that this particular brunch is the place to be. There are young, lively tourists, happy families and even a sprinkling of Phuket expats and residents dining, playing in the pool, laying on sunbeds or taking



The brunch's selection of handmade sushi rolls included one with succulent foie gras. Photo: Mauri Grant

advantage of one of the two poolside bars. The crowd is diverse, with varying amounts of energy – and clothing – but everyone has a smile on their face.

I am shown to my table and asked to order a drink. I opt for a young coconut, which is promptly delivered to me before the kind server tells me to enjoy the experience.

There are various food stations

scattered around the restaurant: a beautiful sushi selection, a meat-carving station, a salads table, fresh seafood on ice, a bread and pastries area, an omelet and *pad thai* creation station and, of course, a dessert counter.

With brunch, it's best to try a little bit of everything – and so I tried.

To start, there was the hand-rolled sushi (which came with a

smile from the sushi chef), fresh prawns, an omelet, ahi tuna pasta and a few choice salad dishes.

The chosen meat, pork, was so juicy and tender that it practically slid off the bone. The prawns were massive, and tasted as if they had been caught and steamed moments before being plopped onto my plate. Everything was exploding with flavor – sadly there are numerous dishes I could not make

room for.

Throughout the meal the server was quick, detail-oriented and attentive. I haven't had such great service in a restaurant since I arrived in Phuket almost two years ago. Without a doubt it enhanced the experience.

After finishing off the mouth-watering meal with a just-the-right-amount-of-sweet coconut cake and a hot coffee, it was time to venture outside to join my fellow bikini-clad patrons.

Before I could get up from my table, though, there was the roaring of an engine. Suddenly, a man on a gleaming black motorcycle zoomed through the restaurant, with a stunning woman riding pillion and holding a giant – for lack of a better word – bottle of champagne, which had sparklers attached to the top.

So, just when I thought the Sunday brunch couldn't get more unique, I was proven wrong.

At Nikki Beach Club, the fabulous culinary start to the day was only the beginning – the party was just getting started. No matter what you want from your day – relaxation, family time, a party with friends – Nikki Beach has it. And they deliver it with class, style and taste.



Every item offered at the brunch – no matter the size – exploded with flavor.



The prawns tasted as if they had been caught, steamed and placed directly on my plate.



The Phuket Gazette would like to say

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the world is informed of what is happening in Phuket.

*Receiving the award in the photo above (l to r) are: Sommai Saetan (editor),
Krisana Matzenberger (presenter), Karl Vandenhole (videographer),
Simon J Hand (producer), Woranut Pechdee (TV news reporter)
and Noppadon Waharuk (videographer). Nattamon Meesin, co-producer
in charge of keeping us out of trouble, is currently on maternity leave.*

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Phuket today
Phuket Gazette



Changing helmet culture

On Your Mind

By Patrick Mattimore

ON A recent trip to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, I was struck by an interesting phenomenon traveling from the airport to my hotel. I saw perhaps more than a thousand motorcycle riders and passengers, and only one person was not wearing a helmet. Yet, the entire two weeks I spent in that city, I didn't see a single police officer giving out tickets enforcing a helmet law.

When I got back to Phuket, the lead story in the *Gazette* was about the tragic deaths of various drivers and passengers (cars and motorcycles). The story emphasized several things.

First, at least two of the three motorcycle riders who were killed were not wearing helmets (no mention as to whether the third rider was or was not).

Second, the police spokesperson in the article pointed out that the police here are constantly giving tickets to riders who fail to wear helmets. Certainly, my own observations bear that out.

Third, that same spokesperson implied that the police are relatively powerless to stop the riders who insist on disobeying the helmet laws. Finally, he suggested



It's high time to change the helmet culture in Phuket and elsewhere in Thailand. Photo: Khaosaming

that it is up to people to protect themselves by wearing helmets.

The first issue is whether having everyone wearing helmets is a good thing and, if it is, how to get them to do it. In the United States, where the helmet debate has been studied extensively, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that wearing a helmet reduces the risk of dying in a crash by 37 per cent.

Helmet-less riders are three times more likely than helmeted ones to sustain traumatic brain injuries in the event of a crash. The

NHTSA estimates that helmets saved 1,829 motorcyclists' lives in 2008 and that 822 of the helmet-less motorcyclists who died would have survived if they would have worn helmets.

The World Health Organization (WHO) concurs, estimating that wearing a helmet correctly can reduce the risk of death by almost 40 per cent and the risk of severe injury by more than 70 per cent.

So, let's assume that wearing helmets is a good thing.

According to a 2013 WHO report, Thailand ranks worst in the

world for motorbike and two-wheeler casualties. More than 11,000 motorbike drivers or passengers die annually. Traffic accidents are one of the highest causes of death for children in Thailand. Helmet wearing is low overall – less than 50 per cent – and particularly low for children.

Danai Ruangsorn, president of the Thai Roads Foundation, said the percentage of children wearing helmets is only 7 per cent.

In Thailand, accidents involving motorcycles account for more than 80 per cent of traffic injuries.

If punishing non-helmeted riders isn't the answer, what is? The answer is simple: Create a social norm in which wearing helmets, as in Vietnam, is the usual practice. A social norm is a group-held belief about how persons should behave in various contexts. Norms in every culture create conformity that allows for people to become socialized to the culture in which they live.

Here are two simple suggestions using social norm models. Soap operas are popular in Thailand. Introduce characters and situations on those programs in which helmets are prominently displayed, not just when characters are riding on their bikes, but also when they are transitioning from or to the motorcycles. This model has been effective in Latin American countries during soap opera presentations in encouraging the use of birth control.

The second idea is to establish a public relations campaign in which the message is that other Thais are already using helmets. Being helmet-less will therefore be viewed as being against socially normative behavior.

It is time to change this behavior pattern in Phuket, and Thailand, which contributes nothing but sadness to people's lives.

An elephantine task

A COMMITTED environmentalist, Janpai Ongsiriwittaya has become known for her efforts to save elephants and put an end to the ivory trade, which ends in the deaths of thousands of pachyderms every year.

The leader of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Thailand's campaign to stop the illegal wildlife trade, Janpai is determined to push government to totally eradicate ivory sales rather than just bringing them under control.

In 2010, Janpai was forced to face up to the fact that the majority of her countrymen had little interest in environmental concerns.

"There were also very few places where these people could receive information about the issue," she notes.

The WWF Thailand thus set out to create a platform where the public and concerned parties could hold constructive dialogue and find a solution to the problems.

The WWF-Thailand's "Chor Chang Can Save Elephants" campaign is a case in point. This program aims to increase awareness about the ivory trade in Thailand and is conducted through several channels, from social media to events in public areas.

The campaigners invite all people who are interested to join the activity to symbolically remove the letter "Chor Chang" from their names – which is the Thai alphabet equivalent of "E for elephant".

The issue came even more into



Thailand has made moves toward controlling ivory smuggling. Photo: Nick Harder

the public eye in 2013 when Thailand played host to the Sixteenth Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) meeting to curb the problem of trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and was urged by CITES to live up to expectations in dealing with the ivory trade.

Thailand has now made significant moves toward controlling ivory smuggling through the enactment of several laws.

The latest law – the 2015 Ivory Trade Act – can be credited directly to WWF's efforts. It controls the trade, import, export and possession of ivory and ivory products originating from domesticated elephant ivory.

"We have come a long way from where we started," says Janpai.

With a satisfactory awareness of the issue now achieved, Janpai will be putting her efforts to completely stamp out the illegal ivory trade as well as other threats to the environment. – *The Nation*

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Life after nut rage

Don't become a slave to the technology or go 'off the grid'



Island Fever

By Bill Barnett

WE LIVE in a complicated day and age. With our lives revolving around “selfies”, our very existence is punctuated by snapshots expressing extreme delight. Sadly, most of these moments seem to occur only in cyberspace.

One recent event that is testament to how quickly our world can about-face is the Korean Air “nut rage” incident involving Heather Cho, a former top executive for the airline. Now

facing a one year jail sentence, one has to wonder about the high price she paid for her antics.

I'm not a huge nut fan, but get me into a serious vodka-tonic session on an empty stomach and my

appetite turns to that of a wild dog scavenging for even a small peanut or one tasty cashew. Though, really, one is never enough and – yes – it is indeed the loneliest number.

My morning sleep today was interrupted by the announcement about Apple's new smart watch. It is a watch that, according to its promoters, is the pinnacle of “watchdom” – the smartest time-piece ever invented. All I did was stare down at my bare wrists and wonder why I should have to devote a few decades and be burdened by this “singular handcuff” of the modern age.

Technology is supposed to en-

hance our lives, allowing us to muster up more time for the arts – perhaps a quest for the meaning of life – or bear testament to the world's great religions. Instead it's become all-consuming.

Sure, digital detox is a fad, but, like McDonalds, tabloids and drugs we secretly want to inflict on our bodies, technology invades our every-day lives with sensational information that is supposedly life-altering. Breaking news? What a charade... How to hashtag or trend a celebrity happening?

I am not ashamed of my attraction to the weird, arcane and

cheesy. As of late, I have taken my television viewing to those reality shows about people who get off the grid and go live in the forest – get back to nature. Yes, the pioneering spirit is intriguing; yet these families

all have bad teeth, can hardly string a proper sentence together and for all practical purposes, seem to be stark raving lunatics.

Could they use an Apple smart watch? There is little doubt, as unwanted a bed partner as it is, technology also seems to be a necessary evil – like having a dental check-up or visiting the in-laws. Still, as I stare back at a life lived both tech heavy and tech light, the reality is that in a virtually enlightened existence our basic needs, wants and passions remain pretty much where they always have been.

We love the glitterati, the

/ Sure, digital detox is a fad, but like McDonalds, tabloids and drugs we secretly want to inflict on our bodies, technology invades our every-day lives with sensational information that is supposedly life-altering. /



People will need to find a balance in their lives with regard to how they use technology. Image: Vanity Mirror

celebrity gossip and checking out new things. What has changed is the speed – what is now collectively here today, is gone tomorrow. I'm not sure I want an Apple smart watch, and yet,

something deep inside me says that I must have one.

Though I have no plans to move to the Alaskan wilderness, I do intend to fight this primal urge and, at the end of the day,

there is little doubt that my spirit will be preserved.

As for the bartender standing so near, and yet so far... “Can you pass over that bowl of nuts please?”

Game Developers Conference heralds virtual reality games

VIRTUAL reality head gear makers including Sony and Facebook-owned Oculus were at a Game Developers Conference (GDC) in the United States last week to tout the promise of putting players so deeply into game worlds that they seem real.

“Virtual reality headset makers are looking for great games that help show off the power of the hardware,” said Scott Steinberg, chief of video game consulting firm TechSavvy Global.

Virtual reality has been heralded in decades past as the next-big-thing in gaming, but those behind hardware this time around believe the technology is getting good enough to deliver on the promise.

Sony unveiled a new-generation

prototype of “Morpheus” virtual reality head gear and said a version for consumers is on track for release in the first half of next year.

Valve and Taiwan-based smartphone maker HTC announced that they are working together on Vive virtual reality head gear to be released by the end of this year. Oculus also announced that they were working on virtual reality gear, but with Samsung.

– The Nation



Photo: Phil Whitehouse




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Strike a beach balance



Thinking Green

By Dr Peter W Harris

"WE NEED chairs," are the plaintive cries in the press, demanding a return to the old model of endless rows of deck chairs and umbrellas. Meanwhile, the vendors are crying, "Our businesses have been hit badly." And at the same time, environmentalists are claiming, "Our natural treasures are being directly influenced by coastal law enforcement, pollution, construction, density of vendors and litter management."

These are all interests in the current discussions about the policy and management of our beaches.

Phuket's beauty and mystique has, for many years, beckoned those seeking paradise. Until the 1970s, Phuket had been largely undeveloped. Starting in the 1980s, the sandy beaches and the western coast of the island quickly started to become a tourist haven.

The tourism industry continued to grow until the tsunami hit the island on December 24, 2004. But the damaged buildings were quickly restored and Phuket continued on its path of intense development. As of the 2010 census, there were some 520,000 people residing on the island, including 119,000 foreigners and 68,000 migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

Expected tourist arrivals in 2015 are 24.71 million, a decrease from the year earlier by 6.93 per cent, but this year's overall arrivals could reach 28.36 million, generating about 1.29 trillion baht from foreign travellers and 800 billion baht locally. These figures can be impacted by fluctuations in overseas economies and, in particular, the launch of the Asean Economic Community.

With so much human pressure, Phuket's environment has undergone some dramatic changes. The new government has taken action to establish a more integrated approach to Phuket's development and environment management, resulting in the rehabilitation of coastal eco-systems for sustainable



Phuket authorities inspected Bang Tao Beach last week and removed all vendors found encroaching on the sands. Photo: Thalang District Office



Just last year, rows and rows of sunloungers and umbrellas covered most of the sand at Nai Harn Beach. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

livelihoods and disaster-risk reduction.

It is a good time to take stock. Tourism is one of the two mainstays of Phuket's economy, and many tourists come to Phuket for its famous white sand and clean marine waters.

The halt on beach encroachment by restaurants and vendors offering sunloungers and umbrellas, as well as jet-skis, will allow some breathing space for wider

consultation, before the cumulative effects of pollution that threaten to overwhelm nature's resilience mechanisms take hold.

The current consultations must take into account all the long-term sustainable interests for Phuket, as laid down in the Phuket Sustainability Indicator Report also known as SEEK (Society, Environment, Economy & Knowledge).

Following the model of SEEK

would steer the current community discussions into a sustainable course for the beaches, the seas and watercourses, and the business hinterland. Economic interests would be balanced against the need to protect the environment long into the future, and would ensure that our society is strong and the interests of every person protected, whether they be local, migrant workers or long-

term or short-term visitors.

Local and community ownership would empower and enable community volunteer groups working with other stakeholders to manage the beach conditions, water quality monitoring and the management of waste.

The government has given us the chance to contribute to the future management of our beaches. We should embrace this chance while we have it.

Conservation group outraged by felling of century-old banyan tree

THE felling of a more than 100-year-old banyan tree has outraged a local Phuket conservation group, with members vowing to find the culprits behind the act.

Members of the Big Tree Club – a group of local engineers and architects who fight against the felling of old trees in Phuket – contacted the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and the Phuket City Municipality to find out who had been ordered to cut down the tree, which was once standing beside the *OrBorJor* school on Chao Fa West Road.

"Both offices told us that they had not ordered anyone to cut down the tree," said Anawut Praphanwong, secretary of the Big Tree Club.

"We came to see this tree quite frequently to help take care of it. However, on February 3, we found out that the tree had been mostly cut down, with only the bottom part of it left. We were very disappointed."

"We heard from school security that six men had come with equipment and cut the tree down."

Mr Anawut said that the club is committed to finding out who cut down the tree.

"We need to help each other take care of nature and our trees. Government offices, private sectors and local people should all work together and keep an eye on our environment," he said.

– Thawit Bilabdullar



The banyan tree was more than 100 years old. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Keeping an eye on things



IT'S astonishing what one can learn by watching Mother Nature at work. As readers know, my garden has long been plagued by hawk moth caterpillars. But what is fascinating is that these voracious munchers have a distinct pecking (or should I say munching) order.

Their diet, in strict order of preference, is *tabernaemontas*, then periwinkles, next *adeniums*, and then *neriums* or oleanders.

Annoyingly, the delicate *tabernaemontana*, or pinwheel flower, with its tiny evergreen leaves and white blooms, is the least able to bear these larval assaults: one day's activity and a plant can be stripped of foliage.

All these shrubs not only possess poisonous foliage and fruits, but they also belong to the same large family of *apocynaceae*. They are often gardeners' favorites: showy, flowering shrubs, at home in tropical conditions. This group,



The delicate *tabernaemontana* are least able to bear assaults by larval predators. Photo: Mokkie

all toxic in varying degrees, are revealing their secrets to science, proving important new sources of heart stimulants, such as cardiac glycosides. Traditional medicine has long been aware of their curative properties.

Nonetheless, there are inconsistencies. While it has been conjectured that caterpillars derive immunity from eating toxic foli-

age, it seems that certain predators couldn't care at all about that.

And not all members of the *apocynaceae* brigade are even susceptible to larval predations. *Plumerias* (frangipanis), for instance, though victims of a worldwide affliction called rust, seem impervious to larval attacks, while *allamandas*, my personal top shrub, seem, in Thailand at

least, to have no enemies at all.

Allamandas are deservedly popular. Though they grow with sufficient vigor to be rated invasive in parts of Queensland, they adapt perfectly to Phuket's hot, humid climate and my garden would be the poorer without them.

A robust grower, *allamanda cathartica* will bloom more or less continuously in tropical environ-

ments provided the soil is not too alkaline and the roots are not allowed to dry out completely. Mature growth can be cut back, especially if the lower stems become straggly due to limited exposure to the sun.

Yet another shrub with curative properties, the *allamanda* contains iridoid lactones, which is used for liver complaints, malaria and even in the fight against certain cancers.

Its less spectacular cousin, *allamanda schottii*, has narrow leaves and similar but smaller yellow flowers. Very popular as a massed border plant for road verges or central reservations, it is even hardier than *A. cathartica*.

Less robust is *allamanda blanchettii*, a shrub which has the characteristic trumpet-shaped blooms, but in a shade of dusky rose-pink. Like all *allamandas*, it seems completely disease and caterpillar free. Quite a bonus.

Catch Patrick at PhuketGazette.net Sunday morning next week, when he reveals more of his gardening expertise.



Allamanda cathartica bloom more or less continuously in tropical environments provided the soil is not too alkaline. Photo: Meneerke bloem

Tip of the Week

Cutting tools

THERE are plenty of places where you can buy tools in Phuket, but you will pay a bit more for quality carbon steel. Cheap tools rust in this climate and break easily. I am currently on my fourth pair of secateurs.


Essential tools for cutting include secateurs or pruners. You can choose either an anvil or a bypass type with overlapping blades. This type is much easier to find.

For heavier pruning, you will need long-handled shears, sometimes known as loppers. They possess much more leverage: the larger ones can cut through branches up to two inches thick. Never twist your pruners when cutting; it will cause distortion of



Hedge shears have longer blades than handles. Photo: Hans Bernhard

Hedge shears have longer blades and handles – maybe 12 inches – and are best for clipping formal hedges or removing bushy growth. Oil all your cutting tools regularly, and sharpen occasionally with a carborundum stone or file.



PHUKET PROVINCE

HEROINES' MEMORIAL FESTIVAL 2015

MARCH 7-15, THALANG HISTORICAL PARK

Enjoy a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang on March 13 – 15, starting at 8.30pm each night

March 7
A group ordination of Buddhist monks will take place at Ketho Temple in Kathu, starting at 7.30am.

March 8-11
Each day, there will be a historical tour in Thalang starting at 9am that includes:
 1. Thalang National Museum
 2. Wat Phra Nang Sang
 3. Wat Phra Thong
 4. Baan Thao Thep
 5. Wat Muang Komaraphat
 6. Thalang Victory Memorial, and other places

March 8
At Thalang historical park will be a mini-marathon starting at 6am, and bicycle races starting at 11am.

March 12
A worship gathering to pay respect to the ancestors of Thalang will be held at Wat Muang Komaraphat, starting at 9am.

March 13
There will be a ceremony to honor Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn and praise the bravery of the two sisters at Heroines' Monument at 9.09am.

March 13-15
Each night at Thalang historical park, vendors will sell local foods and One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods from 5pm, traditional performances will be on stage from 7pm until midnight, and a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang beginning at 8:30pm.

Jessandra II wins racing class

By Scott Murray

THE 18th Bay Regatta: Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi set sail on March 5, with 29 yachts carrying over 200 competitors, flying the flags of 11 nations.

Affectionately known as the 'Fun Regatta' to all participants, countries represented included Thailand, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Germany, Denmark, Singapore, Australia, Russia, and Indonesia.

Consisting of a series of passage races, the yachts were divided into 4 classes – Racing, Cruising A, Cruising B and Multihulls.

Unlike other regattas in the region, The Bay Regatta is unique as it visits different destinations everyday. Home for the race committee was *Seraph*, the 104-year-old Schooner owned by Tom Howard of Sea-Phuket.com, and the fantastic new 'power' catamaran *Rendezvous*, built by Phuket-based Asia Catamarans.

This year's racing class was won by Roland Dane's *Jessandra II* with a total of five points; second went to Fergus and Jennifer Wilmer's *Foo 4* with eight points; third to Evgeni Nikforov's *First* with 13 points; while Mick Tilden's *Fujin* was fourth with 16 points and Nicolay Vlasov's *Tiburon* was last with 18 points.

The multihull class saw John Coffin's *Java* take first overall with eight points. Second spot



Roland Dane's *Jessandra II* win the Bay Regatta racing class with a total of five points. Photo: The Bay Regatta

went to Alan Carwadine's *Hurricane*, who tied with Andrew DeBruin's *Bullet* with 12 points, but took second spot because of higher placings in their races. Andrew was sailing with his son Fin and Scott Duncanson.

In Bay Regatta history, no one

captain, or boat, has won its class more often than Niels Degenkolw's *Phoenix* and the team did it again, capturing Cruising A with four points; *Sansiri Windstar* was next with five; *Mas Alegre* was third with 10; *Venus Hunter* was fourth with 14; *Linda*

fifth with 17 and *Allsail Uhuru* and *Sailom* tied for sixth with identical records at 20 points each.

Cruising B class saw the Gillows on *Poco* sweep all three of their races, taking first place overall. The regatta's 'courage award' went to Kevin Gillow, who

after suffering a stroke last year, made a remarkable comeback to win this class with just his charming daughter Mia as the only other crew member.

Meg Wehrle's *Aqua* and Kevan and Sheila Perrins' *Oyster 435 Rusalka* ended up tied with eight points, but *Aqua* took second based on two second-place finishes. Fourth went to Steve Johnson's *Bonobo* with 13 points; Sergei Dikanov's *Rate* was fifth with 17 points; and sixth spot went to Rob Devlin's *SY Ravensong*, with *Toot Yai* fittingly bringing up the rear with 23 points.

The event is organized by Regattas Asia in conjunction with the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) and with support from The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Yacht Racing Authority of Thailand (YRAT).

Host sponsors for the regatta were the Chandara Resort & Spa, the Paradise Koh Yao Beach Resort & Spa, the Arayaburi Boutique Resort, the Bay View Resort, the PP Erawan Palms Resort and the O2 Beach Club.

Local supporters included B&G, Canvas Creations, Electrical Marine, Quantum Sails, Octopus Electrical Services, Krabi Boat Lagoon, Phuket Boat Lagoon and *SY Seraph*. The official media partners are *SEA Yachting* and the *Greater Phuket Magazine*.

Regatta partners included Asia Catamarans, Haad Thip, Jungceylon, Neil Pryde and the Mangosteen.

Dozen national records set at Andaman Freedive Challenge

PHUKET freedivers showed well as 12 national records were smashed at the three-day Andaman Freediving Challenge by Blue Planet Apnea from Blue Planet Divers on Koh Lanta, Krabi.

"Among the competitors, we had a few known faces who had competed in Phuket before and some competitors who were completely new to competitive freediving," said Association Internationale pour le Developpement de l'Apne (AIDA) judge Richard Wonka of Phuket's We Freedive.

The records are still pending official approval, Richard notes.

We Freedive intern, Fahud Faiz, 34, has caught the most attention after setting three Maldives national records during the event. Fahud set the records in static apnea (3:18min), and dynamic with fins 69 meters and 46m. Since doing so, he has found himself in his homeland's spotlight with even members of parliament congratulating him.

"It means a lot to me to be the first freediver [from the Maldives] to set three national records and give hope for other Maldivian freedivers to go ahead and perform well in this sport," Fahud told the *Phuket Gazette* after being featured in national news back home. "Maldives is a country which is highly proud of our oceans. Our way of living depends on our oceans, so any sport which relates to the ocean is always big news in the Maldives, plus freedive is growing among the youth there."

Fahud admits to having made some

rookie mistakes in his debut competition, but is still happy with the results.

"I would like to thank We Freedive center, also Richard and Sara for the professional and quality education and training provided by them to prepare me for the tournament. Andaman Freedive Challenge 2015 has opened the doors for me to competitive freediving. They will be seeing a lot more of me in the coming years," Fahud said.

Joining Fahud in smashing national records were Malaysian national Azua Shafii, who set five female national records, and Nicolla Lacey, from Ireland, who set three records.

Azua put in strong performances to set records in the dynamic no fins (76m), dynamic with fins (130m), free immersion (40m), constant weight (41m) and constant weight without fins (25), while Nicolla was in top form in the free immersion (40m), constant weight (35m) and constant weight without fins (25m).

Also setting a record at the event was Azam Hamid, who set Malaysian records during the We Freedive Suunto series in Phuket. At the Andaman Freediving Challenge, Azam set his previous default record in constant weight with a 50m dive. Additionally, Nora Galgoczy set the free immersion female record for Hungary with a dive to 20m.

But at the end of the event it was the Malaysians, Azua and Azam, who took



A diver ascends from the depths during the competition. Photo: Blue Planet Apnea

home top prizes for their efforts in the Dive Supply and Suunto sponsored event. Each received a D4i Suunto dive computer.

"The atmosphere was fantastic. It was very relaxed, with people helping each other out all the time, which happens a lot in

freediving competitions," said Richard. "Organization went very well, we had no safety issues whatsoever, a few non-white cards, but nothing serious. It all worked really well."

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

Warriors tame Tigers

Phuket hosts first Aussie Rules match at Alan Cooke Ground

By Tim Cole

AUSTRALIAN football arrived in Phuket last Saturday, as the Thailand Tigers took on the Malaysian Warriors at the Alan Cooke Ground. The game was well attended by Phuket residents and families, as well as other supporters, many of whom were new to the game. The day also involved an Auskick clinic for junior players, which was a hit among both local and visiting children.

The Malaysian side came in to the game looking to even the ledger after being beaten by Thailand in the Asian Championships last year. They flew out of the blocks, kicking the first three goals of the match. However, the Tigers maintained their composure and were able to hit back with goals of their own before quarter time.

The second quarter belonged to the home side, with the Tigers able to pressure the Warriors into making mistakes with the ball through their defensive and tackling efforts. Although both teams continued scoring, the Tigers had moved to within seven points of the Warriors by half time.

In Australian football, the third quarter is known as the "premiership" quarter, and for good reason – the team that is in the lead at the end of it is in prime position to win the game. Both teams were well aware of this, and put in big efforts in the quarter's 20 minutes. As the game progressed, the spaces started to open up on the excellent field, which was prepared by Andrew McMillan. The Tigers ran hard and won plenty of contested ball, but it was the Warriors who were able to make the most of their opportunities when going forward. Their cleaner ball use and accurate kicking saw them take a five-goal lead into three-quarter time.

The final quarter saw the younger players among the Tigers



The Malaysian Warriors left the Tigers trapped behind with a final score of 106 to 60. Photo: Time Cole

consistently playing well and leading the way for their team, but to no avail. Thailand had to take more chances to score to pressure Malaysia, who were good enough to

win the ball and score on quick turnovers. The final score was a 46-point win to Malaysia, 106 to 60. James Worland of Malaysia was awarded the best on ground,

also kicking eight goals to be the leading goal kicker.

The Tigers will continue training before their next game, the ANZAC day tribute match in

Kanchanaburi on April 25. The first game of Australian football in Phuket was a great success, and both teams are very keen to return next year.

Laguna on winning roll in PCG

AS SONGKRAN approaches, the temperature rises in the Phuket Cricket Group's (PCG) senior league. On March 8, Laguna stayed on a winning roll as they played against the Village at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

Laguna, who were coming off the back of a good win against Thalang in their previous match, were looking to consolidate their position in the race for the minor premiership. Meanwhile, the Village were looking to regain the form that saw them upset Patong



When did you last have a maiden century? Photo: Pollock to Hussey

with a win last month.

Laguna comfortably secured a victory, scoring an impressive 257-5 from 41 overs including a maiden century from Arif Mushtaq, while the Village were

all out for 132 in 36 overs.

On March 15, ICC are matched up against the Village in what is expected to be another cracker of a match.

– Phuket Gazette

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DJ TOB • MC BIG CALO

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