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SPECIAL REPORT INSIDE TODAY

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20 Baht



Tourism Minister Kobkarn is pushing hard to change regulations that directly affect superyacht owners. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous / Tanya Sto

Special task force tackles regulations retarding yachting industry growth

By Chutharat Plerin

A SPECIAL task force has been formed to come up with viable suggestions for changes to visas and yacht-charter regulations to help boost marine tourism in Phuket, with a working deadline for rolling out the changes by the new year.

"The task force comprises officials from relevant government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Immigration Bureau,"

Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul revealed to the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview.

"We are working together to come up with suggestions for changes to visas and other regulations that would be best for the country," she said.

"This includes changes that will boost the chartering of foreign-flagged superyachts in Thai waters."

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has pledged his full support for bureaucratic changes to help boost marine tourism, Ms Kobkarn added.

"I recently spoke with Transport Minister Air Chief Marshall Prajin Janthong about what can be done to push Phuket as a yachting destination," she explained.

"Minister Prajin confirmed that he had met with PM Prayut, who he said pledged his full support for improving all aspects of marine tourism, including yacht and superyacht charters."

Ms Kobkarn said she could not reveal any more details as any proposed changes had yet to be finalized.

"This is an important issue, as any changes will affect different types of visas and businesses. We must also consider internal security and safety measures a top priority, but I will support the changes suggested because it means a lot for tourism," she said.

"We hope to have new rules in place by the end of this year to help secure the island's position as the top yachting destination in the region."

The move to overhaul the visas and laws regulating yacht charters follow a meeting with Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong and Gulu Lalvani, chairman of the Royal Phuket Marina, in January.

At the meeting, Ms Kobkarn vowed to raise concerns voiced about crew visas and the chartering of foreign-flagged superyachts...

Continued on Page 6

Nikki redresses baby elephant in beach club

NIKKI Beach Club Phuket has vowed to stop granting requests for elephants at its parties, following public outcry about photographs surfacing of a baby elephant being ridden by patrons at the club.

The photos of the baby elephant being paraded around the club sparked a firestorm of negative reactions on social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

Full Story Page 2

Tourist survives boat propeller slash to head

A GERMAN tourist who was struck in the head by the propeller of a longtail boat off Karon Beach last week is recovering well.

The man was swimming about 60 meters from shore when he was struck. Lifeguards were able to reach the still-conscious man quickly by jet-ski and take him promptly to Patong Hospital.

Full Story Page 3

Warning issued after child, 9, drowns in lake

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has called on all local administrations on the island to take steps to prevent child drownings in their areas, following a 9-year-old boy drowning at Nai Harn Lake last Sunday.

Full Story Page 3

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This Week



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BlueAnda taps into the tourism market through quality. **Page 11**



Property

Why foreign investors should focus on the long-term. **Page 25**



Food

Hyatt Regency's Sunday brunch kicks off with a bang. **Page 27**



Boating

Young superyacht crew trainees take skills to the world. **Page 31**



Well-being

How exercise can turn back the hands of time. **Page 33**



Sport

Phuket's swimmers dominate Thanyapura Invitational. **Page 34**

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Nikki Beach Club bans use of baby elephants

By Gazette editors

NIKKI Beach Club Phuket vowed this week to stop granting requests for elephants at its parties, following public outcry about photographs of a baby elephant being ridden by patrons.

The pictures of the baby elephant being paraded around the club sparked a firestorm of negative reactions on various social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter. A Facebook group called 'Boycott Nikki Beach Hotel - Phuket' was formed in response, and had garnered more than 700 likes as of Wednesday.

The pictures went viral even outside of Phuket, going so far as to be shared on the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) Facebook page, and prompting a story on onegreenplanet.org, a 'lifestyle platform for the growing compassionate and eco-conscious generation'.

Nikki Beach, an internationally renowned chain of clubs and resorts, responded quickly to the backlash with statements on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

They first posted a response on March 28 that read, "Elephants are a highly respected and regarded symbol of Thailand. As a global company, Nikki Beach respects



Elephants are now banned at Nikki Beach Club. Photo: Facebook

every country's culture and traditions and as such, we fall into the normal behaviors in usage of elephants to represent their culture. We never intended to be disrespectful and/or offend anyone."

The company later amended its statement to confirm that Nikki Beach would never stand for the mistreatment of animals, and that the club in Phuket would stop granting requests for elephants.

The statement read, "We would like to make it clear that we do

not, have not and will never own an elephant. The elephant in the photo is from a reputable elephant caretaker who has no affiliation with Nikki Beach. With the above said, we understand that this has upset many of our customers and animal advocates around the world, so effective immediately, we will stop granting the requests for elephants at Nikki Beach Phuket. The Nikki Beach family will never stand for the mistreatment of animals."

Motorcyclist dies in crash with parked 18-wheeler

A MAN died after crashing his motorbike into an 18-wheeled truck parked near Siam Niramit on the bypass road on March 29.

At the scene, police found the body of Warodom Withayani-thidilok, 25, with a broken neck and facial injuries, said Maj Rachan Punwai of the Phuket City Police.

The visor of Mr Warodom's helmet was shattered in the collision, Maj Rachan noted.

"I was driving from Koh Kaew heading to Phuket City when one of my tyres blew out. I pulled over so I could call my company," said truck driver Adisorn Samankit, 50.

"Ten minutes later, a motorbike



Rescue workers carry the body of Mr Warodom to the ambulance.

being driven very fast crashed into the back of the truck. I immediately called the police."

Mr Warodom's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, and Mr Adisorn was taken to the Phuket City Police Station for questioning.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Half-buried body of Brit found on beach

LOCALS discovered the half-buried body of a British national on Nai Yang Beach on March 28.

The fully clothed body of Simon Lian Hua Soh, 67, was still partially covered in sand when rescue workers and police arrived at the scene.

"We believe that he died about 10 hours before he was discovered. There was no sign of a struggle," Lt Col Watcharin Chiratkarnvivat of the Tah Chat Chai Police explained. "We believe that he may have fallen unconscious on the beach. With no one around to help him, it is possible that he was just covered by sand and water as the tide came in."

Inside Mr Soh's pockets, police found a room key for the



A rescue worker prepares to transport the body of Mr Soh.

Naiyang Sonwa Resort, a Malaysian identification card and a wallet containing both Thai and Malaysian currency.

According to hotel staff, Mr Soh checked into the hotel alone on March 27.

"Last night, he left the hotel.

However, staff did not know where he went," said Col Watcharin on March 28. "At this juncture, we have yet to determine the cause of death, so we will continue our investigation."

The body was taken to Thalang Hospital. — **Thawit Bilabdujar**



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Police ordered to follow up on mafia, beach scheme cases

A GROUP of police officers and island officials met with Phuket Public Prosecutor Pisitpol Phumsawat on March 25 to follow up on the progress in the high-profile taxi mafia and billion-baht-beach scheme cases.

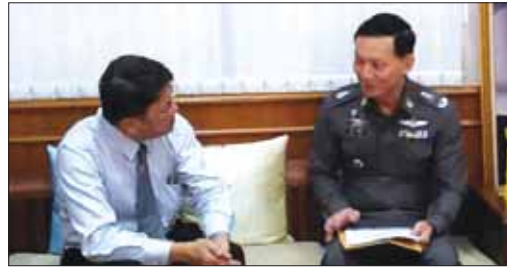
"I have been ordered by the Royal Thai Police and the National Council for Peace and Order to follow up on these cases, as they have received a lot of media attention," Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Paween Pongsirin told the *Gazette* on March 26.

"We met with Mr Pisitpol to submit a formal letter requesting information about the investigation progress on each of the cases that were handed over last year regarding the taxi mafia and beach encroachment in Karon."

Maj Gen Paween said that the public prosecutor did not provide any clear information about the state of the investigations.

Mr Pisitpol later explained to the *Gazette* that his office was still reviewing evidence.

— Chutharat Plerin



Gen Paween (right) speaks with Mr Pisitpol about the cases. Photo: Region 8 Police

Safety alert issued after boy drowns

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has called on all local administrations on the island to take steps to prevent any further child drownings in their areas.

The move to ramp up water safety follows Public Health Minister Dr Ratchata Ratchatanawin on Monday issuing a nationwide order for all relevant agencies to launch water-safety campaigns.

"We informed every local hospital to work with local authorities to boost water-safety in their areas," said PPHO chief Kajohnsak Kaewjarus.

"We urged local administrations to install fences and signs to prevent children from swimming in dangerous waterways and ponds. We have also launched a campaign to urge parents to keep a close eye on their children at all times while they are playing near water."

The move to boost water safety followed the death of 9-year-old Sarun Srisongkram, after he was pulled from Nai Harn Lake last Sunday.

"We were training for the international life-saving skills competition in Vietnam in April," said former Nai Harn chief lifeguard Julia Nontree.

"Our staff searched the lake for him, and eventually found him pinned to the outflow grate between the lake and the lagoon."

Nong Sarun was not breathing and was immediately given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the lifeguards, then rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital in critical condition.

"Doctors did their best, but had to pronounce him dead this morning," Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos confirmed on Monday.

— Chutharat Plerin

German recovering after slashed by boat propeller

By Kongleaphy Keam

A GERMAN tourist who was struck in the head by the propeller of a longtail boat off Karon Beach on March 25 is recovering well, a tourism official confirmed to the *Gazette* last week.

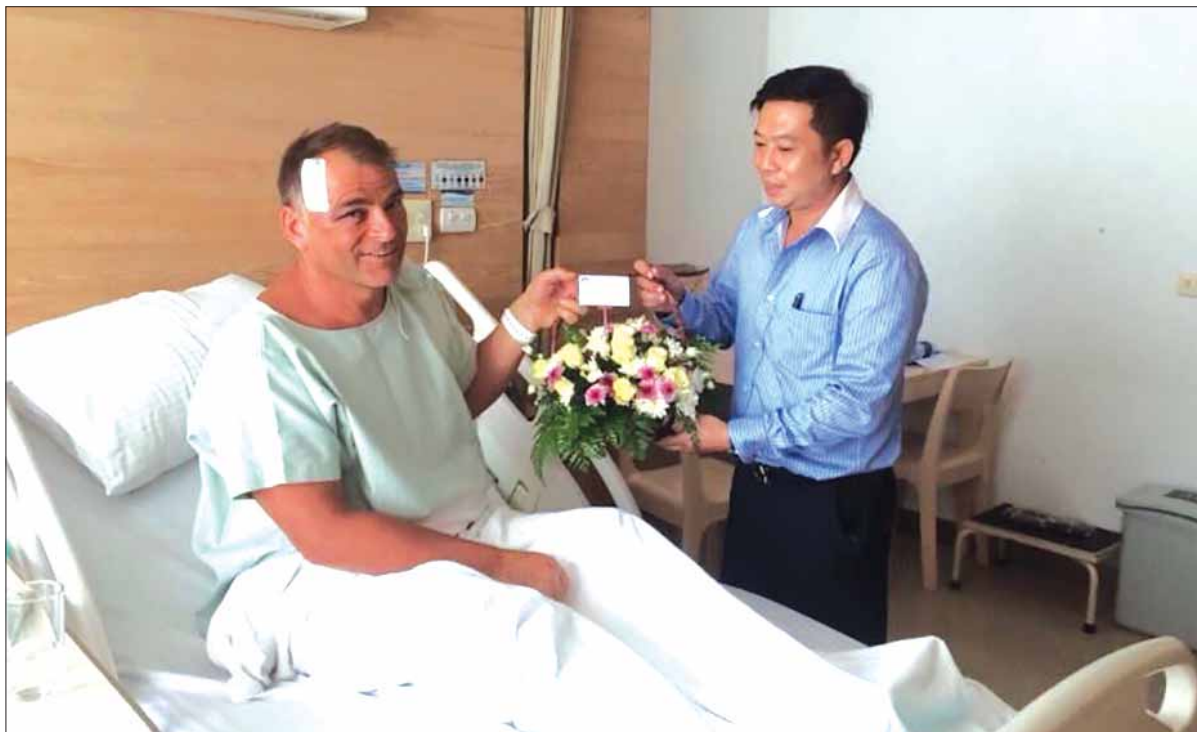
Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office, visited the injured tourist, 54-year-old Rudi Dann, at Bangkok Hospital Phuket on March 26.

"Mr Dann has been alone in Phuket for 10 days, and was planning to leave on April 5," Mr Santi said.

Mr Dann told Mr Santi that he remembers being struck by the boat, but nothing after, until he awoke in hospital.

Mr Dann was swimming about 60 meters from the shore when he was struck by the propeller of the longtail boat being driven by Somneuk Pankaew, 35.

He was quickly rescued after the accident by Kata-Karon lifeguards on duty at the beach, who were able to reach the unconscious man on a jet-ski and take



Mr Dann is recovering well in Bangkok Hospital Phuket, says Santi Pawai of the MOTS Phuket Office. Photo: MOTS

him promptly to Patong Hospital. He was later transferred to Bangkok Hospital.

"Mr Dann would like to say thank you to the jet-ski drivers who helped him," Mr Santi added.

Police are awaiting Mr Dann's release from hospital to determine which charge will be pressed against the longtail boat driver, Mr Somneuk.

If the length of care is less than

20 days, the charge will be careless driving resulting in minor injury. If it is more than 20 days, the charge will be careless driving resulting in serious injury, Mr Santi explained.



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Expert fears Patong touts feeding meth to lorises

POLICE are looking into a wildlife expert's concerns that slow lorises being touted in Phuket and other popular tourist destinations in Thailand are being drugged with methamphetamine or another stimulant.

"My officers will be keeping an eye out for slow loris touts. After we make an arrest, we will be questioning them about whether or not they are drugging the animals. It will be part of our standard line of questioning," Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat confirmed last week.

The head of the Phang Nga Wildlife Nursery Station, which takes in slow lorises and other protected species confiscated from touts in the region, became concerned about the issue after numerous rescued slow lorises died from unknown causes at the facility.

"We have had many slow lorises mysteriously die, following them coming into our care," Wanchai Supanaus explained. "These are nocturnal animals.



Mr Wanchai fears that the animals are drugged to keep them alert.

However, something is being done to keep them alert and awake at all times – day and night. I think it is very likely that they are being drugged with some form of amphetamine."

Despite Mr Wanchai's concerns, none of the animals that have mysteriously died have been tested for a drug-related cause of death.

Mr Wanchai called on everyone to immediately notify police if they

spot touts attempting use the protected species to create photo opportunities for tourists.

"Instead of paying to get rid of the touts, you need to call the police. I am confident that the police will handle the situation as necessary, and we will be able to have a better understanding of whether or not the animals are being drugged," Mr Wanchai said.

– Chutharat Plerin

Airline

THE eyes of the world have turned to Thai-aviation safety following a recent international audit. The issue was exacerbated this week as Orient Thai flight OX682 was forced to make an emergency landing in China after departing Phuket.

The incident comes after China, the island's largest source market, put a stop to Thailand-based charter flights and new routes.

The Gazette's Chutharat Plerin investigates.

ORIENT Thai on Tuesday denied reports of panicked staff and minor injuries to passengers after flight OX682 from Phuket to Chengdu, China, was forced to make an emergency landing.

"All the crew and passengers were safe. Nobody was injured. The cabin crew took good care of the passengers and were not panicked, as is being alleged by some news sources," said the statement issued to the *Gazette*.

UK daily newspaper *The Daily Mail* reported that an engine failure sent the aircraft into a dramatic plunge, prompting oxygen masks to be released from overhead compartments and leaving passengers bleeding from their noses and mouths from the rapid change in cabin pressure.

Flight attendants began to cry and one passenger said that he feared the plane would break apart or crash, said *The Daily Mail* report.

The statement described the emergency landing of the flight, which had 132 passengers, two pilots and six cabin crew on board, as "uneventful".

"The crew took all the passengers to a hotel to rest, until another flight could be arranged for them to be taken to Chengdu. They arrived safely at Chengdu on Saturday at about 5:30pm local time," the statement said.

The statement also refuted allegations that the plane had suffered from engine failure. It cited an issue with the air pressure system in the cabin as the reason for the emergency landing: the change in air pressure led to the oxygen masks being released from overhead compartments.

"Every passenger put on a mask with the guidance of the cabin crew. The aircraft then landed at the nearest airport, which was Kunming Airport, as a basic safety measure," the statement said.

BAD TIMING

Orient Thai is the surviving parent company of ill-fated One-Two-Go budget airline, whose

Flight OG269 crashed in Phuket on September 16, 2007, killing 89 people on board. The most recent Orient Thai incident couldn't have come at a worse time for the Thai aviation industry.

China has joined South Korea and Japan in stopping Thailand-based airlines from flying charters and new routes because of safety concerns highlighted by an international audit, Thai officials said on Monday.

The move will come as a blow to Thai air carriers that have just begun to recover after a poor 2014, when political protests slashed the number of tourists visiting the country.

The halt is disrupting the peak travel season around the Thai New Year Songkran holiday this month. About 100 charter flights

to Japan alone have been cancelled and some 30,000 tickets either refunded or modified, Somchai Piputwat, the director general of Thailand's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), told reporters on Monday.

Budget carriers have been worst

hit, Thai officials said, though national carrier Thai Airways International, which is in the midst of a major restructuring, has also been prevented from expanding because of the halt.

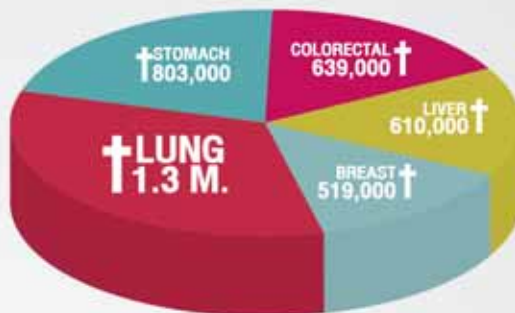
One aviation source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters that significant safety concerns had been uncovered during an audit of Thailand's civil aviation authority by the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The source said that the ICAO's concerns revolved around the issue of operator certificates to carriers by the Thai authorities. While the ICAO cannot "down-grade" states, its audits identify concerns that could lead countries to take steps such as banning flights.

"The audit revealed some safety concerns, primarily relating to air operator certification procedures," ICAO spokesman Anthony Philbin said in an email, adding that

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denies crew panic

Thailand had submitted a plan to the ICAO to correct the issues identified.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said that it was aware of ICAO's safety concerns, but declined to say whether or not it was reviewing Thailand's aviation-safety status, and referred questions to Thai authorities.

Analysts say an FAA downgrade of Thailand's aviation safety assessment would prevent Thai airlines from launching or expanding service to the United States, either directly or as code-share partners. It would also limit their choice of aircraft and increase inspections of Thai aircraft at US airports.

DOMINO EFFECT

Thai Transport Minister Air Chief Marshall Prajin Juntong on Monday told reporters that Thailand had struggled for a decade to comply with ICAO standards.

While the ICAO has not made the results of the audit public, ACM Prajin said that aviation authorities in some countries had taken pre-emptive steps to stop Thai carriers from flying new routes.

Authorities in China have rejected plans by budget carrier Orient Thai Airlines and charter flight operator Sky View to operate more flights to the country, the DCA's Somchai said.

South Korea has rejected plans by charter carrier Asia Atlantic Airlines to start new flights, he added. Japan had already made a



Orient Thai is the surviving parent company of One-Two-Go airline, whose Flight OG269 crashed in Phuket in 2007, killing 89 people. Photo: Aero Icarus

similar move, according to Thai media reports.

Other airlines affected by the ban are Thai Airways and long-haul, low-cost carrier Thai AirAsiaX.

"It's a domino effect," ACM Prajin said, adding that the ministry hoped the issue would be resolved within eight months.

Thai Airways declined to comment. Nok Airlines said that the impact on NokScoot, its joint venture with Singapore Airlines subsidiary, would be limited.

Voradech Hanprasert, deputy permanent secretary at the Thai Transport Ministry, said that the ICAO findings had no impact on existing flights. However, Thailand

is concerned the results could lead the FAA to put the country on its watch list, he said.


An ICAO representative from

one Asia-Pacific country on Monday said that he felt Thailand would rectify the concerns raised in the audit.


"A [country] like Thailand will definitely take measures to address these issues," he said. "I think they need time."



Oxygen masks dropped down for the 132 passengers on board the Orient Thai flight. Photo: China Central Television





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Drunk Aussie perp nabbed for pocketing tiger prawns

A DRUNK Australian tourist was arrested for stealing two tiger prawns from a seafood restaurant in Patong on March 27.

"The man walked through our restaurant and took two prawns. Our staff asked him to put them back, but he refused, and then disappeared onto Soi Bangla," said 36-year-old Tropica restaurant manager Aruni Mahasena.

After receiving the report, Patong Police were able to quickly apprehend the tourist, named by officers as Jacob Saveisberg, 27, who was wandering the party street with the two tiger prawns stuffed into his pocket.

"He was taken to the Patong Police Station, where he confessed that he stole the prawns because he was very drunk," Lt Thongpael Khurhom of the Patong Police said.

"Ms Aruni did not file a complaint against Mr Saveisberg, so he was not charged. Instead he was fined 500 baht for drunkenness and causing damage to property."

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Beach wedding blocked

By Voratuss Intasee

THERE are no solutions for a distraught wedding couple who already booked everything for a beach wedding before discovering through a *Gazette* story that such ceremonies were banned on the island, confirmed Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak.

"We've a small beach wedding planned for the end of March. When we paid deposits three weeks ago, nobody warned us," wrote the *Gazette* reader, who asked to be known only as 'Polly'.

"We even went to the beaches and there were no signs whatsoever! Why do I need to find it out from a random article that we are banned? Now what can we do?"

"Hotel booked, family flying in, photographer booked. Is there any way to get a permit for Bang Tao Beach for that 20-minute ceremony with eight people? Who should we turn to?"

Polly went on to explain that she and her fiancé had been travelling throughout Southeast Asia for a few months in search of a location that was most suitable for



Mr Siri originally said a quiet wedding would be acceptable, but later retracted his statement. Photo: Gazette file

their needs. She noted that they had settled on Thailand because of its renowned Thai hospitality, and Phuket because it was easily accessible for her elderly parents.

Siri Yokthong, vice president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), originally told the *Gazette* that per-

haps a "quiet" wedding on the beach would be acceptable.

However, he later withdrew the statement after confirming with Vice Governor Somkiet that the no beach wedding rule would be strictly enforced.

"There are no exceptions. It is true that in the past Phuket's

beaches were often used for wedding ceremonies. However, our policy has changed," V/Gov Somkiet said.

The vice governor did point out that there was some compromise, as those wanting to take wedding photos on the beach were still allowed to do so.



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Make way for superyachts. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous / Adriano Trapani

Minister pushes for change in visa, chartering regulations

From Page 1

... "Changing the regulations in order to develop our tourism is a must in response to heightened competition from other yachting destinations in the region," she said.

"It will take time for the suggested changes to be presented to the Cabinet and approved, but we are making good progress."

Among the changes to ramp up marine tourism in Phuket is the push for a multi-million-baht harbor expansion at the Deep Sea Port at Ao Makham, Ms Kobkarn added.

"Current regulations allow only one-year concessions to operate ports, but we are looking at what can be done to allow long-term concessions," she said.

The expansion project plans to

improve connectivity with other major tourist cruise line ports in the region, Ms Kobkarn explained.

"We are in talks with our neighbors to link together as cruise destination ports," she said. "We plan to forge network links with Singapore and Vietnam, and Cambodia is drawing plans to develop their marine tourism too."

"Better connectivity will be good for us. We have a lot of beautiful places for marine tours, and cruise line passengers stopping in Phuket will be impressed by many beautiful stops and good facilities at the port."

"We are looking at becoming attractive hosts for yachts, cruise liners and superyachts – all for long-stay, not just short stays."

"This is what we aim to do and I hope to have a clear picture set by the end of the year."

Tour fraudster wanted

By Chutharat Plerin

A 10,000-BAHT reward has been put on the head of a man who left hundreds of tourists stranded on their holiday, and is now wanted for allegedly defrauding a Phuket tour company of about 1.5 million baht.

Peerapat 'Deer' Singhon, 25, was working as a freelance sales representative for Phuket Diamond Tours while he sold extraordinarily cheap holiday packages through his website Phuket Review.

Concerns of the alleged fraud first surfaced after about 100 customers booked tours to Phuket and Phang Nga through Mr Peerapat's website, believing they had booked their tours with Phuket Diamond Tours.

However, no services were rendered and the clients were left abandoned at the airport, leading them to file a complaint to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office.

"I was alerted to the issue last week, when I received a call from



Mr Peerapat is wanted for allegedly defrauding a tour company of about 1.5mn baht. Photo: Phuket Diamond Tours

MOTS Phuket director Santi Pawai about customers filing complaints, claiming that they had been cheated by Phuket Diamond Tours," said the 27-year-old owner of the company, Arinrada Sirirak.

"Phuket Review was run by Mr Peerapat. We are innocent. However, we are looking at what we can do to help the tourists."

All of the contact information

for the website run by Mr Peerapat, as well as the brochures he created, had only his contact information, Ms Arinrada said.

"He was a younger fellow undergraduate at the university where I studied, and at the beginning we saw no issues," Ms Arinrada said.

"He had been with us for only about a year, but once he started to understand the business, he

made his own sales material and provided very cheap packages in our name. He eventually had customers paying directly into his bank account."

Ms Arinrada went on to explain that the tours offered by Mr Peerapat were nearly half-price and included additional services, such as two nights' stay at a four-star hotel, free transfers and a day trip to Koh Tachai.

One settlement meeting between 30 customers and the company was held last week. Another one to be led by Mr Santi will be on April 7.

"They may very well get free tours, as they had paid Mr Peerapat," Mr Arinrada said. "He is ruining my company and my family's reputation. We established this company about four years ago and we have worked hard to build it – I will do whatever it takes to bring him to justice."

Ms Arinrada last week filed a formal complaint to Phuket City Police and Wichit Police. Police have since issued a summons for Mr Peerapat to present himself by April 7.

Police believe two more people were involved in the scam. However, their names have yet to be released.

"I am sorry for the customers, but I hope they understand that we had nothing to do with the packages sold by Mr Peerapat. He was paid by them directly, our company was never paid," Ms Arinrada said.

Police press charges against illegal fishing vessel captain



The Taishan is still moored at the Deep Sea Port. Photo: Royal Thai Customs

OFFICIALS have charged the Peruvian captain of an illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing vessel for falsely reporting the cargo of his ship as he attempted to offload 182 tonnes of Antarctic toothfish illegally caught in the Southern Ocean.

The ship, which recently had its name changed from *Kunlun* to *Taishan*, had already fled from the navies of New Zealand and Australia, as well as global conservation organization Sea Shepherd, before mooring near Phuket.

The captain, Jose Alberto Zavaleta Salas, reported the cargo as 182 tonnes of grouper, valued at about 15 million baht. However, experts have confirmed that the ship had in fact offloaded 182 tonnes of Antarctic toothfish, valued at about 179mn baht.

Mr Salas has been charged for falsely reporting goods to customs, confirmed Royal Thai Customs Investigation and Suppression Bureau (ISB) team leader Charoen Chamniklang.

Mr Salas also faces charges for falsely reporting the ship's flag and registration.

The handler that received the fish, South Services Co Ltd, has

also been charged for its role in illegally importing the fish into Thailand.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Mr Charoen confirmed that *Taishan* would remain at the Phuket Deep Sea Port until at least the Thai investigation was complete.

"The vessel remains at the Phuket Deep Sea Port, and the fish product is being held at the Songkhla Customs office while we continue our investigation," Mr Charoen said.

"It will take time for us to conduct the investigation. Until we have sorted out and finalized everything, the boat will remain in Phuket. I have no idea how long it will remain in our custody."

Mr Charoen also confirmed to the *Gazette* that the Marine Office, Fisheries Department and Customs Office were working together with Interpol regarding alleged crimes that occurred outside of Thai waters.

"Many of the alleged violations occurred outside of our jurisdiction. So we are expecting Interpol to take the lead in regards to seeking justice in those alleged crimes," Mr Charoen said.

– Chutharat Plerin

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AROUND THE nation

Court dismisses an injunction against Fast and Furious 7



Fast and Furious star Vin Diesel poses for the press. Photo: Reuters

THE film *Fast and Furious 7* was released in Thailand on Wednesday after a civil court dismissed the injunction on it on Monday.

The release of the Hollywood blockbuster was in the doldrums on March 26 when Sahamongkol Films filed a civil lawsuit against its pending release, reported *The Nation*.

Sahamongkol was suing actor Phanom 'Tony Jaa' Yeurum for breaching his contract by appearing in the film, as well as Universal Pictures and distributor United International Pictures.

On Monday, the three defendants' attorney appealed to the court to lift the ban as it was unfair to the fans. Sahamongkol was also blamed for holding the film hostage because of the dispute between it and the actor.

Mr Jaa made no comments before flying to Los Angeles to attend the film's premiere.

The legal row kicked off two years ago, when Mr Jaa's 10-year contract was due. When the actor refused to sign a new contract, Sahamongkol claimed the contract was automatically renewed. Mr Jaa did not respond to this claim.

Apart from *Fast and Furious 7*, Mr Jaa has two more films in the pipeline – *Skin Trade*, which is set to be released in Thailand on April 23, and Hong Kong film *SPL 2*, set to be released in June.

Lifting of martial law gets PM's thumbs up

PRIME Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha sought royal approval for lifting martial law on Tuesday, which was imposed shortly before the coup in May last year, and replacing it with Article 44 of the interim charter.

The move was welcomed by the business sector, but a human-rights lawyer criticized it, saying conflicts of interest would persist under Article 44 as the prime minister would have more absolute power, reported *The Nation*.

PM Prayut said after chairing a recent Cabinet meeting that his power under Article 44 would be mainly used to arrest and quickly detain those violating security laws and committing severe crimes.

As head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), PM Prayut assured the public that ordinary folks had nothing to fear. He added that he was not doing it to remain in power but to enable the Kingdom to move forward 'more conveniently'.

"Don't just talk about freedom or democracy alone. I am [for] democracy. If I am not democratic,



PM Prayut gestures with a wai after a speech at the Stock Exchange of Thailand last month. Photo: Reuters

you people won't be around like this with me," he told reporters. "If you have done nothing wrong, why should you be worried?"

"I need to use power under Article 44 of the provisional constitution to allow the authorities quickly to conduct searches and arrests without having to wait for a court warrant."

There would have to be five to

six orders issued under Article 44, he said.

The maximum period for military detention without charge under Article 44 would be seven days, just like under martial law, and after the period the detainee would either be released or turned over to the police and prosecutors, depending on whether the person had violated any security law.

Under Article 44, civilians facing a military court will have the right to fight through the appeal and supreme military courts system. Absolute power under Article 44 will also be used to pass legislation that the previous government had failed to and that the National Legislative Assembly may not have the time to or find it difficult to pass.

Moves made to strengthen child protection laws

THE Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is keen to improve the Child Protection Act so it can benefit more children.

The move comes after the arrest of a man on March 29 for assaulting his 2-year-old stepson, who later died of his injuries in Bangkok's Klong Sam Wa district last week.

The attack was recorded by a surveillance camera and 'went viral' on Thai social media, reported *The Nation*.

Child Promotion and Protection Bureau director Supatcha Suthipol said on Monday that the agency would wait to see what police investigators find, because Article 26 of the act prohibits a person from abusing a child physically or mentally; offenders can

be punished by up to three months in prison and/or a fine of up to 30,000 baht, or by other laws for more severe punishment – in this case the criminal code will be used.

Given that many people criticized the act's light penalties for child abusers, Ms Supatcha said related agencies were discussing amendments and would try to promote the public's understanding of the law.

In regard to the attack on the toddler, stepfather Anont Phimnoo reportedly told police that he drank three bottles of rice whisky and the boy kept running in and out of the room, so he beat him out of anger. He told others that the boy fell down the stairs, so he sent him for treatment at a hospital, but then fled to another province.



Anont Phimnoo under police protection after killing his 2-year-old stepson. Photo: The Nation

Suppression of human-trafficking put on top of national priority list

THE suppression of human trafficking was set to be made a national priority on Friday to avoid the risk of Thailand being downgraded under an international protocol against trafficking, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said on Monday.

Mr Prawit was also responding to a comment posted on Facebook by former PM Yingluck Shinawatra, in which she said her government had not failed in addressing problems related to human rights violations and child labor in the fishing industry.

Ms Yingluck posted her comment after Prime Minister



Gen Prawit (right). Photo: The Nation

Prayut Chan-o-cha said last week that human trafficking was still a big problem because her government did little to solve it, reported *The Nation*.

"This government is not saying that the previous government did not act on the issue, but it did

not solve the problem on the spot, did not amend regulations required and did not follow international standards," Mr Prawit said.

"If the previous government claims it acted on the issue, then we need to look into why fishing trawlers were not registered."

The current government would make the suppression of human trafficking part of the national agenda so Thailand is not held liable for the violation of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing rules, Mr Prawit said.

He said any officials found benefiting from human trafficking would also be punished.

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Save our trees

FIRST PERSON

PROTECTING nature, especially our trees, is very important for Phuket, as well as the entire country. We live with nature. If we destroy it, we destroy ourselves.

Protecting it is imperative for the sake of our economy, the environment and our daily lives and health. We all know that we will live better lives in healthier natural surroundings, but many of us don't help to keep it safe and alive.

Past generations conserved nature for us, so we need to conserve – better yet, improve – our environment for the next generation, so that they can live sustainable lives. Do we live only for our sake, or do we care about the sake of our children and their children?

Protecting nature is even more important for Phuket, as it is a popular tourist destination. The Tourism Authority of Thailand promotes Phuket as a beautiful and natural island. Truthfully, do we really preserve the trees that are shown in photographs and brochures? Tourists come to Phuket because it is a beautiful place with stunning landscapes. If we kill off our natural surroundings, they will not come back.

This is why the Big Tree Club vows to teach people about conserving our trees and nature.

Protecting trees is everyone's duty, not just that of a specific group. However, people commonly believe that looking out for the well-being of trees is none of their concern, or that they do not have the authority to do so. Some do not even try because they know that they cannot do it alone. We should change this way of thinking. We must lead by example. If we do it, others will follow.

We work as a group to instill knowledge in local people relating to the value of trees and the importance of protecting them. We encourage people to work together to protect all trees in public and



Anawut Prapunwong, 41, is a chairman and landscape architect of Oriental Vista Co Ltd, and the president of Phuket's Big Tree Club, which was established on March 5 last year. He graduated from Chulalongkorn University with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and has been president of the club since its inception.

The Big Tree Club is a sub-club of the Big Tree Project in Bangkok. Its main objective is to encourage the government to create ordinances that will protect trees, and to instill knowledge in local residents of the importance of protecting nature.

Here, Mr Anawut talks about the importance of preserving nature, especially trees, and how his club tries to help change the way local residents think about conservation.

government areas, and even those on private land.

The Big Tree Club looks after all trees, whether they are protected or not. The government takes care of protected trees, so no one cares about the unprotected ones. Therefore, we must care for them all. All trees are beneficial for us. Humans and animals alike thrive in and benefit from a healthy natural environment. We are all part of the same world.

Most members of the club are landscape architects. Our jobs are very much entwined with nature, so we decided to be advocates for it.

All projects we are paid to do are environmentally friendly. We try to design our projects in a way that maintains harmony between humans and nature. We never cut down trees and never support any projects that destroy nature. We also encourage other architects to think in this way.

We co-operate with all administrative bodies, like Tambon Administration Organizations (OrBorTor), the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) and the municipalities.

Recently, we teamed up with

Phuket City Municipality and planned a two rai public park, that will be situated near a PPAO School. We are now raising the funds needed for this project.

The Big Tree Club is just a small group. We do not have the authority to do many things. However, we can encourage others to think like we do and have a true love and respect for nature.

In my 15 years here in Phuket, I have seen it change so much. People have destroyed nature for their own benefit. Nai Yang, Kata, Karon and Promthep Cape used to be covered in trees, but now they have been cleared out to make space for concrete buildings. I am very concerned about the future of Phuket. We must all work together to make the change.

At the Big Tree Club, we have set out to protect nature and prevent its destruction, rather than abandoning it and waiting to solve the problem afterward.

Anyone is welcome to join the Big Tree Club. Please join the Facebook groups for both the Phuket Big Tree Club and the Bangkok Big Tree Project to take part in protecting the nation's trees.



Police seized 3.6 million ya bah pills last week. Photo: The Nation

Put the nation's war on drugs into rehab

TWO major drug busts last week saw about 3.6 million pills of ya bah (methamphetamine) seized in two raids, but the news has thrown into sharp relief just how ineffective the War on Drugs has become.

Together, the two hauls netted an estimated 1.8 billion baht of meth – a clear indication that the War on Drugs is now nothing more than a placebo on the palate of the infected.

If the reports of small-time drug users posted by the *Gazette* highlight anything, it is how ya ice (crystal methamphetamine) has become the choice drug among youngsters and other commoners.

But in the raids on the outskirts of Bangkok last week, within 72 hours of each other, the world saw it is the cheap ya bah making a comeback, not a surge in demand for the trendy ice version.

Were it our intrepid law-enforcers who fouled the drug ring? Nope. The second raid was staged after staffers at a gas station in Pathum Thani called the cops after noticing that a six-wheeled refrigerator truck had been abandoned for more than 10 hours.

National police chief Gen Somyos Pumpanmuang led a press conference to announce the raid, but even he was not armed with enough information to be able to tell reporters whether or not any of his force had arrested the man in whose name the truck is registered.

Two days earlier, in reporting the first raid in Nonthaburi, Gen Somyos skipped the bit about how police learned about the drugs.

In that raid, the two men arrested apparently confessed to

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

being hired to deliver the drugs to "the South".

The men, both from Chiang Rai, said they were hired to deliver the drugs for 50,000 baht.

Have the police done the math yet? These men now face the death penalty for the volume of drugs they were delivering. So, if the mules are willing risk their lives for such a pittance, the volume of drugs is not the problem. It's the demand, and the low cost and ease with which the drugs can be acquired.

By the way, any person willing to risk his or her life for a measly 50,000 baht should be honored with immediate entry to the Armed Forces, not executed.

A few years ago, a Phuket vice governor hit the nail on the head.

Then Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada sat down at a coffee shop in Bang Tao, on Phuket's west coast, with the local village headman, an imam and government officers in the area.

"In order to solve the drug problem, we need the cooperation of local people," V/Gov Chamroen pointed.

Yes, indeed. It's that simple: no demand means no supply. The war on drugs should be fought in the homes, communities and schools, not by the nation's finest proclaiming victory to the national media through high-falutin' press conferences.

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

Nai Harn playground badly in need of repairs, again

IN AN Issue & Answer posted on the *Gazette* website on November 22, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos said that he would have his people check on the children's playground at the rest area at Nai Harn once every month.

He also said that he would inspect the area himself to make sure that the playground swings had been repaired and were no longer dangerous to children playing on them.

I was happy for quite a while, but now just three months later, the condition of the swings are much worse than before. What

happened?

I don't care which people are responsible for what, and who in particular is responsible for the children's playground, but mak-

ing the swings safe must be a top priority before a child is hurt.

Charley,
Saiyuan

Aroon Solos, mayor of Rawai, replies:

Thank you for bringing me up to date about the condition of the swings. I had inspected the playground after the initial repairs were made, but obviously they have fallen into disrepair very quickly.

I checked the area only last month. I, too, saw that many of the swings needed repairs, but the yellow tube slide was not yet bro-



The yellow slide at the Nai Harn playground is yet again in disrepair.

ken as shown in the photo.

I sent my staff to the area this afternoon (March 31). We will close the yellow slide because that cannot be fixed immediately. We will make repairs to all the other playground equipment that needs

fixing to make them safe.

Instead of fixing the old swings, I would much prefer to install new ones. But for that, we have to wait until next year, as we have no spare budget from this current year to spend on new swings.

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

Propel Phuket to global yacht stop

EFFORTS by Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul to ease restrictions on a wide variety of bureaucratic measures that are preventing the island's marine tourism industry from going 'full throttle' deserve full support.

The aim is to further develop the island into its natural role as one of Asia's premier yachting and cruise ship destinations.

While details of the intended changes (see page 1) are still only very broadly mapped out, they rightfully touch on some of the main issues that have held back marine tourism over the past few decades: immigration problems faced by foreign crew members; lack of appropriate facilities for superyachts and cruise liners; and more incentives for port concession operators to develop the needed infrastructure expansion.

As Thailand's largest island and only island province, our so-called 'Pearl of the Andaman' could hardly be better positioned to capitalize on all aspects of the regional expansion in marine tourism, from daytime sailing charters to the ultra-high-end superyacht market.

Just a three-day sail from Asia's undisputed yachting capital of Singapore, authorities in both Bangkok and Phuket might start by conducting a detailed comparison of what makes Singapore such an attractive home port for so many foreign-owned vessels – and which procedures and restrictions could be revised or done away with altogether to make Phuket just as appealing.

While Phuket has seen continual expansion in its marine-tourism infrastructure over the past two decades, the fact remains that only a small percentage of inbound tourists include private charters in their vacation plans.

Leaving the issue of democratic development aside, the current administration with its extraordinary powers is in a prime position to make the necessary sweeping changes needed to propel Phuket from a regional yachting hub into a global yachting superpower and a magnet for more of the world's most impressive privately-owned vessels, of which some 250 made ports of call in Phuket last year.

The key piece in the puzzle will be whether or not the government finally takes the necessary steps to allow for long-overdue developments at the Phuket Deep Sea Port. The port needs to better accommodate more year-round visits by superyachts, as well as more large cruise liners and visiting foreign navy ships calling in for rest and relaxation, which are yet another huge source of tourism-revenue potential.

Minister Kobkarn has made it clear that she would like to see some of the changes in place by year's end. Given the potential importance to the economy, the *Gazette* will of course be following developments on this issue very closely in the months ahead.



Tackle the island's real problems

Re: Gazette online, Elephants banned from Nikki Beach Club Phuket following firestorm, March 30

Why don't the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) and other animal rights activist have a firestorm about a child riding an oversized dog? There are so many real issues to be resolved when it comes to protecting animals and their habitats; why on earth does everyone get their knickers in a twist about some famous beach club having people riding a baby elephant (which, let's be honest, aren't that small)?

Did a single one of these social-media-based groups supply real facts indicating that what was being done with the elephant could be causing it real harm?

I know every life matters and animal cruelty without a doubt is a serious problem, but should animal rights activists not show slightly better judgment, and instead of going after high-publicity sorts of issues (re:Nikki Beach Club), build long-term campaigns that can make a real difference in the world, such as the work we are seeing done by Sea Shepherd with the Atlantic Toothfish.

It just astounds me that people on this island are quicker to jump to their keyboards to blast a beach club about a baby elephant than they are to engage in a discussion about the human trafficking issues in Thailand, the Rohingya, 'slaves' in the fishing industry or even the probability of human rights issues faced by the migrant workers who continue to build this island.

*Michael Coons
Patong*

Who or what is the island's true enemy?

It seems that the Phuket Governor has the goal of keeping this island beautiful, and this seems to be the main reason to forbid chairs

Letters to the Editor

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

and sunbeds from the beaches.

Apparently, he thinks that one of the most disturbing views for the people is to see some person enjoying the sea's proximity while comfortably sitting in a chair, instead of lying on the sand.

Maybe this is a big and serious problem, but I would suggest that the governor, in the next visit to a beach, also take a look back, toward the interior of the island.

From any Phuket beach he will be able to see the concrete castings that are gradually covering this once beautiful island, he could also note how close to the sea they are.

Then he could decide which subject is best to concentrate his efforts on, so as to protect the environment of Phuket from the real enemies. Will it be concrete or sunbeds?

*Federico
Rawai*

The poor slow lorises

Re: Gazette online, Expert fears Phuket touts feeding meth to slow lorises [video], March 28

What? Do they really think that those horrible touts are feeding meth to slow lorises? I guess it is not beyond the realm of possibility. However, there have to be other factors leading to these creatures' premature demise, such as poor diets and having their teeth removed.

It would be interesting to be able to account for the entire spectrum of abuses to protected species used by these touts to create photo opportunities for tourists.

Please follow up and let us know if police are able to establish if Phuket's slow lorises are actually on speed or not.

The one positive thing to keep in mind is that gibbons used to be the primary animal for these touts, and now they are being used less and less. Though it is impossible to know exactly why, we can only hope that the increased social pressures combined with concerned police officers is leading the charge.

*Tony Kleinschmidt
Chalong*

Beach wedding ban

Of all things, after my many years of living in Phuket, I understand the need to clear the beaches of all the vendors. There were far too many of them and most of it was profiteering by the license holders – the poor people actually working on the beach hardly made any money at all.

But I do not understand why beach weddings have been banned. Why doesn't the local council organize it for wannabe honeymooners? The council could charge a fee, and hence raise money to pay for local services and at the same time maintain complete control of the activity.

Doesn't that make much more sense than throwing away one of the most appealing attractions of Phuket?

*Tilde Chimbote,
Phuket*

Slow your roll, boats

Re: Gazette online, Canadian tourists rescued after speedboat capsizes, March 31

I now know why so many accidents happen here, after having just experience a terrifying speedboat ride to the Similan islands.

Boat drivers seriously need to slow down. It's not just the customers' lives who are put at risk.

*Matilda Mathers
Koh Kaew*

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BluAnda dodges mass markets

New player in island tours focuses on quality experiences over numbers

By Gazette editors

FOR a premium tour company in Phuket, the goal is providing superior services and beating the crowds of a developing mass-tourism market by delivering private experiences at the region's most well-known destinations.

A newcomer to the Andaman island tour market, BluAnda walked onto the scene recognizing exactly that, and within three years has developed a strong client base through three Phuket offices and more than 200 employees.

"Before we started the business, we sat down and began thinking: how can we do everything better than everyone else?" said Phenpat Morakotwist, deputy managing director of BluAnda.

The answer was not necessarily finding new Andaman destinations for clients, but ensuring that the quality of the experiences at those locations were exceptional – postcard perfect, if possible.

"The first thing we decided to take care of was the boat," Ms Phenpat said. "We didn't opt for a typical speedboat, because the sea here is choppy, making travelling in a speedboat uncomfortable. We use a catamaran, which keeps the deck stable and makes the ride smooth."

The catamarans used by the company have a capacity of 40 passengers.

However, Ms Phenpat assured

that the number of guests was capped at about 25.

"We do not cater to more than 20-25 people at a time, to give our guests the best experience they can get," explained Ms Phenpat.

The next major hurdle that BlueAnda identified for tour operators was ensuring quality of service through highly-trained staff. Though only three years in, and having had their official grand opening this year, the company provides a three-year training program, which includes a variety of courses, including language classes and safety training.

"It's not an easy process, and many of our employees quit, but the ones who stay are well prepared to keep the customers happy," said Ms

It's all about timing. Other companies go to popular spots together and tourists have to share them with the crowds.

– Phenpat Morakotwist, deputy managing director of BluAnda

Phenpat.

The third, and possibly the most important, element of the company's strategy, is developing unique tour programs, a true challenge in a saturated market with a limited number of 'must-see' destinations, most of which are already overrun by tourists.

"It's all about timing. Other companies go to popular spots together and tourists have to share them with the crowds," Ms Phenpat explained.

"We choose a different time of day, giving our guests a private experience of these beautiful places. It's a true way to relax and admire the incredible beauty of the area, a real paradise on earth."

Ms Phenpat added that the



The catamaran experience provides a smoother transfer than a speedboat.

company was not shaken by the recent changes in the tourism sector. Though the current climate is not one for growth, the company is prepared to

weather the storm by relying on quality.

"For now our focus is on the promotion of the quality [experiences], which we already

deliver," Ms Phenpat said.

For more information: bluanda.com
Additional reporting by Maciek Klimowicz

Facebook: The potential client database you need



MARKETING 101: to make money you need customers, and to get customers you need a database to which you can market to. The better quality the database, the better the results.

Facebook is a gold mine for those in need of a database, albeit one which many people do not fully understand.

Imagine a place where you could find more than a billion customers, and you can target them by almost any characteristic you want. That is exactly what Facebook provides us.

Facebook breaks down its users for us by age, sex, marital status, geographic location, likes, interests, hobbies, people and groups we are friends with, our viewing history and much more. It even tell us who has spent



How well are you connected to your clients? Here is how Facebook connects the world. Image: Michael Coghlan

money online recently, so we know who the spenders are. In reality it is like having a highly targeted marketing database but without having to take the time, effort or cost to build it ourselves.

In fact, we can "rent it" as we want (or any targeted segment of it we like), and just pay for those who are interested in what we have to offer. Just think about that for a minute, and how powerful that really is. For, potentially, as little as a few cents per person, we can get our targeted message right in

front of our perfect customer – and any smart business should know their target market.

Just remember, the rules and procedures change often so it is important to keep up to date. Many of these changes were to make us use Facebook for advertising so it could make money.

Recent changes that have impacted sales and promotion include stopping the ability to send mass emails to fans and followers, and more recently only 8 per cent of your contacts will ever be

shown your posts and status updates unless you pay to promote them. This means you have now lost a random 90 per cent or more of your database without many people even realizing it.

Here are the most important points to remember when posting on Facebook: be engaging and consistent; add value; create content that is popular and current; always be honest, ethical and truthful (do the 'would you share it with your grandmother?' test); ask people to like and share; and if paying for advertising, start with a small budget while you learn (great for instant results).

Simon Wetherell is a social media expert, best selling author & international speaker. He now resides in Phuket where he trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the use of social media. For more information go to <http://PhuketOnlineMarketing.com> or call him on 095 085 3355.



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UK's ever-shifting goalposts

Expats better buckle up – more changes for pension plans

Finance

By David Mayes

THE UK government is continuing to shake things up for retirees and expatriate workers trying to make long-term plans for the post-work future with yet another shift of the goalposts, one of many in recent months.

The most dramatic change announced in the new budget, to go into effect next year, is the reduction in lifetime allowance to one million pounds. The UK's Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) department also just recently turned 180 degrees on its stance on flexibility for holders of offshore pensions (QROPS), following a directive it issued in December.

The move in lifetime allowance was not a surprise. It had gone up to 1.8mn pounds and then scaled back to 1.5mn, then down to 1.25mn. Budget problems in the UK are not likely to suddenly disappear, and thus I expect the government to continue to find more areas to squeeze a little bit more into its coffers. It will be interesting to see whether the trend continues next year.

A word of warning for people who have small pension pots and would like to cash them in to access the money – the UK government is likely working on a way to squeeze tax from that scenario as well.

In December, the HMRC announced QROPS would have the same flexibility as domestic pensions, but it just announced the

opposite – although apparently only “temporarily”. My guess is that the HMRC has realized that the change it made in hopes of raising revenues from UK residents has had an unintended side effect.

The initial reason for changing the pension rules was to raise taxes from those with small pots that normally wouldn't attract any tax due to the small draw-down limits. When the new flexibility for pensions remaining inside the UK system comes into effect this

month, many people are expected to cash in the entire pot and for that one year move up into a high-tax bracket: 40% collection on a pension from HMRC as opposed to 0%.

That's great for raising revenue from UK residents, but it also creates a great opportunity for expats and one opportunity that the HMRC

doesn't want. As many jurisdictions were amending their QROPS legislation to simply follow whatever rules domestic UK pensions must follow, this allowed anyone deemed a non-resident for tax purposes to cash in their pension at taxation as low as 2.5%.

It seems that the HMRC didn't realize the ramifications when it made the announcement in December, and is now scrambling to come up with a face-saving and revenue-raising solution. It is anybody's guess where this will go next, and based on the recent history it is also up in the air how long any new rules they make will stay in place before the goalposts are moved again.

Getting your pension out of the UK into a low-tax jurisdiction while you still can is the

/ A word of warning for people who have small pension pots and would like to cash them in to access the money – the UK government is likely working on a way to squeeze tax from that scenario as well. /

/ Getting your pension out of the UK into a low-tax jurisdiction while you still can is the most sensible thing to do unless your pension is a small one.. /



The HMRC is now scrambling to come up with a face-saving, revenue-raising solution. Photo: TaxRebate.org.uk

most sensible thing to do, unless your pension is a small one. The new rules make it much more desirable to leave a five-figure pension in the UK unless you are already in a high-tax bracket

from other UK-sourced income.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe,

focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on pensions and taxation.

Telecommunication spectrum licences bidding in November, says minister

THE next round of bidding for telecommunication spectrum licences will start in November, the Information and Communications Technology Minister Pornchai Rujiprapa said on March 27.

The time frame was proposed by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC).

According to the proposal, there will be four licences up for auction, two of 12.5 megahertz

each on the 1,800MHz spectrum and two of 10MHz each on the 900MHz spectrum.

The NBTC will hold the 1,800MHz auction in November, and take bids for the two 900MHz licences in December.

The commission is expected to bring in at least 42.9 billion baht from the auctions, and will start to pass the up-front licence fees from the winning bidders to the state in January.

The NBTC will hold public hearings on the 1,800MHz auction plan from July to September, invite bidder proposals in August and September, and start the auction on November 11. The preparations for the 900MHz auction will follow those for the 1,800MHz bid by a month.



Mr Pornchai

– The Nation



Siam International
38/54 Nanai Road,
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Siam
International

- ❖ Legal consultation Contact: K. Joy
- ❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
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- certifications Email: siamint@loxinfo.co.th
- ❖ Contracts
- ❖ Work permits
- ❖ Bookkeeping
- ❖ Visa service
- ❖ Translations

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 4 - 11, 9:30am to 12:30pm. Social Media Mastery – A Free Two-Hour Seminar

Attention Thailand business owners – there are little known facts that will help you double or triple your customers, increase their spending and massively increase your profitability!

Attend our free two-hour seminar and learn how to use social media to boost your online success. Don't have a business? We have you covered. We will also show you how you can team up with partners like Google, Amazon and other big names to generate extra income stream working online.

Everything you need to know to get started with immediate results, you can learn from attending this course. Limited spaces on multiple dates, so register now.

Contact Phuket Online Marketing at PhuketOnlineMarketing@gmail.com or 095-0853 355.

April 5, 5pm until late. Laguna Market on First

Come join 'Laguna Market on First' and shop for the best Phuket has to offer.

Laguna Phuket invites you to experience 'Laguna Market on First' in the park at Laguna Grove by the beautiful lagoon.

Enjoy a variety of goods from food stalls, clothing, home décor, arts and crafts, music and performances, a dining area and much more.

There will be concerts by 'Lula' and 'Klear'. Don't miss the



'Laguna Market on First' at Laguna Grove!

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.

April 9. 6:30pm to 10pm. Facebook's Fast Cash Secret – Learn How Facebook Can Instantly Make More Money For You Or Your Business

Unleash the earning potential of Facebook.

This training course will show

you how you can use the social media giant to instantly increase the profits of your business is making.

Imagine being the No. 1 business in your niche and having an unlimited flow of customers with cash in hand lining up to give you money.

Don't have a business but want an extra income? Don't worry; we have that covered too!

This course can be attended live, or you can watch online from your computer. But don't miss out, spaces are limited and the live event will include a special bonus...

Contact Phuket Online Marketing at PhuketOnlineMarketing@gmail.com or 095-0853 355.

April 13 - 15. Songkran Festival

Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival, also known as the Water Festival.

Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

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.

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	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
<p>Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p>Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p>KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am</p> <p>Truevisions Channel: 79 PSI Channel: 223, 320 Dynasat Channel: 106 Thaisat Channel: 185 Infosat Channel: 185 Sunbox Channel: 81 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am</p>

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

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YOUR Phuket

Running for birthday honors

Satree Phuket School hosted a running event on March 29 in honor of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday on April 2.



Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong hands out a trophy at the running event last weekend. Photo: Pacharawat Wasikarn

Coca-Cola honors His Majesty The King

Coca-Cola – Haad Thip joined forces with the Royal Thai Army and the Royal Thai Air Force to construct a dam in Songkhla on March 20 in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 88th birthday.



Thailand Tatler talks top venues



Cecilia Pitre of Le Versace receives the Thailand Tatler 'Best Restaurant' certificate from Naphalai Areesorn, editor-in-chief for Thailand Tatler.

Branding Workshop for Creative Hotel

Foto Hotel held a 'Branding Workshop for Creative Hotel' on March 24-26 at their premises in Kata.



AnneBra Cruise Fashion Show @ Jungceylon



FLANKED BY BEAUTY: (From left) Vut Anuruthnetsiri, marketing manager for AnneBra; Prawit Janyasitthikul, CEO of Phuket Square; Sithi Anuruthnetsiri, managing director for AnneBra; and Rapee Anuruthnetsiri.



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

PROPERTY FOR SALE of the week

CONDO FOR SALE



See page 16

PROPERTY FOR RENT of the week

TOWNHOUSE - SUPALAI CITY HILL

See page 18

JOB of the week

Phuket Gazette
ADVERTISING SALES

See page 19

BOAT & MARINE of the week

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage
SINCE 1997



See page 21

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
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The Gazette Online is always on top in **Google!**

Properties For Sale

NISEKO, JAPAN
ASIA'S TOP SKI RESORT

HOTSPRING VILLAGE LAND | US \$16,000, (THB 520,000)

- Freehold, fully serviced residential blocks
- Nestled below Mt. Annupuri
- 5 mins to ski lifts
- 100% foreign ownership Okay.
- Proven growth area
- Land bank or build now
- Limited release

ph +852 5688 3783 | e-mail: northpngps@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

BEAUTIFUL LAND
PLOT FOR SALE

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

QUICK SALE HOUSE

2 bedrooms. Near Laguna. Fully furnished. Only 2.2 mb. Tel: 093-713 2278.

OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo 44sqm. Great views. In-house management & rental program. A valuable investment. Ready to move in. 3.98 million baht ONO Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

PANORAMA
SEA VIEW LAND

For sale 5.5 rai. Ao Makham. Chanote title. 12 million baht / rai call 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

POOL VILLAS RAWAI



New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8 pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MACRO. Start 9mn THB. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bumrungs15@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

LUXURY VILLA SALE

5 bedrooms. 10x5 pool. Big living room. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. About 300sqm. Quick sale only 8.5 mb. Tel: 093-713 2278

ANDAMAN
BEACH SUITE

Spectacular sea-view condo located on the 12th floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living/dining room, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 081-691 1580 (English & Thai). Email: Esherandi@gmail.com

REDUCED PRICE
PATONG

Condo. Pool. Security. 46sqm. Freehold 2.4 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005.

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

LAND HOUSE
FOR SALE

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

OCEAN FRONT
VILLA

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

LAND IN NAI HARN
FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: Vodorod12@mail.ru

KARON BEACH CONDO

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

2-BEDROOM
BEACHFRONT
CONDO RAWAI

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

3-BED HOUSE –
LARGE GARDEN

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

OCEAN
VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views, in-house management & rental program available, investment. Ready move in. 3.98 million baht ONO. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT
PALACE

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

REDUCED PRICE
PATONG

Condo. Pool. Security. 46sqm. Freehold 2.4 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad14@yahoo.com

KATA HOUSE SALE

4 bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-4659 939.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT
CONDO

New fully furnished with amenities, 2 bed 2 bath. Great location. Must see. Only 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

AMAZING VILLA

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

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: jassarabee@gmail.com

1-BED APT
SALE / RENT

Fully furnished apt in Chalong. Sale 1.95 million baht, rent 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

CHALONG HOUSE
SALE BY OWNER

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

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

3-BEDROOM
LUXURIOUS VILLA

In exclusive gated community in Bang Tao, fully furnished. Walking distance to beach, great facilities onsite. Priced for a quick sale at 15.9 million baht. Contact: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW



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

LOVELY VILLA
NEAR BEACH

3-bedrooms, office, 4 baths. Quality furniture. 15m pool. Short-term rent also. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English).

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: orn holland@hotmail.com

CHERNG TALAY
LAGUNA

Land plot, 400 sqm x 1000 sqm ask for more information Email: laplphuket@gmail.com

POOL HOUSE



Near Heroines Pa Khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 a/c, big kitchen, furnished, pool 9 x 3m. Price: 5,250,000 baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: cata yacht@csloxinfo.com

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE LBI

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LAND FOR SALE IN
PHUKET (SAKOO)

1 to 5 rai, Chanote title, 10 mins south of airport. Fixed price: 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016.

TOWNHOUSES
FOR SALE

Koh Lanta: 5 townhouses for sale on main road at Klong Tob (opposite Rawi Warin Resort). Starting price: 4.8 million baht per unit. Special price for all 5 together. Tel: 081-846 2980.

QUIET GREEN AREA

Fully furnished house in Chalong, 2 aircon bedrooms, lovely garden. Start from 10,000 baht / month. Tel: 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

QUIET NAI HARN
POOL VILLA

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai-style pool villa with 3 bedrooms, in small group of 4 homes. Private and serene. Desirable location with a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Price reduced to 4.3 million baht. Email: rgarland@comcast.net

Properties For Rent

**BEACHFRONT
40-METER LAND**

Approx 2 rai, Chalong Bay. For lease. Tel: 081-826 9390.

**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: stephe nfein@gmail.com

LOFT-STYLE FLATS

Secure. Near Kathu Dam. Great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10-12,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (Thai). Email: hkm sn@yahoo.com

**FOR RENT KATA
BEACH**

1 BR. wifi. Kitchen. Spa. Best price in Kata. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638. E-mail: nalumana2000@yahoo.com, kataari@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 floors. Fully furnished. 2 beds. Phone. Internet. TV. Garden. Terrace. Carpark. Near Nai Ham & Rawai. Tel: 083-106 2680.

**FULLY FURNISHED
HOUSE**

3 bedrooms. 400sqm. Free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. www.palaigreen.weebly.com

**LUXURY RAWAI
3BDR CONDO**

Available now! Condo with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 138 sqm. Fully furnished with new furniture, European kitchen. Security, pool. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Sale: 8.2 million, including Hilux Vigo. Tel: (66) 081-613 1035.

**LUXURY NAI HARN
2BDR CONDO**

Available now, condo Sands, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 130sqm. Living room, European kitchen, pool, 24-hour security, 200m to the beach. Rent: 120,000 baht per month. Sale: 12,000,000 baht. Tel: (66) 081-613 1035

**CHEAP RENT
HOUSE**

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

**LUXURY RENT
KAMALA**

Luxury villas and apartment for rent, modern style, big garden, jacuzzi, swimming pool, WiFi, 400 m. 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

**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.

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

**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

**CHALONG PRIVATE
POOL VILLA**

3 Beds & Baths. 4 A/C. Furnished. Large pool. Tel: 089-729 1968 (English & Thai). Email: jae.apc@gmail.com, www.villaprana.com

**RAWAI
BEACH FRONT
HOUSE**

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

**GOLF VIEW 7-
BEDROOM 4 RENT**

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

3 BED, 3 BATH HOUSE

Yearly rate: 250,000 baht. Monthly rate: 30,000 baht. Tel: 081-878 2199, 081-396 0880. Fax: 076-034709. Email: reallifeproperty@gmail.com

**SEA VIEW CONDO IN
PATONG BEACH**

Sea view condo patong beach, 1 to 2 bedrooms, fully furnished 10 units available for sale/rent on daily/monthly/yearly basis. Reasonable price. Tel: 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786. Email: highstylecondominium@gmail.com

**Property
Wanted****3BR POOL VILLA
NEAR KIS**

Family needs 3-bedroom pool villa for one year, European style, near Kajonkiet International School. Tel: 081-613 1035

**INVESTMENT
PROPERTY**

Wanted in Phuket, Phang Nga or Khao Lak areas, cash buyer. Tel: 087-278 5037.

**SEEKING LONG-TERM
VILLARENTAL**

Prefer unfurnished, single storey only, 2 bedrooms + garden. Must accept 2 Labrador dogs. All areas considered except Patong. Contact Keith. Tel: 081-929 2267. Teresa: 081-867 7223. Email: kmh.thh.1@gmail.com

**HOUSE 4 RENT
NEAR BIS**

Fully furnished house, new kitchen, A/C. 19,000 baht per month, including weekly cleaning. Tel: (61) 048 800 5408. Email: offshorebizz@yahoo.com

PATONG HOUSE RENT

Two-bedroom home available March 7 for short or long term rentals. Central location. Price 27,000 Baht. Tel: 087-900 8445 (English & Thai). Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

**ONE-BEDROOM
APARTMENT**

Full furnished apt in Patong. 5 min walk to beach. For rent 15,000 per month. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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

**LUXURY 1-
BEDROOM
APARTMENT**

Fully furnished, serviced apartment, 65sqm, central Patong, short or long-term rent. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

**Household
Items****MOVING SALE**

Many items for sale. 50' Samsung TV 5,000thb. Seimens washing machine 5,000thb. Honda click 125 motorbike 20,000thb. Many household items for sale. All in good working order. Tel: 081-090 9516 (English & Thai)

LEAVING PHUKET

Luxbed skin sofa / chair. Various other furniture items. All for sale, leaving Thailand. 10am-12 noon. Located in Kata. Call 089-591 7249. Ask for Morten. Tel: 089-591 7249 (English).

**BAR CONTENTS
FOR SALE**

Pool tables, TVs, fridges, point of sale tables and chairs, etc, In Patong. Tel: 085-562 6711.

**STUDIO ROOM
FOR RENT**

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

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

**KATHU GOLF &
LAKE VIEW VILLA**

For rent. 2 bed, 2 bath on private hill overlooking Loch Palm golf course. Big pool. 4km to BIS and Headstart International School. Quiet. Furnished. Maid. WiFi. Security. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Call Noi 087-269 8492.

**CHALONG
DUPLEX HOUSE**

Furnished. 3 bdrm. Internet. Cable TV. 13,000/mth. Tel: 095-046 4039.

**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.

**RENT APARTMENT
PATONG**

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

**TOWNHOUSE
FOR RENT**

Nearlong Bangwat. 3bed3 bath. 3 aircon. Newly furnished. Kitchenette. Roof. Terrace. Monthly B25,000 or 6-12 months B 20,000. Tel: 083-181 6037 (English & Thai). Email: thaile gobricks@hotmail.com

**BOUTIQUE ROOM
FOR RENT**

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

**LOCKABLE SINGLE
GARAGE**

Bang Tao Surin, CCTV, safe long-term parking. 2,900 baht per month (1-year contract). Tel: 084-734 2711.

**Accommodation
Available****RAWAI - SAI YUAN
RENT**

2-bed house. Max. 6 months for 19,000 bht/m. 2-bed pool villa for 45,000 bht/m. Tel: 085-787 3046

**NAITHON BEACH
PALACE**

New boutique apartment. 3,800/month. Tel: 081-000 9917. Email: merienhotel@gmail.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: stephe nfein@gmail.com

**SERVICED APARTMENT
PATONG**

Fully furnished. Swimming Pool. Promotion rate. Tel: 081-894 4730, 081-892 5983 (English & Thai).

HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE

2-bed pool villa Feb 18. 3-bed pool villa Feb 2. 4-bed pool villa Jan 27. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: pa trickmeo@gmail.com

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Luxury Residential Villa Estate Project at Layan

The company is an affiliate of a multi-national real estate developer, owning 600 rai of land in Layan Area, Chong Talay and Thalang. The first phase of a project to develop a luxury residential villa estate is under construction.

Property Management Coordinator (1 position)

In charge of operating and maintaining residential villa estate property
► Experience working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred

Mechanical and Electrical Engineer / Supervisor (operation and maintenance 1-3 positions)

In charge of supervising operation and maintenance of MEP equipment and common area service systems for residential villa estate property
► Experience working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred

Landscape Engineer / Supervisor (on site) (1 position)

In charge of landscape development and maintenance program for 600-rai resort project
► Experience and knowledge of landscape / horticulture / irrigation

Property Sales Executive (1 position)

Assisting Sales Manager for property sales activities
► Good knowledge of laws related to real-estate transactions
► Capable of using office computer software, including MS-Access
► Working on weekends and public holidays

Project Architect (1 position)

Project Quantity Surveyor (1 position)

Applicant must:

- ◆ Thai national
- ◆ Have 5 years' or more experience at same or similar position to apply
- ◆ Speak and write English fairly well

Please send your C/V by email to: hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th
(All applicants will be treated in strict confidence)

Bang Tao Beach Ltd

ANIMAL CAREGIVER WANTED LIVE IN

Starting March 1. Full time. Position involves handling sick animals, dog walking, grooming & medicating, cooking meals & running errands. Occasional after-hours & nights expected. Animal experience essential. Email: jellinecastro@yahoo.com

F & B EVENING MANAGER

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

CHINESE TOUR GUIDE WANTED

Chinese speaking tour guide wanted. Good pay. Email me for details. Tel: 98-487 4168 (English). Email: enquire@ilikephuket.com

THAI RECEPTIONIST

Small hotel in Patong. Two days off per week. Must speak English well. Tel: 081-8921 621.

WEB PROJECT MANAGER WANTED

Bitsiren - Bespoke IT & Marketing Solutions - is looking for a talented senior web developer with a positive and "can do" attitude to join us and work in a fun and creative working environment! BitSiren offers a competitive compensation package including: 5 day work week, work permit, health insurance and social insurance contribution. Tel: 076-319179, 089-973 4421. Fax 076-319 178. www.bitsiren.com/about-bitsiren/career/senior-web-developer.html

LIVE-IN VILLA MANAGER

Thai, experienced Villa Manager required (Kamala & Natai) Managing an in-house team for maintenance, HK and F&B 5-star manner operate, strong leadership, excellent English. Own car & driving license. call (9am-5pm). Send CV to: hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com us Or call (9am-5pm) Tel: 087-881 0003.

Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

Advertising Sales

- Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Must have own transportation and driver's licence
- Alert, self motivated and goal driven

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

COOKS AND MAIDS

Vacation villas in Patong looking for full-time and part-time Thai staff to work in holiday villas in Patong. Tel: 080-699 2436 (English), 081-133 6477 (English & Thai).

DUTY MANAGER

8,500 baht ++. Live in or live out. Thai only. Tel: 089-005 0700 (English). Email: torecruit@villasurin.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

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

Business Opportunities

**WANTED:
GUESTHOUSE
FOR RENT**

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

**BURGER HOUSE-KATA
3.5 MB**

2.5 year restaurant & bar in a prime location in Kata Beach. Capacity: 40 people. Fully equipped and well maintained with a good reputation. 3 staffs trained & disciplined. Profitable turnkey opportunity in Kata Beach for those who are interested and serious. The owner is selling the business as he is moving to Canada to join his new family! The price is 3.5mn baht. Includes all the assets and a registered company with 1 work permit. Tel: 081-370 5855

**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

**RAWAI RESTAURANT
URGENT SALE**

Area 3,800sqm. Reduced from 1.5mn to 980,000 baht. Tel: 089-646 7176.

TOUR DESK FOR RENT

Very good place, frequented corner. Tel: 087-554 6872.

Bulletins

**Alcoholics
Anonymous**

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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

Club Memberships Available

**GOLF MEMBERSHIP
FOR SALE**

Loch Palm. 400,000 baht including transfer fee. Tel: 081-859 5194, 081-859 5194.

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

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

**BLUE CANYON
MEMBERSHIP**

Individual lifetime membership for sale at 780,000 inclusive of transfer fee annual due for year 2015. Email: gthipkamol@yahoo.co.th

**LAGUNA GOLF
MEMBERSHIP**

Family membership valid until 12/2024 available for immediate sale 2015 membership dues paid. Price: baht 440,000 inclusive of transfer fee. Tel: 081-970 4228 (English)

**GOLF
MEMBERSHIP
480,000**

Country club lifetime family membership. 480,000. Includes transfer fee. Email: williamsanig@yahoo.co.uk

**LAGUNA GOLF
MEMBERSHIP**

For sale 10 years to run. Family membership. Tel: 080-719 1850. Email: rovpilot1972@live.co.uk

PHUKET CC 430,000

Lifetime family membership. For sale in Phuket Country Club. For only 430,000 baht. Incl transfer. Tel: 092-503 9007. Email: nordljus@hotmail.com

LOCH PALM GC

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

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

RED MAZDA 2011

Lady owner. 38,000km. For sale only 310,000 baht. Very clean. Tel: 081-892 8208

**2002 VOLKSWAGEN
PASSAT**

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Tel: 087-983 4815.

**PROTON SAVVY
1.2 AT**

Only 57,000km, 2010, All options, leather, mag wheels, new tyres, new service, ect. 219,000 baht. Tel: 084-842 5920.

**NISSAN TEANA
2.5 LT**

2014 Model. 17,000km. New 1.7 mb, For only 1,050,000 baht. Tel: 081 788-8280 (Eng), 090-163 2140 (Thai).

FOR SALE

BMW 528i m sport. dark gray, 6 months old. Includes first-class insurance and warranty. Car looks new with coating treatment. New price 4.299 now only 3.25 Can continue finance 39,400 per month/down payment 750,000 THB. Tel: 086-274 2308.

**HONDA CITY
FOR SALE**

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

TOYOTA AVANZA

Model 1.5E. Automatic. One expat owner from new. Serviced by Toyota. Champagne color. 84,000km. 329,000 baht, offers considered. Tel: 087-9760 066.

TOYOTA YARIS 2008

Toyota Yaris 2008. White. Top specifications and leather. One lady owner on the school run. This car has never left Phuket. Serviced by Toyota and now with new tyres. 90,000 kms. No marks or blemishes. 265,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 3111 (English). Email: pjddyer@yahoo.co.uk

**HONDA CITY
FOR SALE**

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

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

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

**2012 BLACK
HONDA BRIO**

Great condition, 1 farang owner. 30,000 kilometers. 355,000 o.n.o. (500,000+ when new). Many extras, skirt, interior, etc. Great deal. Tel: 095-412 4777 (English & Thai). Email: gatae13@gmail.com

2002 VOLKSWAGEN

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

BMW 5 SERIES

2 years old. 28,000km, free maintenance at BMW Phuket for another 3 years (all warranties intact), insurance paid until November 2015. 2.7 million baht o.n.o. Email: ursaeabi@gmx.net

Pick-ups

2010 RANGER DIESEL

4 x 4 auto. Loaded. Runs, drives, looks great. New service. Very reliable. For 400,000 bht. Tel: 083-645 3546

TOYOTA FORTUNER 2006

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

ISUZU SLX 3.0 LITRE

2003, Dual Cab, manual, Carryboy, second owner, 111,000 kms. 230,000 baht. Tel: (61) 0488-005408.

Other

TRAILER FOR SALE

Ex-American, with blue book. 90,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant_p.clark@yahoo.co.uk

Rentals

CARS FOR RENT

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

Motorbikes

**HARLEY
DAVIDSON FATBOY**

Anniversary 2008. Copper-black. 19,500km. Many extras. No accident. Best condition. Farang owner. Price: Only 675,000 baht. Tel: 076-340043, 083-644 9229.

SUPERMOTARD

KeeWay 200cc excellent condition, used very little. Only 3,000km on the meter. Very low price for a very good motorcycle. Tel: 089-289 0214.

AFRICA TWIN 750

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33F W/A 2007 GULF CRAFT

For sale by owner. Suzuki 225 HP outboards, only 300 engine hours, air-con, custom dinghy with outboard, Raymarine GPS, many other extras - asking 3.85 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.com

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THE SOLUTION TO THIS

Cryptic Crossword



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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across:

9. PATRIOTIC: pairto-tic 10. PROMOTION: pro-motion 12. REAL: re.-a-L 13. SMILER: miles-R 14. TERRINE: entire(R) 15. UNHARNESSED: nunsshare 17. TAILENDER: ailtender 18. ENNOBLE: E-N-noble 19. PORTER: drink 20. SPOT: tops 23. TREATMENT: behavior towards 25. DESPAIRED: praised-Ed. 26. APSE: apes 27. STASIS: assist 29. CLOSURE: Cl.-oruse 32. SULTANATE: alasttune 34. FRANGIBLE: nbfragile 35. ARMENIA: remaina 36. CREEPY: C-peer[rev]-Y 37. STET: test 38. OCTENNIAL: tenincoal 39. CROSSWORD: cross-word

Down:

1. APERTURE: ruepater 2. STRAPHANGERS: strangerspah 3. STAMPEDE: pestmade 4. SCALES: climbs 5. OPERATOR: poorrare 6. WORTHINESS: worsehints 7. COURIER: courtier 8. INTEGRATED: (T)denigrate 11. ILIAD: I-laid 16. REBATE: ratebe 19. PET: pet 21. PERTURBATION: turbine(O) 22. RANONG: nogran 23. TRANSLATOR: norartlast 24. EUTHANASIA: E.U.-than-Asia 25. DES: des 28. STENCILS: cents-IL-S 29. CHAMPION: chapimon 30. EVENTIDE: event-I'd-E 31. GAINING: gain-in-G 33. LIMIT: utmost 34. FLEECE: fl-E.C.-e

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G-BVNL – UK



Lycorning IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. 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
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Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

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Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

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TECNAM P-92

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Sunday brunch at The Pool Bar

Check out the *Gazette*'s review of the Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort's Sunday brunch on page 27!



Head Chef Alessandro Martinelli puts it all on the table for Sunday brunch at the Hyatt. Photo: Phuket Best Event

Feel the breeze at open house party



Kata Sea Breeze Resort held an Underwater World party on March 28. (From left) Kanokkorn Phatharaworane, deputy MD for Kata Sea Breeze Resort; Aunchisa Phatharaworane, assistant deputy MD for Kata Sea Breeze Resort; Supaporn Phatharaworane, MD for Kata Sea Breeze Resort; and Phanwara Phatharaworane, assistant deputy MD for Kata Sea Breeze Resort.



Kim Steppe, GM of Phuket Blue Elephant Mansion and Parttarapron Hutasevee, operation's manager of Phuket Blue Elephant Mansion. Photo: Phuket Best Event

Heat is on, time to serve Kao Chea

Kao Chea was the dish that was introduced to the Royal Siamese Court of King Rama V, to be eaten during the hottest time of the year – just about this time of year. This traditional rice-based treat can now be found at the Blue Elephant Cooking School and Restaurant in Phuket Town for 490++ baht.

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and you can choose the best.*

A woman in a long, flowing red dress stands elegantly against a backdrop of a sunset over the ocean. The scene is framed by large, flowing red fabric that creates a dramatic effect.

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Words from the wise

"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at."

— *Stephen Hawking*

Medium

9		1				2		8
		5				6		
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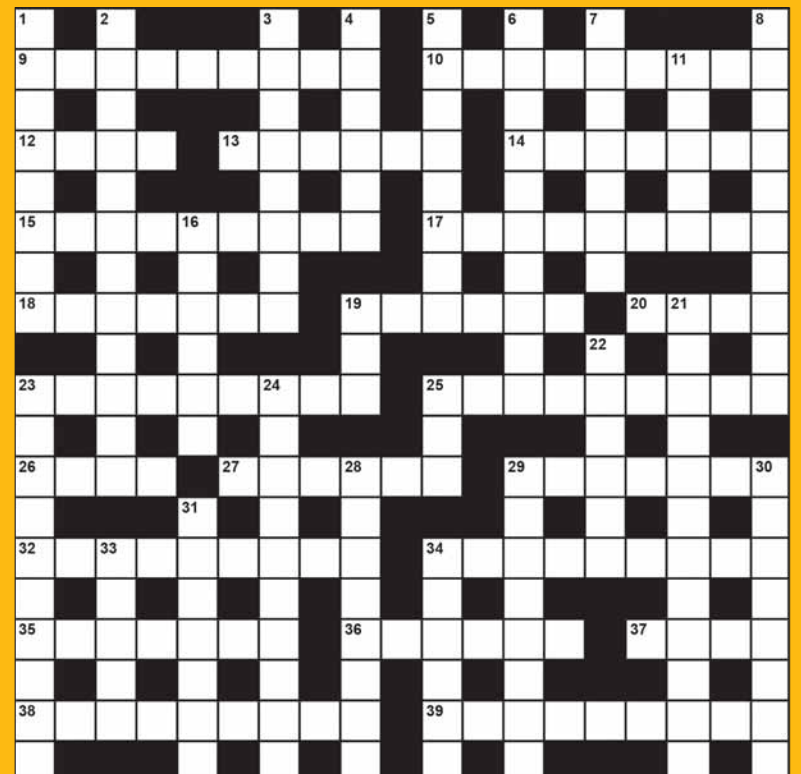
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Pair to arrange spasmodic movement loyal to country (9)
 10. Advertising in favor of proposal (9)
 12. In fact, about a liter (4)
 13. Person who grins could be miles out, right? (6)
 14. Country pâté cooked entire, about right (7)
 15. Nuns share working to take tack off horses (9)
 17. Last one to ail tender, upset (4-5)
 18. Note Nationalist of lofty character to make a peer (7)
 19. A drink for the baggage carrier (6)
 20. Place could be tops (4)
 23. Behavior towards therapy (9)
 25. Gave up, wildly praised Editor (9)
 26. Apes move to recess in church (4)
 27. Stoppage of blood, assist rectification (6)
 29. Finish small volume or use carefully (7)
 32. Arranging a last tune in Arab King's realm (9)
 34. Easily broken, N.B. fragile perhaps (9)
 35. Possibly remain a Eurasian country (7)
 36. Almost peer back, unknown, frightening (6)
 37. Test arranged, let it stand (4)
 38. Lasting eight years or ten in coal set aside (9)
 39. Annoyed expression for what you are doing now (9)



Down

1. Rue pater spoiled the opening (8)
 2. Train commuters strangers? Pah! Rubbish (5,7)
 3. Maybe pest made sudden impulse to run (8)
 4. Climbs on weighing machine (6)
 5. Poor rate upset machinist (8)
 6. Maybe worse, hints quality of mind deserving respect! (10)
 7. No time for courtier as messenger (7)
 8. About time, possibly denigrate being united (10)
 11. I laid out an epic poem (5)
 16. Discount rate be changed (6)
 19. Spicy Thai/English favorite! (3)
 21. Turbine part twisted round in

- a cause for anxiety (12)
 22. No, Gran moved to the province North of Phang Nga (6)
 23. Nor art last out one who converts language (10)
 24. Mercy killing after suffering more European Union than Asia (10)
 25. Of the French boy (3)
 28. Maybe cents, forty-nine son, for perforated sheets to ink shapes (8)
 29. Could be, chap, I'm on the winner! (8)
 30. Occurrence I'd note at the end of the day (8)
 31. Catching up on reward in golf (7)
 33. Utmost restriction (5)
 34. Cheat, flee out of the Election Commission (6)

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Communication flows as Mercury glides into Aries, encouraging you to get in touch with the people who really matter. Mars eases into Taurus too, placing the focus on security and financial issues. However, a lunar eclipse will heighten emotions, stimulating relationships and suggesting one commitment could be on the verge of change.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Your motivation ratchets up as Mars hikes into your sign, enhancing vitality and boosting your resolve to tackle tasks that have been on the backburner. In addition, lifestyle matters can get a boost as an event or conversation might see you keen to enhance your well-being. Adjusting routines could bring noticeable improvement too, Taurus.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



The social pace relaxes as this week's picture hints at a need to take a break, as a chance to assess pri-

orities could help you channel your energies more effectively. Meanwhile, the lunar eclipse may bring passion and temptation into the mix. Bide your time if you find yourself falling in love as rushing might not be in your best long term interests.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



As your social sector livens up, opportunities increase to expand your network, go romancing and join clubs or groups of interest. On another note, the week ahead spotlights family matters, with a lunar eclipse encouraging you to consider your ideal home-career balance. You may have to rethink a key ambition, mind.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



If inspiration occurs, follow your star, with the presence of Mars in Taurus encouraging you to showcase your abilities. This is a time when others can clearly see and appreciate your talents, so display them with all your natural pride. Meanwhile, the lunar eclipse encourages networking and might bring an offer your way you can't refuse.

YOUR horoscope By Patrick Arundell

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Mercury's move into Aries can enhance innovative thinking, especially about financial matters. Furthermore, this may be the week you make those vacation plans if a desire for a break seems an urgent necessity. By the weekend, finances benefit from action to get back on track, particularly if an unexpected expense shows up.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



You admire forthrightness and independence in others, yet this week could feel put upon unless you take action. A powerful lunar eclipse in your sign may rock the boat, meaning that although you're usually happy to compromise, this time you might not be. Honesty could be the best and fastest way to further your causes.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



It's all change this week as you may feel empowered to resolve health and lifestyle issues, while Mars adds vitality to your love life too. In addition, a sound offer might enable you to boost your income. Over the weekend, a powerful influence can be a sign to take it easy, cut back your schedule and rethink your plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



A powerful alignment can help bring you together with like-minded people, who might inspire new thinking and ideas. There's more though, as Mars in Taurus encourages closer attention to health habits that enhance your energy and enthusiasm. Even so, pressures show up on the social scene as a friend might need your help.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Put your mind to work to sort out niggling issues at home and you'll have more opportunity to enjoy enhanced lei-

sure time and the romantic potential that comes with it. Even so, the lunar eclipse can put you uncomfortably in the spotlight. Demands could be placed on you that might leave you feeling a tad overwhelmed.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Whatever you're up to, you're in planning mode as Mercury's move into Aries encourages a can-do approach to your next project. However, the idea of getting your place in order, decluttering and making it a place to relax seems like a good one too. Over the weekend, key beliefs may be challenged however, but this can encourage positive changes.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Getting on track with finances might usher in a more abundant phase, if you play your astral cards right. Plus, this is also an opportunity to showcase your skills and tell everyone about yourself. However, the lunar eclipse this weekend could coincide with a sense of urgency regarding money issues that might require action.

Evolution of property

Multi-pronged approach to cashing in on Phuket market



Property Watch
Desmond Hughes

THERE is nothing wrong with short-term goals, striking while the iron is hot and being commercially opportunistic for a profit, if this is all balanced with a long-term view. This principle also applies to the property market in Phuket.

I recently saw an advisor inform a client interested in property in Thailand, that the only investment a foreigner could or should make in property is to purchase a 'foreign freehold condominium'. Taken aback by this narrow view, I considered the evolution of property in Phuket, and the nature by which various investors, short and long term, have made their fortunes, and in other cases, their losses.

If you take the time to look at the trading values of land in Phuket from the 1970s onwards, which you can do if you dust off some old land title documents, you may share the surprise of many Phuketians with expressions such as "I can't believe seaview land was 2,000 baht a rai back then", "I wish I had bought 100 rai while I had the chance, imagine how rich I would be now" and "I can't believe those two neighbors killed each other over that boundary line" coming to mind.

I am sure at the time seaview land was trading at 2,000 baht per rai, there were some who thought that if they doubled their money to 4,000 baht per rai, they had done exceptionally well.

Phuket property is not just



There is still plenty of modestly developed land with significant potential on the island. Photo: Gazette file

about prime land that can legally be developed, which we have seen plenty of over the last several decades – not that developers are anywhere close to being finished. Phuket property is about villas, condos, apartments, hotels, guesthouses, boutique shopping centers, supermarket chains, franchised fast-food outlets, nightlife,

beach, but not much umbrella life, marinas, sailing and super yachts. This means that not only Thais can invest in such, but foreigners can too, subject to various restrictions, some of which are understandable, and some of which remain a mystery.

If you had held onto 100 rai of good seaview land purchased for

2,000 baht per rai in the 1970s and taken a long-term view, retirement would be but the signing of a sale-and-purchase agreement away.

Wealth, appreciation of land and property are relative concepts. This fact is something that escapes many short and long-term investors. If you appreciate your property but the economy just

keeps on becoming more expensive to operate in, then cashing in would be a pointless exercise.

However, Phuket has had a fair share of meteoric rises, and falls. If all property investors thought long term, then the property market would freeze while all the hawks simply wait and see. Similarly, if all property investors think short term, then the nearby bulls will wade in, creating distortion.

Phuket is now at another crossroads. It is for the long-term investors to determine where that will lead Phuket. Will the investment in mega malls, a light railway system, improved roads and infrastructure, more hotels, a regeneration of parts of Phuket Town, more lifestyle development on the east coast, ever-expanding airport, more local and international schools, better hospitals and better sea ports result in a long-term gain for property investors in the next two decades?

Or will tuk-tuk parking, jet-ski issues, continuous road accidents, crime, mistreatment of certain tourists, overdevelopment, pollution, lack of environmental protection, behind-the-curve utilities provision and unfair and unpredictable enforcement prevail?

I think the more positive aspects of Phuket will triumph over the negative in the long-term. I wish all those long term investors good fortune, and I hope I am still here to see the positive results.

Desmond Hughes has been an owner and operator of his law firm in Thailand for 12 years, and is a senior partner at Hughes Krupica law firm www.hugheskrupica.com

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Re-sale market shows value

Phuket's re-sale market matures as demand for resales increases

By Kevin Hodges

MOST re-sale properties in Phuket are priced lower than comparable new developments, a trend clearly highlighted in the data accumulated in Siam Real Estate's 2014 Phuket Residential Market Report.

In Phuket and the rest of Thailand, most buyers prefer brand-new properties. There are many reasons for this: new properties have never been lived in; they offer the latest in terms of building materials and quality; and property developers offer extended payment terms during construction with special introductory terms for buying off-plan, resulting in a higher capital appreciation.

Also, buyers looking for a property as an investment can enjoy an average annual rental return of 5-7%. Typically, capital appreciation when buying

during the pre-sale period is 30%, and 5-10% when buying during the construction phase.

However, sellers of re-sale property competing with the demand for new property are able to offer attractive price discounts, which has led to Phuket's re-sale market starting to offer better value.

The charts at right clearly show that re-sale properties are currently priced at a discount to new developments. These results are based on more than 4,500 property listings on offer in Phuket.

Specifically, condominium prices have been broken down into price per square meter and houses by number of bedrooms, the re-

sults are an average for all locations in Phuket. The evidence is clear: the discounts are there for all to see.

One of the key reasons sellers are able to offer discounts on re-sale property is capital appreciation.

Foreign buyers in Phuket who bought their properties five or more years ago have since seen the baht appreciate strongly against their home currencies – specifically, the baht has appreciated more than 20% against US dollars, euros and pounds over the past five years.

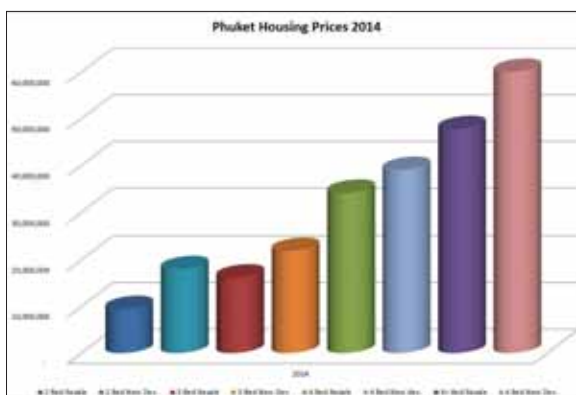
Therefore, a lot of foreigners who want to sell their properties can do so at much lower prices than the true market values of the properties. When these sellers repatriate their money, they gain on the exchange rate.

Adding to this is the fact that construction costs, including materials and labor, in Phuket have increased significantly in the past 10 years. Hence, buyers who bought units five to 10 years ago can offer lower prices than comparable new developments and still make attractive capital gains.

Last, but certainly not least, is that land prices have increased dramatically over the past five years. In some locations, prices have doubled.

This increase in land prices is adding to the cost of new developments, as developers have to pay higher prices to buy land plots on which to build.

As the re-sale market in Phuket continues to mature, re-sale



As the re-sale market matures, re-sale prices can be expected to align with the prices of new developments.

prices can be expected to align with the prices of new developments. When the availability of suitable green-field sites for new developments in Phuket becomes scarce, the re-sale market will begin to mature as demand for

re-sale properties increases.

For more information about this article contact Mr Hodges, the North Branch and Investments Manager for Siam Real Estate in Phuket and author of SRE's

Phuket Residential Market Research Report. He has more than six years' experience in Phuket's real estate market. Tel: 076-324042 Email: kevin@siamrealestate.com; www.siamrealestate.com.

Time to buy: Sansiri says 'Now or Never' with latest campaign

SANSIRI has launched a "Now or Never" sales campaign, which will see some of the best units available in six Phuket developments up for grabs at special prices through June.

The property development company held an event launching the campaign at Central Festival Phuket that concluded on April 1.

"We have a limited number of units available for the 'Now or Never' campaign for buyers looking for a residence or an investment property," said Suriya Wannabuit, executive vice president of Sansiri's project management and marketing department.

Prices vary for each development, and include free transfer and no common area fees for up to a maximum of 18 months.

The units, with prices starting from 890,000 baht, are the best of the properties, such as corner units, units with a view, rooms connecting to the garden or units that are close to the club house.

The six projects involved in the campaign

are dcondo Kathu-Patong, located near Patong and ready to move in; dCondo Creek Phuket, a popular development in a prime location with a stunning 100-meter-long centerpiece swimming pool; dCondo Mine, which has an outstanding design and architectural concept inspired by Phuket's tin-mining past; THE BASE Downtown Phuket, a ready-to-move-in condominium in the heart of Phuket with a 7 per cent rental-return guarantee; Habitia Koh Kaew Phuket, a modern housing development that is ready to move in to; and Habitaown Koh



Suriya Wannabuit of Sansiri.

assistance and support services," said Mr Suriya.

"This concierge service is available to Thai and non-Thai buyers, and will be man-

aged by Plus Property, a company operated by Sansiri PLC."

Plus Concierge offers four main areas of service: Pre-check-in service to ensure that the room is ready for use; hotel-quality cleaning services; comprehensive laundry service; and full in-room maintenance service with no labor charge.

Plus Concierge is available for Sansiri families in Bangkok, Hua Hin, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Khao Yai and Phuket. Services are offered on a one-time or yearly package basis.

During the Central Festival event, Sansiri also held a series of do-it-yourself summer-themed workshops for new buyers and Sansiri family members.

The 'Now or Never' campaign was held through April 1 at Central Festival Phuket, with deals until June 30.

– *Phuket Gazette*
For more information about the special deals offered through June 30, please visit www.sansiri.com or call 1685.

Brunch with a bang

By Sylvia Joy

TUCKED away in scenic Kamala you will find the Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort. With a beautiful view of the Andaman from up in your room or from the refreshing infinity pool down below, it's clear that luxury is only steps away.

This quality carries over to the resort's newest attraction, the Sunday brunch, which kicked off on March 29.

Head Chef Alessandro Martinelli's attention to detail and flavor is apparent throughout the experience, with the food being as appetizing to look at, as it is to eat.

To kick off the meal, head over to the free-flow bloody mary bar where the bartender throws in the perfect amount of spice while you pick out your olives, lime and other condiments. Not a bloody mary fan?

No problem. There is also free-flow white wine sangria served at the optimum temperature and with the right amount of sweetness.

The buffet-style setup makes it easy to view every beautifully displayed selection available. One of the brunch's centerpieces was the wood-fire pizza oven. Made with fresh dough, buffalo mozzarella, rucola and fresh pomodorini, the pizza was the perfect amount of salty, gooey, chewy goodness with the added crispness and freshness of the tomatoes and rucola. It was

enough to make you want to set up shop next to the oven all day.

That is until your eye wanders over to the fetchingly arranged table presenting salads, imported European cheeses, meats and a fresh assortment of breads.

I piled my plate full of focaccia and Caesar salad with crisp bacon, along with a few slices of Asiago and Parmesan cheese as well as porchetta.

The bread was fresh and perfectly seasoned with olive oil and salt, and adorned with roasted peppers. The salad was nice and

crisp with just the right amount of dressing, and the porchetta practically melted in your mouth.

For the main entree section, you are riddled with choices, such as wok-fried blue crab with chili, garlic, and ginger; traditional *pad see ew*; and *kiew wan gai* (chicken with green curry).

Also featured was a lasagna bolognese and snapper fillet with asparagus and saffron sauce, both exquisite and full of flavor. The snapper and asparagus were cooked to perfection and the saffron sauce complemented them exceptionally. The lasagna bolognese had the ideal sauce-to-cheese ratio and the pasta itself tasted freshly made.

Finally, for the last hoorah, head over to the dessert counter, which offers everything from bowls full of fresh fruit, lemon meringue tart, vanilla creme brulee, mango sticky



Nothing beats Sunday brunch.



The grill and barbecue section offers an array of meats and vegetables, cooked to order.

rice and chocolate mousse (just to name a few), to a crepe station and soft-serve ice-cream machine.

The fruit tastes like it was cut within minutes of your decent upon it. And the ice cream? It tasted like vanilla cake batter, the kind that you beg your mom to let you lick off the mixing spoon. It

was a shame not to be able to fit in second helpings.

Although it is nearly impossible to try every single dish offered – and believe me I tried – the fresh seafood looked larger than life, the eggs benedict with smoked salmon and proper biscuits, impeccable; and let's not forget the grill, barbecue

and carving sections, where the meat looked so tender and succulent that it gave air of a still-life painting.

The Hyatt Regency's Sunday brunch is something that Chef Martinelli should be proud of, and one you will certainly talk about for years to come.

Going cuckoo for quality cocoa in our chocolates

THOUGH the week-long Classic Belgian Gourmet Chocolate Of Legend event hosted by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa came to a close on March 13, some of the delicious creations remain.

French chocolatier and pastry chef Jean-Marc Bernelin not only led classes and chocolate-making demonstrations, but he also created a number of creamy and dark chocolate masterpieces to be added to the Siam Deli's menu.

Such delights as the chestnut and cognac ganache; mango and passion fruit caramel; hazelnut praline and chocolate; and banana mousse cake – all featuring Callebaut chocolate – are still available at the deli.

With more than 30 years of experience crafting chocolates, there is little doubt that Chef Bernelin knows what he's doing.

"I can't remember when I started to love chocolate – it was



Guest got to practice rolling their own chocolate truffles.

something I knew since I was very young," Chef Bernelin told the *Gazette*. "I entered a chocolate school and fortunately I got a great job with the Callebaut."

For more than a century, the Belgium company has been making some of the finest gourmet chocolate and remains today as one of the rare chocolate makers that selects, roasts and grinds cacao beans into its own secret cocoa creation. – *Chutharat Plerin*

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Kedah's legend continued

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

The *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* is an ancient book that chronicles the legend of how the Malay state of Kedah was founded. The book tells the story of Mahawangsa, a hero who was given command of a large fleet of ships by the Emperor of Rome. His task was to set sail to the east and bring back the princess of China, who was betrothed to the son of the Roman Emperor.

Unfortunately for the two empires, the Garuda, a powerful mythical creature resembling a giant bird, found out about the impending matrimony and vowed to destroy the fleet. The winged beast attacked the large fleet again and again, until Mahawangsa's fleet was reduced to half its original size.

According to the chronicles, Mahawangsa's fleet left Marit after a fierce battle with the Garuda. After sailing the open seas for a few days, the battered, wearied fleet came in sight of an island, which the ancient text referred to as 'Salang'. It is very likely that the island of Salang in this case was in fact Phuket. Many historical Malay texts referred to the island as Salang and European sailors called it Junk Ceylon.

The crew anchored their fleet off the coast of Salang. Mahawangsa sent his envoys to meet with the 'chief' of Salang, in order to request permission for the fleet to gather food and water, as well as timber to repair their battered ships. It is interesting to note that even though the story of Mahawangsa is based on myth and legend, it does very correctly portray the role of Phuket in maritime history. For centuries, the island was indeed an important stopover point for ships to gather supplies and timber for repair.

Even though Mahawangsa



The stranded Prince of Rome held on to a plank and floated all the way to Langkawi. Photo: RoB

chose to anchor off Salang, the ship commanded by the Prince of Rome chose to sail further and rounded the southern point of the island. A day after the prince left Salang, Garuda flew over and realized that the prince's vessel had been separated from Mahawangsa's main fleet and he was alone. In his previous attacks, he was not able to capture the prince because of Mahawangsa's magical arrows. Now that the prince was alone, the Garuda seized his opportunity and attacked the prince's ship with double the fury. The prince's vessel was quickly sunk and scores of men perished under the waves. Fortunately, the Prince of Rome was able to hold on to a plank, which floated and

took him to the island of Langkawi.

Not long after, Mahawangsa arrived at the point where the prince's ship had sunk. The crew tried their best to rescue any remaining survivors, but Mahawangsa could not find the prince. He began to fear that the worst might have happened. Perhaps the Prince of Rome had drowned. Grief struck Mahawangsa. His duty was to protect the prince and he had failed. After a thorough, but vain, search of the open seas, Mahawangsa sailed his only remaining ship onward.

Sailing along the coast, Mahawangsa's ship arrived at a bay. He asked one of his senior captains whether or not he knew

this locality. The captain replied that the large island where the ship had reached is called Pulo Sri. The smaller island in the vicinity is called Pulo Jumbul and Pulo Lada.

On hearing this, Mahawangsa was satisfied. He commanded his men to anchor the vessel off the coast. Accompanied by his chiefs and followers, Mahawangsa then went ashore. Not long after they had set foot on land, the party was visited by large numbers of very large men. These men belonged to a tribe, which the chronicles referred to as 'Girgassi'.

Mahawangsa had come across the Girgassi before and he knew these people and their nature. He spoke with them in a soft tone of voice.

The Girgassi were both afraid of him and astonished by his demeanor. Mahawangsa made it known to the Girgassi that he intended to stay on their island until he could find the whereabouts of the Prince of Rome, or confirm whether he was alive or not.

The Girgassi respectfully saluted Mahawangsa and said, 'your servants are overjoyed at your lordship's request, because we have not established a Raja (ruler) over this place. Therefore your highness may select a location to reside on'.

Mahawangsa accordingly walked about with his men and all the tribes of Girgassi. They at last pitched upon a delightful and convenient spot for a residence.

At his selected location, Mahawangsa built a fort surrounded by a ditch. He also built a palace and a spacious hall of audience. He named it Langkasuka, on account that the new city had been built in the midst of all kinds of rejoicing and festivities.

Prior to Mahawangsa's arrival, the Girgassi had been without a ruler. When all was prepared, Mahawangsa took up residence in his new palace along with his wife. He appointed ministers, bodyguards and warriors to his service.

News soon spread of Mahawangsa's new-founded city. Traders and strangers came from near and far to trade and the city quickly grew under Mahawangsa's benevolent rule. Thus, according to legend, Mahawangsa became the first king in a long line of kings to rule the ancient city of Langkasuka, a kingdom that preceded the Malay sultanate of Kedah.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He has lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand may be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com

Rocks of worship nominated for World Heritage Site status

SINCE its nomination by the Thai Culture Ministry to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) World Heritage head office in Paris at the beginning of the year, the prehistoric site of Phu Phrabat Historical Park in Udon Thani has seen a massive surge in visitors.

Among the most recent visitors was a group of some 50 diplomats and art experts from 26 countries, who were invited to take part in a cultural trip to both Phu Phrabat and Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Located on a mountain in Ban Phue district and surrounded by lush forest, Phu Phrabat Historical Park dates back to the prehistoric era. The area is home to hundreds of unusual rock formations left behind by a slow-moving glacier millions of years ago. Many of the ruins and objects have been fashioned from materials found locally and include, for instance, a rock decorated as a stupa and another chiselled into the

shape of a foot.

The site was declared a historical park by the Fine Arts Department in 1991 and in 2004 was put on the "tentative list" for World Heritage status.

According to Unesco's Bangkok office, the site was proposed based on it meeting four of the 10 selection criteria of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). For any site to be nominated to World Heritage status, they must match at least one of the 10.

Under criterion (ii), the site must "exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cul-



The delegation passes the rock formation Hor Nang Usa at the park. Photo: The Nation

tural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design".

The site is regarded as a sacred mountain as verified by archaeological evidence from periods running from the prehistoric through the Dvaravati (seventh-12th centuries AD),

Lan Chang (16th-18th centuries AD) to the present.

Under criterion (iii), the site must "bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared."

That testimony can be found in the dozens of rock shelters and the stone ground as well as the boundary stones, some of which date back more than 5,000 years.

Category (iv) states that the site "must be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history", while category (vi) demands that the site "be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance."

Apart from its historical and cultural significance, Phu Phrabat, has inspired local people to link the site with the local legend of Usa Barot and Phra Kued Phara Phan, which have their origins in the Hamabharata.

Unesco is set to announce its decision on listing Phu Prabat on June 1, 2016.

— The Nation

Horses for water courses



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

EACH and every landscaper worth his salt should incorporate a water feature – if only a modest fish pond – in his garden designs. And even apartment dwellers, with only a concrete balcony to link them to the open air, can think of focal points such as waterproof ceramic pots on plinths, decorated with water lilies or lotuses.

Such simplicities are low maintenance. Apart from the occasional top-up, *nymphaeaceae* will happily survive the kind of extended dry spell that we recently experienced. And if you introduce small fish, such as guppies and swordtails, you will not only add interest to your water feature, but will ensure that your watery havens do not become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

If lotuses and lilies are the aristocrats of aquatic plants, then duckweed (*lemna*) is the poorest of poor relations. Like all plants that float independently on a watery surface, it is simplicity itself to grow.

The plant is composed of tiny 'leaves', no more than a few millimeters across, from which dangles a single submerged root. It usually arrives unannounced and within six to eight weeks, if unchecked, will form a dense, brilliant green mat.

Most people dislike it, but unsurprisingly, ducks and some fish, especially carp, as well as frog tadpoles find it succulent. Personally, I allow it a small corner in my fish pond; a place where fry can shelter from their bigger brethren. The plant is easy to con-



Nymphaeaceae will survive the extended dry spells Phuket knows so well. Photo: Namesh NG

trol, but also difficult to eradicate entirely.

Another floating plant that is also classed 'an invasive weed' in some parts of the globe is the water lettuce, or *pistia stratiotes*. Like duckweed, it grows very quickly, using its submarine roots to extract nutrients from its surroundings. Also, like duckweed, it forms a green carpet on top of the water.

But there the similarities end. The water lettuce produces rosettes of leaves, often attractively

pleated, up to six inches in diameter, that spread out when there is sufficient room, but which grow upright when packed together.

Emerald green in hue, these neat rosettes look better in a confined space – a water jar or ceramic bowl. *Pistia* propagates itself by offshoots from the mother plant and does best in full sun.

More unusual is the water chestnut (*trapa bicornis*), though many people are familiar with the nutty fruits that come from this

plant's dark-brown, submerged root system. For this reason, it is cultivated commercially, especially in China.

The actual green plant is less in evidence, though it is sometimes seen decorating ceramic pots outside Thai restaurants or spas in Phuket. What makes it distinctive is the leaves: they are flat and diamond-shaped and form an ornamental and symmetrical pattern on the surface of the water. They can be grown from fresh fruits submerged in water, but

unlike the water lettuce, germination is slow – but worth the wait.

There are no comparable issues with the water hyacinth (*eichornia crassipes*): it grows at such a rate that it can quickly clog waterways – as it has done in Phuket Town. The plant has also taken over a lake in Rawai, with the result that the lake has become invisible.

Is it one to avoid? On one hand, it needs watching and is not suitable for small containers. On the other hand, it produces thick, fleshy green leaves and prominent hollow stalks with dramatic mauve flowers that superficially resemble those of the land-lubber hyacinth. Like the rest of these floaters – the water hyacinth has submerged, free-floating roots – it likes full sun and spreads by means of offshoots.

Free-floaters that never break surface include several plants that quietly carry on with their existence below the surface – generally ideal for aquariums and ponds. One of these is *ceratophyllum*, a delicate plant with fine, dill-like foliage that encircles its narrow stems.

Another is *elodea*, or Canadian pondweed. Though these look decorative in glass fish tanks, they provide no visual stimulus in ponds. But undoubtedly they have their uses: they both help oxygenate stagnant water, as well as provide cover for small fry and the eggs that will one day spawn a new generation of fish.

If you have a question or a garden you would like featured, email Patrick at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com. Further information about this gardening series and other work can be found by visiting: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com

Tip of the week

Post-emergence herbicides

POST-emergence herbicides act on visible weeds rather than on hidden seeds, and are therefore more widely used.

Some are systemic and the chemicals (glyphosate or glufosinate) are normally watered into the surrounding soil and then absorbed through the weed's leaves, stems or roots.

This process of translocation kills the plant by interfering with its metabolism.

Traditional contact herbicides are less effective since they kill only the plant parts that they are sprayed on.

Nowadays, most commonly used herbicides, such as paraquat, are synthetic – manufactured compounds that do not normally occur in nature.

It is better to apply natural herbicides if you can. These are products that have active ingredients originating in a plant or mineral.

Whatever product you decide to buy, first read the label to make sure how it works and what active substance it contains.

Always wash your hands after use.



Natural herbicides are better to use. Photo: tpsdave



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Three cheers for the Artsketeers

AN ART show displaying the talents of three British International School Phuket (BISP) students drew to a close last week, with the young artists feeling acceptance of their works and an urge to develop their art further.

IB Visual Arts students Mimi Siriwang Santi, Jaratchai "JJ" Chongjaroenjai and Boram Lee, also known as the 'Three Artsketeers', debuted their works at the BISP 2015 IB Art Exhibition, which opened on March 23.

The pieces used various types of media, including acrylic paint, color pencil and encaustic paint,



British International School Phuket's Three Artsketeers (from left) Boram Lee, Jaratchai 'JJ' Chongjaroenjai and Mimi Siriwang Santi.

also known as hot-wax painting.

The exhibit, held at the BISP campus in Koh Kaew, came to

an end this week on March 27.

All three Artsketeers found the experience to be very rewarding.

"It was very overwhelming, but at the same time I was very proud to have reached this stage," said Mimi, just one day after the opening.

Although initially hesitant about his parents' reaction, JJ found that they were much more receptive than he thought, and he now feels freer to explore art further, particularly his passion for animation.

"What I am thinking about now is going to a foundation course and then entering a bachelor of arts study in animation," he told the *Gazette*.

Boram was equally relieved by

her parents' reaction, stating, "They don't normally check my art, but when they came [to the exhibition] they were very proud and happy."

Even though they have come so far at such a young age, each student feels like they have room to grow.

"I would research more, dig deeper into all of my pieces and try to find something else that wasn't there before," said Mimi.

"As artists, I think we should keep on challenging ourselves. I think that is the most important thing," added Boram.

— Sylvia Joy

The Johnson factor

Books

By James Eckardt

ON THE eve of the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's death appears *The Churchill Factor* (Johnson, Riverhead Books, New York, 2014, 390pp). I picked it not for the subject matter, having read William Manchester's trilogy, one of several multi-volume biographies of the great man, but for the author, Boris Johnson.

Someday it is conceivable that two roommates at Eton, Boris Johnson and Abhisit Vejjajiva, will serve as the prime ministers of Great Britain and Thailand.

Johnson became a journalist, author of nine books, editor of *The Spectator*, member of Parliament and current mayor of London. Subtitled "How

One Man Made History", his appreciation of Winston Churchill is a labor of love.

The author shares with his subject a deep love of the English language and an irrepressible, puckish sense of humor. One of many delightful stories, told by his grandson to Johnson, is that Prime Minister Churchill was informed that one of his Tory ministers "was caught rogering a Guardsman on a bench in Hyde Park at three in the morning – and it was February, by the way". After a close interrogation about the particulars, Churchill concludes, "In this weather! Good God, man, it makes you proud to be British!"

But the serious theme to the book is how Winston Churchill changed world history – that without him Adolf Hitler would have almost certainly won World War II.

"We need to remember it today, and we need to remember the

ways in which this British Prime Minister helped to make the world we still live in. Across the globe – from Europe to Russia to Africa to the Middle East – we see traces of his shaping mind. Churchill matters today because he saved our civilization. And the important point is that only he could have done it."

At the fall of France, when "the French were possessed of an origami army: they just kept folding with almost magical speed", Britain stood alone, with "no sign of the US cavalry coming tooting over the brow of the hill". At a Cabinet meeting on May 28, 1940, British Foreign Minister Lord Halifax argued that Britain ought

to open negotiations with Hitler and Mussolini. Churchill's reply put backbone into the Cabinet:

"And I am convinced that every one of you would rise

up and tear me down from my place if I were for one moment to contemplate parley or surrender. If this long island story of ours is to end at last, let it end only when each one of us lies choking in his own blood upon the ground."

After his career as a soldier on four continents and prolific journalist – he published more words than Shakespeare and Dickens combined – Churchill's political career saw him converting the British fleet from coal to oil before the First World War, mobilizing tanks on the Western Front, taking the blame for the Gallipoli campaign, arranging the founding of Israel, Jordan and Iraq and, with Lloyd George, launching the British welfare state. Along the way, he had plenty of detractors.

"His enemies detected in him a titanic egotism, a desire to find whatever wave or wavelet he could, and surf it long after it had dissolved into spume on the



Churchill and Johnson share a love of the English language. Photo: United Nations Information Office

beach," Johnson observes. Time and time again, he gives voice to Churchill's opponents before launching his own cogent rebuttal. After a long survey of his life, Johnson concludes:

"He did possess a titanic ego, but one that was tempered by humor, and irony, and by deep humanity and sympathy for other people, and by a commitment to

public service and a belief in the democratic right of people to kick him out – as they did – at elections."

Of all books about Winston Churchill, this is the most entertaining. Johnson nimbly leaps from scene to scene: young Churchill speaking in Parliament, flying an early airplane, proposing to Clementine, posing with a tommy

gun at the height of the Blitz, and delivering his pivotal "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946. Churchill emerges as the embodiment of British character: "broadly humorous but occasionally bellicose, irreverent but traditionalist, steadfast but sentimental, rejoicing in language and wordplay of all kinds, keen to a fault on drink and food."

Excellence is served

Galileo superyacht crew training takes Phuket to the world

By Chris Husted

PHUKET has much to be proud of in terms of excellence provided in the island's marine and yachting industry, but taking excellence to the personal service level is the 1) Galileo Yachting Superyacht Training Academy in Thalang.

At a secluded high-end villa hidden among rubber trees near Thanayapura Sports and Leisure Club, trainees undergo courses specifically tailored for careers onboard superyachts, whether they have their sights set on being stewards, deckhands or even chefs serving the millionaire and billionaire owners and guests.

Founded in 2012 by Brian Murray, a career chief engineer in the British Royal Navy and a superyacht captain for 30 years, Galileo offers courses that twine skill sets from the upper echelon of the hospitality trade with requisite skills needed for working as superyacht crew.

"On superyachts, you need to be able to provide a particular service at the highest level and to be able to perform as an able crewman," explains Anthony Gould, director of the facility.

"Here, we replicate the conditions of living on a superyacht. The trainees live together in close quarters, and during the course they need to develop their own individual skill set and they must work together as a team in order to be effective."

The modules of the two main courses available – the Superyacht Deckhand Course and the Superyacht Stewardess Course – run the gamut from flower arrangement, housekeeping and bed making to Western and Thai cooking, table setting and silver service, wine and champagne appreciation, barista, bartending and mixology to yacht etiquette, tender driving to ropes and knots and basic navigation and seamanship.



The Galileo team onboard one of the yachts where they performed training, including 'forensic cleaning'.

The training is extensive, and even includes "forensic cleaning".

"That includes cue-tips around the mirror", smiles Anthony. "When you step onto a superyacht that might be, say, 12 years old, you look at it and think it's not more than six months old – that's the standard set by the captain – that's the expectation from the owners."

But those who benefit the most from the courses are those who bring their own skills to the center, and look to develop them further or to hone them to serve superyacht clientele, explains marketing manager Arisara "Sana" Pattaramalai.

"Some people are already skilled in one position on the boat, and want to broaden their skill set in order to redirect their careers or simply make more career

opportunities available," she says.

Anthony points out that already excelling in a chosen field is no guarantee of a position on a superyacht.

"Some people ask, 'Why would I want to do a course that I am already skilled in?'," he poses. "We have had cordon bleu chefs ask this, and we can give them 18 good reasons why."

To add to the likelihood of success in placement, course graduates are also vetted before being approved to undertake a course at Galileo, Sana notes.

"Before accepting a candidate for our courses we look carefully at general health, presentation and career background as well as language skills before accepting an applicant for a course," she adds. "This helps avoid complications later when it comes to finding

them a position on a superyacht."

Placement is key to the future of Galileo, notes Anthony. "There is no point in training superyacht crew if they cannot be placed," he states plainly.

Bill O'Leary, a long-term leading figure in Phuket's yachting industry and a shareholder at Galileo, adds that it is word of mouth that is vital to the academy's success.

"Our reputation of providing the right caliber staff is crucial. Once a captain hires a Galileo graduate, they call us back looking for other crew and make referrals to other superyacht captains," he explains.

"This is what makes our graduates highly sought-after."

This is music to the ears of Nirut Matchai, a student who just completed the March course and who hails from Ao Nang, Krabi,

where his family lives and where he gained his entry to the hospitality trade.

Nirut plans to take his new skills out into the world.

"I'd like to travel around the world. I already have years of experience working front desk at a high-end resort, and so I am pursuing a career as a steward. Ideally, I'd like to find a placement working in the Med," he explains.

Laureano Enrique Martinez, of Italian-Venezuelan parents and now living in France, is taking the deckhand course, and has his eyes on a career as superyacht captain.

"I work at a hotel in Nice, and I love water sports – jet-skis, boats, kayaks, name it," he says. "This could be the right start to end up on the bridge."

To that end, the Galileo courses offer much more than silver service training. The courses include firefighting and security awareness as components of the mandatory Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW95) certification.

The STCW95 requires basic safety training in elementary first aid; fire prevention and firefighting; personal survival techniques; personal safety and social responsibilities; and now ship security awareness.

"You cannot work on any commercial boat without an STCW," explains Anthony. "Captains will not allow crew to join a ship if they don't have this. If there is an incident, then insurance would not cover them. You just can't afford to have anyone on your boat who is not qualified."

For Laureano, connections at Galileo are already working their magic. He heard of a placement open on a superyacht in Antibes through a former graduate.

"I just emailed him, and it might work out," he smiles. "It's hard to believe it could be that easy."

"Yes, it can," assures Sana.



The ability to safely extinguish different types of fires is also a critical part of the course.



A team of Galileo trainees undergo the required personal survival skills training.

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* Channels and schedules: See page 13, this issue of the Gazette.

Phuket Gazette

Fight age with exercise



Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther

THE female beauty industry in 2010, in America alone, was worth US\$7 billion, with a further US\$10bn spent on cosmetic surgery. The desire to stay forever young dates at least as far back as the ancient Egyptians, many of whom used an ointment made from myrtle plants to avoid getting wrinkles, while Cleopatra bathed in milk and honey to keep her youthful looks.

It's no secret that the human race has been fascinated for thousands of years with staying young.

Research is starting to show that exercise can actually reverse the effects of aging. Yes, I said it. Exercise can reverse the effects of aging, making you look and feel younger.

Most of us know that the benefits of regular exercise are nigh boundless. However, as more research is done, the more we start to realize that exercise not only slows down the aging process, but can even temporarily turn back the hands of time.

Exercise increases the body's natural production of human growth hormone (HGH), incline growth factor (IGF-1) and testosterone. These are the youth serums of the body. We produce less and less of these as we age, and even less as everyday stressors are thrown at us.

A stressed body produces a hormone called cortisol, which robs your natural production of the anabolic hormones.

These hormones are vital ingredients for the body to repair itself at a cellular level. They are the same substances that celebrities pay thousands of dollars to have injected into them so that they look

younger.

"Every cell in the human body benefits from physical activity," says Tim Church, director of Preventative Medicine at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in the US.

Dr Church explains that people feel tangible results immediately after working out.

"Within an hour of exercising, you feel less anxious; that night you sleep better; and for 72 hours afterward, your body processes blood sugar more efficiently," he says.

CELL AND MUSCLE REJUVENATION

A study published in 2009 in the journal *Circulation* found that middle-aged people who exercise regularly had telomeres that were as long as that of a 20-year-old. What are telomeres? Essentially, they are our cells' clocks, which tick faster and faster as we age. Exercise has been shown to have a pausing effect on these tick-tock clocks of youth inside all of us.

Exercise also unlocks the stem cells in muscles, which helps to prevent muscle deterioration.

SKIN REJUVENATION

We all have heard of – and probably love – having a healthy glow. As we exercise, our heart rate increases, resulting in more blood being pumped through our bodies and reaching our arteries, veins and capillaries with more rigor. This more determined circulation allows our skin to dispel toxins that otherwise can sit under our skin and result in irritations and acne.

Additionally, as more blood reaches the skin's surface, it delivers nutrients that repair damage from the sun and environmental pollutants. These nutrients also



Exercise can help to turn back the hands of time. Photo: Mike Baird

speed up the skin's collagen production, stopping wrinkles in their tracks.

As we age, fibroblasts (the collagen-producing cells in the skin) become lazy and their numbers decrease. The nutrients delivered to the skin during exercise can help fibroblasts work more efficiently, which makes your skin look younger and also reduces body-wide inflammation. It also

helps regulate skin-significant hormones and prevents free-radical damage.

HAIR REJUVENATION

Regular exercise also improves blood flow to your scalp, keeping your hair stronger and healthier. Your hair follicles are nourished by the oxygen-rich blood flow that rushes antioxidants to the area,

destroying free radicals before they can damage your hair. It also lowers stress, which means your hair is less likely to be brittle or, worse, fall out.

Krix Luther is a health and fitness specialist with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength & conditioning. For more information about Krix and his services, visit krixluther.com

Community urban farm finds home in Thonglor

THE denizens of upmarket Soi Thonglor are no strangers to the opening of new establishments on their street, having watched hundreds of restaurants, bars and nightlife venues come and go over the years. The latest kid on the block, however, falls into none of those categories. The Root Garden, as it is called, is in fact an organic farm and home to plots of vegetables and plants, a chicken coop, a goat pen and a fishpond.

Open since January, Root Garden aims to promote sustainable agriculture to the urban masses. Local kids already love it and seem to enjoy learning that their food comes from the land and not a motorbike-riding delivery boy.

The fruit of a collaboration between international NGO Oxfam and various volunteer networks, the project is also promoting the land reform campaign and showcases how abandoned land can be transformed into a multipurpose space, open to everyone in the community to enjoy.

"We've worked on community rights,



A couple of kids play at the new Root Garden in Thonglor. Photo: The Nation

arable land rights and maritime law in Thailand for a decade, and we've learned that a great deal of land is bought purely for speculative purposes. That's why so much of it is unused. By setting up the farm, we are demonstrating efficient land use for public interest," says Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi, Oxfam's program campaign and advocacy coordinator.

"The plot, which belongs to the Jayavana Foundation, housed a restaurant and pub

before being abandoned. It's an ideal location to publicize our cause and we are grateful to the foundation for giving us a rent-free lease for a year."

The farm is spread over about 300 square meters and is already educating people about the benefits of organic farming and fair trade.

"Everything in this farm is eco-friendly, clean, safe and fair," Mr Jacques-Chai says. "Nobody on the team is trained in organic agriculture. We've learn the basics from

specialists with networks like Thai City Farm."

Root Garden is laid out to look like a backyard plot and is planted with seasonal vegetables and herbs usually seen in Thai kitchens, including cabbage, Chinese morning glory, green and red oak lettuce, coriander, lemon, pumpkin, banana, corn, chilli and beans.

Members of the community are more than welcome to plant their own mini plots and there's always a staff member on standby to provide some handy tips.

It's also home to a mushroom farm, a mini rice field and a fishpond. The eggs laid by the resident chickens cost just five baht each.

"Just by visiting our market, shoppers will understand how efficient consumption helps communities and low-income people. It provides a new perspective on environmental management," Mr Jacques-Chai says.

"We've received good feedback since we opened and we are creating more activities." – *Pattarawadee Saengmanee / The Nation*

Local swimmers dominate Thanyapura Invitational

PHUKET swimmers dominated the Thanyapura Invitational Swim Meet presented by Rocket Science Sports last weekend.

Local young swimmers competed against athletes and school teams from Bangkok and Samui, as well as Shanghai, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Singapore and elsewhere abroad.

Kornkarnjana 'Golf' Sapianchai of the Thanyapura Phuket International Academy (PIA) Swim Team finished top of the podium in the Girls 15-17-years-old division.

Felicity Passon and Syakirah Frost, both representing British International School Phuket (BISP) Flying Fish swim team placed second and third, respectively.

Jethro Chua of the BISP Flying Fish placed top overall in the Boys 18 years and over division.

Tied in second place overall were Peerapat 'Garfield' Loessathapornsuk and Tanakrit 'Nok' Kittiya, both from the Thanyapura PIA Swim Team.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Kornkarnjana 'Golf' Sapianchai of the Thanyapura PIA Swim Team finished top in the Girls 15-17-years-old division.

Raceweek early bird entries call

THE organizers of the 2015 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek are calling for early entries to this year's event, to be held off Cape Panwa from July 15-19.

"Early entries are strong, and the preparations are in full swing," said Byron Jones of regatta organizer Media Business Services Co Ltd (MBS).

"The 2015 Raceweek is building on the success of the previous 11 years and this year we aim to deliver the best regatta yet."

The 'Early Bird' registration fee has proved popular so far and the special rates – almost 20 per cent cheaper than the regular rate – are available up until June 6, he added.

Special room rates at the Cape Panwa Hotel and the Kantary Bay Hotel are also on offer for racers.

"These are on a first-come-first-served basis for regatta participants and already we have received many more bookings than at this time last year," noted Jones.

"Last year the special rates sold out long in advance, so if you need accommodation take advantage of the offers and book online now."

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the event, visit PhuketRaceweek.com

Cycling Fest praised over 'eco-tourism peddle power'

By Kongleaphy Keam

THE Phuket Cycling Fest returned for its second year last weekend with more than 680 cyclists joining a 46km fun-ride tour of the south of the island on the Sunday.

Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong chaired the opening ceremony at Saphan Hin on the Saturday evening, joined by Uthit Limsakul, deputy director of the Tourism of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office.

Governor Nisit also joined Phuket Town Mayor Somjai Suwansupana in leading the hundreds of cyclists from Saphan Hin on the tour of the south of the island on Sunday.

Mr Uthit praised the combined efforts of the TAT Phuket office with other governmental offices, as well as private companies, to make the event a success.

"I think this event will help promote tourism and boost the number and range of cycling activities in Phuket for both local residents and tourists," he said.

"From this event, we have shown that we can ride a bicycle to almost all of the tourist attractions in Phuket. If more tourists



Cyclists of all ages and from all walks of life joined the Phuket Cycling Fest fun-ride tour. Photo: PR Dept

use bicycles to travel, it will make Phuket a more desirable place as an environmentally friendly, tourist destination."

In addition to the cycling tour,

there were many activities held at the festival at Saphan Hin Park from 10am to 8pm on both days, including a Phuket City Bike Seminar and a bike collection on display

featuring folding bikes, vintage bikes, used bikes as well as a plethora of equipment and accessories provided by a host of cycling brands.

Phuket FC take on Pattaya in Surakul showdown

PHUKET FC will be looking for all three points from their match against the Pattaya Dolphins at Surakul Stadium this Sunday in the hopes of delivering a double blow to their Yamaha League One rivals.

Both teams are tied with seven points on the league table, and only goal difference separating the two sides. Pattaya is currently on top in seventh position, while Phuket languishes in 10th place.

But a win this Sunday will change all that. Three points will elevate either side into the top end of the league table.

The Phuket FC Ronins are riding high after their 3-2 victory over Thai Honda at Surakul on March 11.

The Pattaya Dolphins are also surfing a wave of confidence after their 5-1 win over Samut Songkram in Pattaya on March 8.

The win pushed aside a slump by the

Dolphins, who had lost 1-0 to Sukhothai and 2-0 to Thai Honda in their previous two outings.

Their performance against Samut Songkram also saw a resurgence in their attacking skills, which has been interpreted as a warning shot at Phuket.

Phuket FC Head Coach Songyot 'Dang' Klinsrisuk is taking steps to ramp up the Ronins' defensive game.

"We still have some problems with our defence," he told *Siam Sport* this week.

"We are trying to fix it by having players spend more time in the gym, and we need a stronger defensive player."

The Phuket FC starting line-up will not suffer from injuries, but Coach Dang has declined to reveal his starting squad until closer to the game. Kickoff is at 7pm.

— *Saroj Kueprasertkij*



Phuket FC defenders (left) will have to raise their game to shut out Pattaya. Photo: Phuket FC

Formula One lives on

Ferrari upsets Mercedes in humid Malaysian heat

By John O'Brien

AN EBULLIENT Sebastian Vettel spoke at length about the importance of his first win for Ferrari when addressing reporters after his Malaysian Grand Prix triumph on March 29, yet his beaming smile pretty much said it all.

He was back, Ferrari were back and most importantly, Formula One was back.

Vettel upset the odds with a stunning drive at Sepang, overhauling pole-sitter Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes thanks to Ferrari's ability to get the best out of the faster medium-compound tyres in Malaysia's sweltering heat.

The team tactics were also superb, opting to keep the four-time world champion out on track during an early safety car period as rivals dived into the pits for new tyres, and he rode the advantage all the way to the checkered flag.

Not only had the German and Ferrari claimed their first victories since 2013 but, by finally finding a way to beat the dominant Mercedes 'fair and square', as he put it, the series can now hope for a proper title race.

The 2015 season is only two races old, yet before Malaysia Formula One was awash with negative storylines and feared Mercedes could win everything at a canter.

Red Bull's Christian Horner, principal of Vettel's once-dominant, but now troubled former



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel celebrates winning the Malaysian Grand Prix with Mercedes' Hamilton. Photo: Reuters

team, had suggested Mercedes needed to be reined in by the authorities to level things out.

Vettel's own German Grand Prix had been axed due to a lack of finances and the confusion surrounding Fernando Alonso's winter testing crash and withdrawal from the Melbourne opener

all added to the negative tone.

A Ferrari victory was the shot in the arm that the sport needed. As Mercedes' Nico Rosberg said on the podium at Sepang, "All I can say now, on behalf of our team is: Game on, Ferrari."

Vettel, following in the footsteps of seven-time champion

compatriot Michael Schumacher, fulfilled a dream when he joined Ferrari at the end of last season, but there remains plenty of work to do.

"Since I joined Ferrari I felt incredibly welcome and together we have worked to improve things. The potential, as I always said, is

huge, it's good to see what a step forward we did over the winter," Vettel said.

"This is a special day, it has been a while since both I and team won for the last time.

"I'd like to be in the same position at every race, but we must be realistic, Mercedes struggled today, but have a great package and our target is to make the gap smaller at every grand prix and make sure that we are the team right behind them."

Mercedes, who had romped to a one-two finish in Australia, recognized the danger Ferrari posed following the first practice session in Malaysia and were taking the threat seriously.

"We were not expecting them to be as quick as they were. Vettel is up there with us," said world champion Lewis Hamilton, runner-up on March 29.

"Ferrari and Sebastian were the best today so they are a title contender – both Ferrari drivers," added third-placed Rosberg.

Vettel's teammate Kimi Raikkonen was perhaps the unluckiest driver of the weekend, yet the Finn overcame a qualifying setback and early puncture in the race to finish fourth.

The next grand prix is in Shanghai on April 12 and the cooler conditions are likely to put Mercedes back in command.

But Malaysia left no doubt that Ferrari are back in business.

— Reuters

Yamaha's Rossi wins duel with Ducati

MOTOGP great Valentino Rossi rolled back the years to win the Qatar season-opener for Yamaha on March 29 with Italian riders sweeping the podium, after a thrilling duel under the Losail floodlights.

Andrea Dovizioso, who had started on pole position while Rossi was only eighth, took second place just 0.174 seconds behind for Ducati, with teammate Andrea Iannone finishing third.

Honda's double-world-champion Marc Marquez was fifth after being forced out at the first corner and having to fight back from last.

The win, at the grand old age of 36, was the 109th of Rossi's top category of motorcycling.

"I said this a lot of times, but for me this is one of the best," said Rossi, a nine-time world champion, after a race that saw the lead constantly change hands with the outcome uncertain right to the end.

Dovizioso led at the start, but Rossi's Spanish teammate and double-world-champion Jorge Lorenzo hit the front on lap two



Yamaha's Valentino Rossi wins in Qatar. Photo: Reuters

as the race turned into a Yamaha-Ducati battle with the Honda riders eclipsed.

Rossi seemed content to hang back in fourth, but moved up to third at the halfway point and then used all his experience to attack, taking the lead for the first time with four laps remaining.

"That's Valentino Rossi at his best," Yamaha team principal Lin Jarvis told BT Sport television.

"A sensational comeback from

eighth place at the beginning... he did incredibly well."

Ducati have not won in MotoGP since 2010, but are in the 'open' category which confers certain advantages including tyres and fuel until they start making regular appearances on the podium.

It looked like their long wait was coming to an end, with Dovizioso right on Lorenzo's tail and then chasing Rossi all the way, but it was not to be.

— Reuters

Aussie Rules footballers get relief from drugs tribunal

AN ANTI-DOPING tribunal has thrown out drugs charges against 34 professional Australian Rules footballers who were swept up in a probe that has overshadowed the country's top-flight competition for more than two years.

The 34 past and present players for the Melbourne-based Essendon Bombers, one of the Australian Football League's oldest and most successful clubs, were found not guilty by the league's anti-doping tribunal of taking Thymosin beta-4, a banned supplement believed to aid in tissue repair and regeneration.

"The tribunal was comfortably satisfied that the substance Thymosin Beta-4 was at the relevant time a prohibited substance under the Code," tribunal chairman David Jones said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The tribunal was not comfortably satisfied that any player was administered Thymosin Beta-4."

The 34 were alleged to have been injected with banned supplements in a detailed and highly



Australian Rules stadium. Photo: Sascha Wenninger

organized regime during the 2012 championship season.

Australia's peak anti-doping watchdog charged the players last June, some 16 months after a joint investigation was launched with the AFL.

The ruling is likely to prove controversial, given the AFL slapped a record multi-million-dollar fine on the club in 2013 and disqualified the team from the playoffs for bringing the league into disrepute.

The head coach James Hird was banned for a year, while a number of other club officials were handed suspensions and fined.

— Reuters

Teenage kicks

By Kongleaphy Keam

YOUNGSTERS from Phuket won gold in seven sporting events at the 31st National Youth Games, held in Chanthaburi last week, but made their presence felt by dominating the martial arts competitions.

"Phuket won 39 medals this year: seven gold, 10 silver and 22 bronze. Now Phuket is ranked 18th in the country for youth sports, and second in all of Southern Thailand," explained Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, president of Phuket Sports Association of Thailand Phuket office.

Mr Thammawat was proud of the squad's performance, especially in the martial arts events, and praised those who supported the squad.

"We had athletes competing in 18 different events, and a total of 204 people from Phuket as coaches, parents and staffers from the Sport Association of Phuket to support them."

Phuket martial-arts fighters performed especially well at the 13-day games, which began on March 16.

Among them was 14-year-old Nuchit "Nong Team" Rukyut from Kajonkiet School, who won gold in the taekwondo under-59kg division.

Kittiwit Meeyuda won gold in the taekwondo boys under-48kg competition, and Pattomporn Jaijan won gold in the jujitsu boys 46-50kg class.

Phuket students also shone in the jujitsu duo tournaments. Pornpavina Chuepu and Thammanit Saekow won gold in the Duo-Mix competition; Chanidapa Seangeng and Pornpavina Chuepu scoring gold in the Duo-Girls comp; and Jeerapat Bootchuay and Thammanit Saekow winning gold in the Duo-Boys division.

Meanwhile, card players Adisorn Sungla, Halma Kaviset and Vasin Pongngamchai won gold for Phuket in the mixed Bridge competition.

"I am happy with our results this year; we won more medals than last year," Mr Thammawat said.

"And we will do our best to train our players to win even more medals for Phuket at the national youth games next year."

Phuket athletes dominated in the martial arts contests, winning gold medals in six events. Photos: Chanthaboon Games



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