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Boat hit-and-run

Shocked Dane allegedly shoved from dive boat after seeking safety

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■ 'HER BODY WAS RECOVERED THE NEXT DAY'

Killer blaze

■ Israeli girl killed in ferry fire, more than 100 jump ship to survive

By Chutharat Plerin

A 12-YEAR-OLD Israeli girl was tragically killed as a tourist-packed ferry heading from Krabi to Phuket burst into flames on April 8, prompting officials to launch a series of tourist boat-safety inspections over the holiday.

First reports said that all of the 115 passengers – comprising 107 adults and eight children – were accounted for. However, it was quickly realized that 12-year-old Shani Manil was not.

Search and rescue divers recovered the girl's remains from the sunken *Ao Nang Princess 5* at about 11am the next day, said Maj Anurak Parinyasathiragul of the Krabi Marine Police.

Shani's parents had brought her, and her two siblings, to Thailand for a holiday to celebrate Shani's *Bat Mitzvah*.

"We wish to remind and remember that until that moment, Shani had an amazing trip with her family, full of fascinating vistas and wonderful experiences, and she enjoyed every minute," Shani's Aunt Anat told *The Times Of Israel*.

"The family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and desire to help. However, the family also wishes to honor her privacy and refrain from further media



The ferry, *Ao Nang Princess 5*, was transporting more than 100 people – many of them tourists – to Phuket from Krabi when it caught fire and sank. Photo: Krabi Marine Police

coverage."

The day after the blaze, ten of the tourists who survived the lethal ferry fire had already flown home.

"We have their statements already, so there was no need to keep them here any longer," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Samarn Chainarong.

In their statements, many survivors recalled the horror of fleeing the fire by leaping into the water.

Natalie Lee, a 29-year-old Briton on her honeymoon, recalled how she and her husband had to quickly put on life vests and jump into the sea to escape the blaze.

One Chinese tourist said that she was floating in the water for about half an hour before a boat came by and rescued her.

"I am still scared and want to go home now. I hope I can get ...

Continued on Page 5

US scuba diver disappears on Similans trip

OFFICIALS ramped up their search on Wednesday for an American diver who went missing from a Similans-bound liveaboard last week.

Joshua Michael Devine, 36, disappeared from CRP Transport diving trip after a night of drinking. He was joined on the trip by his Thai wife and 22 other divers.

Full story on Page 3

Safety boosted after Samui mall bombing

A PHUKET top cop boosted security measures on the island following a car bomb exploding in the underground car park of Central Festival Samui.

Management at Central Festival Phuket ramped up security at their car park following the explosion.

Police have since found evidence during a search of homes belonging to Central Festival Koh Samui security guards that they believe is linked to the attack.

Full story on Page 7

Seven injured in fishing boat explosion

Seven Myanmar fishermen were seriously injured after a battery reportedly exploded, sparking a fire inside their fishing boat off the coast of Phang Nga early on April 11.

Full story on Page 5

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Demand for rental properties is outpacing supply. **Page 25**



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When going on a diving mini-adventure, prepare accordingly. **Page 28**



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Yacht Haven goes long to give superyachts a new home. **Page 31**



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Hundreds of drunk drivers arrested during Songkran

By Kongleaphy Keam

POLICE in Phuket targeted drunk drivers, arresting hundreds of people driving under the influence yesterday, while relaxing their efforts to enforce other banned Songkran activities, the *Gazette* was told on Tuesday.

Prior to the New Year celebrations, a nationwide ban that Phuket police said they would be strictly enforcing was put on sexy outfits, sexy dancing and rolling water-fight trucks. Also banned were the use of ice water and mixing either foam or powder with water for the festivities.

"There were more than 100 drunk drivers arrested. However, we only made a few arrests of people taking part in other activities deemed inappropriate for Songkran," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee.

"We understand the rules issued for the Songkran festivities. However, we don't want the festival to look unhappy, so we didn't enforce the bans too strictly."

Col Peerayuth pointed out that though some activities, such as using ice water and powder, had been banned, they were not causing harm to anyone.

"We preferred to just warn them, rather than arrest them, as



The ban on pick-up trucks was not strictly enforced. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

the infractions are not that serious – we want people to enjoy Songkran," Col Peerayuth said.

In Patong alone, more than 100 drunk drivers were arrested, Lt Col Pongpichan Chayanonpiriya of the Patong Police said.

"We arrested a few people for using powder and using pick-up trucks during the water fights," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Khunnadet

Nanongkhai said.

In Chalong, which hosted another major play zone for Songkran, 14 drivers were arrested for drunk driving, but no participants were arrested for other inappropriate activities.

"There were a few incidents, but we chose to just warn them rather than arrest them," Chalong Police Superintendent Noppadon Thiraprawat said.

Body found floating off beach

POLICE are trying to identify a man whose body was found floating off Layan Beach on April 10.

Passing fishermen spotted the body about 13 nautical miles from Koh Kata, the small island immediately offshore from Layan Beach, at about 9:30am.

"We have yet to identify the man," said Lt Jirasak Sungwisut of the Cherng Talay Police. "The body looked like that of a Caucasian, though we have yet to confirm whether or not he was."

The man was about 180 centimeters tall and had simple tattoos on both arms.

His body was dressed only in black shorts.

"At this stage, we believe he died a few days ago," Lt Jirasak said.



Rescue workers recover the body.

"It looked like his neck was cut. However, we could not really tell what exactly inflicted the wound or whether this was inflicted before he died."

Photos provided to the *Gazette* show the man's face had sustained severe trauma, either before or after death, and he had a traditional swastika tattooed on his left forearm.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Two arrested for Krabi plantation stabbing

KRABI police have arrested two men wanted for the stabbing murders of three men in a plantation in Nuea Khlong on Monday.

"We were notified of the attack just after midnight," said Nuea Khlong Police Superintendent Taksin Phochakorn. "Four men at the scene had serious stab wounds – three died en route to hospital."

Police arrested Supasit Saiyuan and Sompoch Thayansab, who allegedly called the four men up and told the group to meet them at the palm plantation, later on Monday.

Those who died in the attack were named as Boonmee Meemit, 24; Doy Sriraksa, 44; and Khamdee Wonglakul, 28. Mr Khamdee's 25-year-old brother, Apiwat Wonglakul, was stabbed in the



Three men died en route to hospital after the stabbing.

back, but survived, said Col Taksin.

"The four men had been drinking before the incident. At this point we believe that it somehow had something to do with a love affair. However, we will know more after we arrest the sus-

pects," Col Taksin said. "The two suspects allegedly fled the scene after the stabbing, leaving behind their motorbike."

The men were charged with murder.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Officials ramp up searches for missing American diver

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET officials ramped up their search on Wednesday for an American diver who went missing from a Similans-bound liveaboard on April 11.

Joshua Michael Devine, 36, a civilian IT operative working at a United States military base in Kuwait, was on the CRP Transport diving trip with his Thai wife and 22 other divers.

The Phuket Marine Police sent a search team by sea, while the Royal Thai Navy lent a helicopter for an air search above the island.

"We have yet to find Mr Devine. Despite the sea being rough and choppy today, we will do our best to search the 35-nautical-mile radius in which we believe he went missing," Governor Nisit Jansomwong told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We have also contacted other boats in the area to keep an eye out for Mr Devine and to report any information they might have to us immediately."

Mr Devine's 36-year-old wife, Thadsana, who was also part of the search on Wednesday, told the *Gazette* this week that she and her husband arrived in Phuket on April 10 after having spent almost two weeks in Pattaya, where they own an apartment.

"We arrived with 10 other divers from Pattaya, Thais and foreigners, who were joining us on the trip."

The couple, who were married in 2010, had made a similar trip to the Similan Islands about three years ago.

"Joshua was drinking with



Mrs Thadsana, Mr Devine's wife, joined in the search above the sea on Wednesday. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

some of the other divers on the boat that night, while I was in the bedroom. At about 4am he came into the cabin very drunk and making all kinds of noise," Mrs Thadsana said.

"He was shouting, so two of the guys he just made friends with came in and took him away to calm him down.

"I was told to just rest in my room."

Mrs Thadsana told the *Gazette* that she couldn't get back to sleep, and about 15 minutes later one of the men returned to see if Mr Devine had come back to the room.

"The man said that Joshua wanted to be alone. We searched

the boat, but couldn't find him," Mrs Thadsana said. "I hope my husband is still alive."

The boat captain didn't report Mr Devine as a missing person until about 10am, confirmed the Phuket Marine Police. Mrs Thadsana couldn't account for the delay in notifying authorities.

"We marked the point of disappearance from the boat, *Chontara I*, at about 17 nautical miles from Bang Tao Beach," Phuket Marine Police chief Panya Chaichana told the *Gazette*. "We immediately sent out a vessel to do a five nautical mile sweep around the area he went missing."

The search continued from 10am to sunset.

"[On April 12], we sent out another boat and contacted the Navy to have them launch an aerial search. A helicopter was sent out, but also failed to locate Mr Devine," Lt Col Panya said. "The search was called off at sunset."

Mrs Thadsana expressed her gratitude for the search efforts on Wednesday.

"I joined the search and want my husband's family to know that the Thai government is doing everything they can to find him," she said.

"I am thankful for the effort. I hope my husband is still alive. In the very worst case, I hope that we at least find his body."



Ms Akemi was pronounced dead at Krabi Hospital.

Japanese tourist dies on Krabi snorkelling tour

A TOURIST who owns a cosmetic company in her native Japan drowned while snorkelling at Koh Gai, off Krabi, on Tuesday.

"Akemi Kato, 52, was pulled from the water at about noon," said Capt Prapan Nhuchaikaew of the Krabi City Police.

"Ms Kato was one of 10 tourists on a speedboat tour run by Ao Nang Orchid Co Ltd."

The tour was scheduled to take the tourists to four popular sites: Separated Sea (*Thale Waek*), Koh Tab, Koh Gai and Railay Bay.

"Witnesses and tour staffers confirmed that Ms Kato was wearing a life jacket while snorkelling," Capt Prapan said.

"However, other tourists nearby noticed that she was not moving for quite some time and went to make sure that she was okay, they shook her, but there was no response."

Staffers administered CPR and rushed Ms Kato to shore, where she was taken to Krabi Hospital.

"Despite their efforts, she was pronounced dead soon after her arrival," Capt Prapan said.

"The doctor verified the cause of death as drowning. Her relatives have been notified.

"She came with friends and stayed at the Rayavadee Resort [in Krabi]," Capt Prapan confirmed.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



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Bomb fears dispelled by wet clothes

FEARS that an abandoned bag might contain a bomb sent an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit racing to Sriphuwana Public Park in Wichit on Tuesday.



The bag. Photo: Phuket EOD

"Wichit Police informed the EOD that they got a call from locals who had seen a bag that looked like a bomb so we immediately went to scene," said Lt Prachpong Keawkamjan, head of the Phuket EOD.

The team quickly found that the bag contained only wet clothes.

"I understand that people were panicked and afraid that the bag was a bomb due to the recent news about the bomb incident in Samui," Lt Prachpong said.

"However, please keep in mind to fact check before sharing such news on social media, as this kind of news can frighten people and create a huge panic."

— Kongleaphy Keam

Warrant issued for alleged tour company scam artist

By Kongleaphy Keam

AN ARREST warrant has been issued for a man who is wanted for allegedly defrauding a Phuket tour company of about 1.5 million baht.

The warrant for Peerapat 'Deer' Singhon, 25, was issued after the alleged fraudster failed to present himself on April 7.

"As Mr Peerapat failed to present himself in accordance with the police summons, the case has been handed over to the police," Santi Pawai, director of Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office told the Gazette.

Mr Peerapat was working as a freelance sales representative for Phuket Diamond Tours selling extraordinarily cheap holiday packages through his website Phuket Reviews.

Concerns of the alleged fraud first surfaced after about 100 customers booked tours to Phuket



Mr Santi (center) confirmed that the suspect had not turned himself in.

and Phang Nga through Mr Peerapat's website, believing they had booked their tours with Phuket Diamond Tours.

However, no services were ren-

dered and the clients were left abandoned at the airport, leading them to file a complaint to the MOTS Phuket office.

The 27-year-old owner of

Phuket Diamond Tours, Arinrada Sirirak, quickly put out a 10,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of Mr Peerapat.

The tour operator, MOTS, Andaman Tourism Association and tourists affected by the fraud case struck an agreement on how to handle the matter.

"Tourists who bought packages from Mr Peerapat and still want to visit Phuket need to pay for their flights and accommodation themselves. However, Diamond Tours will pay for transport and food expenses, while the MOTS and Andaman Tourism Association will pay for boat fees, tourist-destination fees and other similar costs," Mr Santi said.

Ms Arinrada has contacted Mr Peerapat's relatives and friends, but has yet to locate him.

"I will put more pressure on him. Hopefully, he will present himself to police and face justice," Ms Arinrada said.

Aussie, Brit arrested after using skimmed ATM cards



The two expats were arrested near the Karon Circle.

AN AUSTRALIAN and a British expat have been arrested for using data from skimmed ATM cards to withdraw cash in Phuket.

British national Jamie Steven McKee, 31, and Australian Darrin John Williams, 48, were arrested near Karon Circle on April 8 after police received a tip-off.

"Our officers identified the men from the descriptions given, and approached them at about 11:15pm," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij.

"They had just withdrawn 20,000 baht from a Siam Commercial Bank ATM in front of a 7-Eleven store and were walking toward Karon Plaza."

A search of the men revealed that Mr McKee had 11 blank ATM cards inside a cigarette pack and Mr Williams had five blank ATM cards in his wallet.

"Officers also found an ATM-

card encoder, a computer and 29 blank ATM cards in Mr McKee's rented room in Patong," noted Col Sunchai.

Officers found no incriminating evidence in Mr Williams' rented room on Phisit Gorani Road, also in Patong.

"We have learned of a person who has been providing details of bank accounts from skimmed ATM cards to Mr McKee over the internet. We have yet to identify this suspect," Col Sunchai said.

"However, we have established that Mr McKee organized and bought the blank ATM cards and the encoding machine in Bangkok."

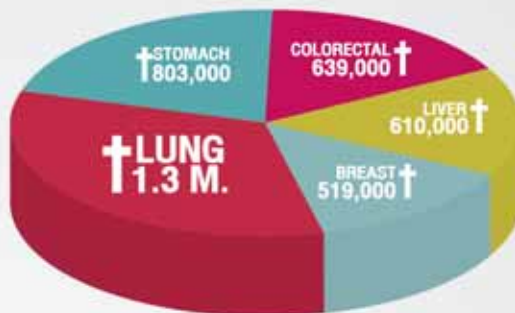
Both men confessed to electronic card fraud, Col Sunchai said.

"They have been handed over to the Karon Police for further legal processing," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Battery fire blazes boat

Seven crew members injured when battery explosion sparks fire on boat in Phang Nga

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

SEVEN Myanmar fishermen were seriously injured after a battery allegedly exploded, sparking a fire inside their fishing boat off the coast of Phang Nga on April 11.

One of the Myanmar nationals, whose name was withheld by hospital staff, is in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Vachira Phuket Hospital after he sustained severe burns to his entire body, a hospital staffer confirmed.

The explosion took place about 12 miles off the coast of Kuraburi in Phang Nga at about 4am.

"I was sleeping inside the cabin at the time. There were seven

workers sleeping in the engine room near the batteries," said Vorawat Saengwijit, a relative of the boat owner.

"Something metal must have fallen onto one of the batteries and caused it to explode. The explosion then caused the other batteries to catch fire.

"The seven workers inside the engine room ran out with their bodies on fire and jumped into the water. We immediately called for help from nearby boats to take the workers to hospital."

Six of the injured crewmen were taken to hospitals in Takuapa and Ranong, while one was taken to the ICU at Vachira.

'The seven workers inside the engine room ran out with their bodies on fire and jumped into the water'



Seven boat crew members that were sleeping near the batteries were injured in the fire.

The boat owner, Anna Phandee, did not request a police investigation for the incident and has taken responsibility for all the medical costs for the injured workers, Mr Vorawat told the *Gazette*.

"The owner of the boat has not notified the police of the incident. We were notified by staffers at Kuraburi Hospital after they received the injured workers," said Capt Somkid Onchun of Kuraburi

Police Station.

"We believe the story about the battery exploding and causing the fire, but we want to investigate further, so we have made an appointment with the boat owner."

Ferry fire leaves 12-year-old dead



Divers recover the body of 12-year-old Shani Manil. Photo: Krabi Marine Police

From page 1

...a new passport soon," the 22-year-old said, adding that her booked holiday was supposed to conclude next week.

Police set up an emergency assistance center at Phuket City Police Station so officers could obtain statements from the survivors, as well as provide assistance in obtaining new passports, emergency accommodation and help with any insurance claims.

A total of 91 tourists registered for help at the center, Col Samarn said.

Police are now investigating the cause of the fire, reported *The Nation*.

The driver and the boat's engineer have provided their statements and have yet to face any charges over the incident.

The boat will be salvaged and experts will be recruited to examine its condition, *The Nation* reported.

The safety checks launched in the wake of the girl's tragic death came to an end on Wednesday.

"Uniformed officers were stationed at popular tourism spots to inspect boats and help tourists," said Maj Anurak.

"No one wants accidents to happen. It is our responsibility to check on all boats and strictly enforce all regulations to ensure the safety of passengers.

"I am aware that our checks cannot guarantee that accidents won't happen. However, they do make boat operators aware that we are keeping an eye on them, and passengers can feel confident that all safety rules are being followed."

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Bus station taxi driver eviction put on pause

AN EVICTION order to move taxi drivers from Phuket's main bus terminal in Rassada has been put on ice until after the Songkran holiday, a vice governor confirmed to the *Gazette* last week.

The news follows a meeting chaired by Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthiak on April 8 in response to a request lodged by 30 taxi drivers for intervention into the order, which would have forced them to cease operations at the bus terminal by April 10.

"The reasons behind the eviction order issued by Rassada Municipality were unclear. Therefore, we voided the April 10 deadline. Taxis can operate there as normal for the time being," Vice Governor Somkiet explained.

"We will settle the issue in another meeting, which will be held after Songkran."

Rassada Mayor Phudit Raksarat chalked up the situation to a misunderstanding.

"In the letter I sent out to the taxi drivers, I simply said that they would need to move to a different area of the terminal. I did not mean to chase them away," Mr Phudit explained. "I suppose this was not clearly stated in the letter."

"Regardless, I am glad that all sides have come together to find a solution to this problem."

The Governor's Office has ordered Rassada Municipality to come to the next meeting, for which a date has yet to be set, with a clear outline of the bus terminal reorganization.

"Rassada Municipality must be clear with its plan and the reasons why they want to make changes. They must present all of this information at the next meeting," said V/Gov Somkiet.

"We want the process to be fair."

— **Kongleaphy Keam**

Shocked Danish tourist allegedly pushed from boat after accident

By Phuket Gazette

WICHIT Police are investigating a hit-and-run boating incident in which a dive boat collided with a sailboat. A dive boat worker allegedly threw a Danish crew member seeking safety on the dive boat, into the water before the boat fled the scene of the accident.

"Everyone was screaming. I realized that we hit the boat, and my friend fell into the water," said 21-year-old Jens Ole Vibild, who has spent the last 14 days on the boat as part of his gap year. "I jumped to the other boat, the diving boat, because I thought our boat was going to sink."

Witnesses on the sailboat, *Starship*, explained that after the collision, the Aqua Center Thailand dive boat, *North Star*, started to leave with Mr Vibild still on board.

"The diving boat went back because the crew realized that I was on the boat and they didn't want me to be on the boat," Mr Vibild said. "They kept saying, 'jump, jump, jump'."

"I refused because I'm an okay swimmer, but it was in the open ocean and big waves and the boat was still moving, so I didn't know if I could make it, but then he [a man yelling at him to jump] threw me into the water."

By the time Mr Vibild was allegedly thrown into the water, his 20-year-old friend Per Boegh Ellekrog had managed to swim to safety in the dinghy being pulled behind the sailboat.

"I suddenly realized that we were going to hit, and we couldn't avoid it. So I had my book [The Odyssey] in my hand and just backed up. I was leaning against the railing when the impact [of the collision threw] me off the boat into the water," Mr Ellekrog said. "I was there. I had my book in my hand. I fell into the water and I was scared for my life."

"Looking up, I could see the boat



Mr Vibild (left) stands with Mr Ellekrog after the accident. Photo: Mauri Grant

moving. I was swimming as fast as I could to get to the surface."

Once safely on the dinghy, Mr Ellekrog recalls hearing his Mr Vibild shouting his name.

"I had no idea how he got on the other boat. I was in the dinghy and I saw the dive boat just take off, and I was like, 'Wait! My friend'," Mr Ellekrog said. "The boat took off, but made a big turn and came back. Then, I saw him standing there, refusing to get in... He was shocked, so he didn't want to jump. I said, 'Ole, just stay, just stay.' Then, I just saw a guy just pushing him and I saw him... falling into the water."

The owner of *Starship* explained that he followed maritime protocol when he saw *North Star* on a collision course with his

sailboat, which had right of way.

"The dive boat was coming from my right side and I wasn't sure if he could see me or not... I maintained course and speed, which is what I'm supposed to do under the law. I was under autopilot. I wasn't even steering the boat," said American Gary Gilbert, who was on the boat with his wife and daughter. "He wasn't slowing down and he wasn't altering course. I blew my horn five blasts. Five blasts means collision warning. I gave it to him when he was 100 meters away."

"Still no change in speed and no change in direction. So I hit [the horn] again – five blasts. Then my horn started running out of air."

Mr Gilbert explained to the *Gazette* that he didn't see the dive boat make any change in speed or

direction before the collision.

"After the collision the anchor went through my mainsail and all the ropes and lines were tied around his anchor. We were connected together," he said.

"I didn't even notice that one of my crew members [Mr Ellekrog] went in the water. I didn't know someone was in the water. I was trying to disconnect the ropes. He was smashing my boom, smashing the side of my boat."

Once the boats were disentangled, the dive boat turned and started to leave, said Mr Gilbert.

"My crew was on their boat... At that time I was trying to get control of my boat. The boom was swinging wildly in the wind and the mainsail was smashed. We were still sailing," Mr Gilbert said.

"One of the crew members, a Thai crew member, pushed my crew member into the water with no life jacket and he started swimming for the dinghy. He was in shock at that time. Pushed a man in shock into the water."

Mr Ellekrog managed to swim to the dinghy.

"We have cooperated with the authorities and sent all the necessary documents to the Marine Office already," said the manager of Aqua Center Thailand, Jaruwat Pongmak. "We are now waiting for the captain to return."

The *North Star* returned to Chalong Pier at about 6pm that night. The case was later handed from the Marine Police to the Wichit Police.

"The parties have yet to reach an agreement because neither will accept responsibility. As no one was hurt in the accident, we have yet to press charges," Lt Charus Lempan of the Wichit Police told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"This is now a civil case. The two parties are in the process of negotiating now. If they cannot reach an agreement, the case will be handed to the court."

Drugged driver netted in road-safety blitz

A BUS driver was fined for driving under the influence during a Songkran road-safety blitz at the bottom of Patong Hill in Kathu on April 10.

Thung Thong Police and the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) set up a checkpoint from 9am-11am to randomly check vehicles passing through, said Jaturong Kaewkasi, the chief policy advisor at PLTO.

One bus driver, who PLTO officers declined to name, tested positive for drugs.

"After he failed his drug test, the driver was charged with driving under the influence, fined 5,000 baht and taken to Thung Thong Police Station for processing," he said.

Police also found that the bus owner had failed to pay the proper



One bus driver was arrested. Photo: Thung Thong Police

taxes for the vehicle.

"We called the owner to the scene and charged him with failure to pay taxes, which has a fine of up to 5,000 baht. The owner was also fined an additional 5,000 baht for allowing a driver under the influence to operate the vehicle," said Mr Jaturong.

The blitz follows an order from

the Governor's Office to ramp up road-safety measures during the Songkran holiday and the 'Seven Days of Danger', from April 9-15.

"We will cooperate with local authorities to boost and strengthen our road-safety measures during the Seven Days of Danger," said Mr Jaturong. "There will be random checkpoints at different locations on the island every day until the end of Songkran."

"I suggest that everyone drives carefully at all times, not only during the Seven Days of Danger. Always make sure that you are legally able to drive and that your vehicle is in good condition before getting on the road."

"Please avoid illegal activities and do not drive while drunk."

— **Kongleaphy Keam**

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Security boosted post-bomb

By Kongleaphy Keam

A PHUKET top cop boosted security measures on the island following a car bomb exploding on the resort island of Koh Samui on April 10.

"In short, we will strengthen our security measures and keep a closer eye on tourist locations, as well as areas where the public generally gathers," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee told the *Gazette* after the bombing. "However, it is important to remember that nothing like this has happened in Phuket, and that there is no reason to panic."

Four Thais and one foreigner were injured when the car bomb detonated in the underground parking area at Central Festival Samui. Two witnesses to the bombing fainted following the explosion (see page 8).

Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong told the *Gazette* that Phuket would not "stand still" after the incident on Koh Samui, as the two have many similarities as popular tourist islands.



Phuket police boosted island security after a bomb exploded on Koh Samui. Photo: Suchart Hankij

"In response to the Samui bombing, I have ordered officers at the checkpoint situated on the road access point to the mainland to meticulously check every vehicle coming onto Phuket. I have also ordered officers at the airport to pay close attention to all

activities there," he said.

"We already strengthened our forces on the island ahead of Songkran, especially in tourist areas."

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak explained to the *Gazette* that the boost in security

measures would not include more boots on the ground.

"Actually, we are already well prepared because of Songkran. However, we will increase our vigilance during vehicle checks," Vice Governor Somkiet said. "We will do our best to keep everyone safe."

Though extra officers aren't being added to island patrols following the explosion, Central Festival Phuket has increased its security-staff numbers in the car park, and boosted general security.

"We added more security staff at the car park, and I ordered the staff to keep a closer eye on cars entering the mall. They are required to check the bottom of all cars before letting them into the underground parking area," said Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, general manager of Central Festival Phuket. "The increased security measures were implemented [after the bombing]."

As an additional measure, Mr Wilaiporn had all cars cleared from the parking area after the mall closed on April 10.

"As for the building, we already have screening machines at the entrances, so we will continue to be vigilant at those locations," he said.

"We will be staying in close contact with local police and monitoring the situation to ensure that everyone feels safe when they visit our shopping center."

Myanmar worker in hospital after electrical shock injury

AMYANMAR worker was injured by an electrical shock from a metal wall divider inside a Phuket worker camp in Chong Talay on April 12.

The 28-year-old man, named only as 'Mr Ao', was taken to Thalang Hospital by Kusoldharm rescue workers following the accident.

"He was at his place when he touched a metal sheet that we used to separate our rooms," Mr Soe, one of Mr Ao's co-workers, told the *Gazette*. "We have been having problems with electrical current leakage for the last couple of days. It might be because of the rain."

Mr Soe told the *Gazette* that those living in the camp had not alerted the camp's supervisor of the leakages.



Rescue workers tend to Mr Ao after the accident.

"We thought it wasn't going to be a big problem. We thought it would be fine," Mr Soe said.

The supervisor has now been informed of the situation and is seeking to remedy it, confirmed Mr Soe.

Mr Ao is continuing to recover at Thalang Hospital.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

'Death lagoon' roped off

RAWAI Municipality has installed floating markers to rope off the beach side of the sluice gate at Nai Harn Lagoon.

The estuary is subject to strong tidal flows between the lagoon and the sea, which trapped and drowned 9-year-old Sarun Srisongkram on March 30.

"Swimmers can swim at the beach and in the lagoon, but should not cross the buoys," warned Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos. "The zone beyond the buoys is dangerous, especially during high tide."

"I personally do not worry much about foreign tourists. I believe they understand and can



The lagoon. Photo: Rawai Municipality

handle the strong current. However, I am seriously worried about local children.

"Do not let children play anywhere near there unattended. Many children have died over the years. I do not want more."

— *Kongleaphy Keam*

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Casting a line to catch traffickers

FIRST PERSON

PHUKET Marine Police are targeting human trafficking victims that are being tricked, forced or conned into work and being obstructed from obtaining basic human freedoms or being treated violently at work.

Migrant workers do have the right to deal with placement agencies that can secure them legal work in the fishing industry.

However, those agencies must guarantee these people a safe work environment and minimum wages.

The human trafficking issues in Thailand's fishing industry are mostly not derived from Phuket. Most migrant workers, about 90 per cent, in the fishing industry here have legal working documents.

Additionally, most of the fishing boats here only go out for a short time; some go out for one day, while others go out for a maximum of a week. Our situation is much different than that in the Gulf of Thailand, where many fishing boats take trips to places as far away as Indonesia.

These trips take many months to complete; the risk of human trafficking is much higher in these situations.

During long fishing expeditions, it is possible that people can be brought on board and forced to work, as they have less of a chance to escape the situation. This is a serious problem, which is why we must patrol and inspect fishing boats operating all of Thailand's territorial waters.

The majority of the workers



Lt Col Panya Chaichana, 53, is chief of the Phuket Marine Police. Originally from Phra Nakhon Sri Ayutthaya province, Col Panya has been working for the Marine Police force for 34 years. He started out working for the Phuket Marine Office in 1981 before moving to Satun and Narathiwat provinces. He

returned to Phuket in 1997.

Here, he talks about how Phuket handles illegal migrant workers and the human-trafficking trade in the island's fishing industry.

based in Phuket ports have mobile phones and regularly have reception, which means they are able to contact their families and the police, if necessary. If they have any problems, they are usually able to sort them out themselves.

The main issue we handle is when legal migrant workers are trying to get out of a contract, because they are either unwilling or unable to do the work – sometimes this can be due to something as simple as sea sickness. In these situations, we step in and help negotiate the situation to allow for the worker to return home.

In general, the Thai government has taken a strict stand against human trafficking. This stance goes beyond the fishing industry, it is targeting all kinds of human trafficking.

Human trafficking can be divided into two categories: the sex trade and labor.

Thailand was recently ranked by the United States State Depart-

ment in its Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report as among the worst for human trafficking, despite the nation's recent efforts to counter human trafficking as ordered by the National Council for Peace and Order. The nation received this 'Tier 3' rank because it had failed to take steps to prevent human trafficking from taking place.

Thailand is now trying to take action against the illegal trade. We want the world to know that we take the human-trafficking problem seriously, and we hope that this is being made clear through our current efforts.

We hope that this move to stem the tide and eventually rid Thailand of human trafficking will result in our Trafficking in Persons status to be upgraded.

Anyone who suspects or has evidence of behavior related to human trafficking can contact the Marine Police at 076-211883, call me on my personal number at 081-894 7489 or call the 24-hour Marine Police Hotline at 1196.



Some might have had to spend time in the drunk tank. Photo: Gazette file

Lay down the law

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THOUGH I have a great deal of respect for many of the changes seen in Phuket following the National Council of Peace and Order taking over and the subsequent rule of Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, I was disappointed to see the Songkran bans announced with such severity and then enforced with such lack of impunity.

The bans, though issued with similar flair as last year under a democratically elected government, seem to have authoritarian overtones, and without a doubt go against the grain of how the world sees Thailand and 'Thainess'. Fundamentally, the Land of Smiles is known to have a carefree attitude that can be a source of childish fun for people of all ages – something that is a struggle to find in western countries. Where in the West is it possible to find grandparents, parents and children joining forces for a neighborhood-wide water-gun fight, let alone one that is nationwide?

The gleaming smiles and gentleness with which some people will smear your face with a mixture of powder and water is charming to say the least. Yes, there will be hooligans and perverts that are too handsy, who will need to be brought under control. However, are these really the types of people who will heed the warnings issued about behaving 'appropriately'? I should think not.

So, who are the warnings for? Are they for Thais? Hooligans? Foreigners? I have no idea at all. Most foreigners will likely go

about drinking and being wild because they are in holiday mode. Hooligans by definition have a disregard for law and order. And the polite people, who are truly washing away your sins to bring you a splendid new year, hardly need to be beaten over the head with threats of fines and jail time.

However, if the government feels it necessary to take such a position to reorient the holiday, then measures need to actually be taken – powder and water mixtures and ice blocks should be confiscated, and trucks patrolling play zones should be impounded.

Or, the government should stick with preaching what it is willing to enforce: road safety.

Drunk driving is a real issue – during the celebrations this week with ice water down my back and my cheeks chalky white with blessings, I witnessed drivers drinking beers as they worked their way around town.

The Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign continues to save countless lives, both by forcing would-be drunk drivers to think twice about wobbling onto their motorbikes and by taking action against law breakers.

I hope next year whoever is in power stands on a platform of law that they are willing to enforce.

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

Can I study Thai while staying in Thailand using a retirement visa?

I HOPEFULLY should be returning to Phuket later in the year on a retirement visa.

My question is that if I attend a Thai-language college to learn Thai, is it okay to do so on my retirement visa?

I do not intend to work while staying in Phuket.

Gary Nash
By email

Sunchai Chokkajaykij, chief of the Phuket Immigration Office, replies:

Please be informed that you are in fact legally allowed to un-

dertake courses to study the Thai language while you are staying in the Kingdom on a retirement visa.

Phuket Immigration does not have any problems with any foreigners learning Thai while staying in Thailand on that particular type of visa – as long as the foreigner does not work or do anything else in order to receive payment in return for using his or her newly learned language skills.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Turning clean water dirty

IS THERE a government department that receives complaints about the pollution of fresh-water streams by people discharging cooking waste material – such as meat, vegetable, oil, rice and so on – into a stream so that the waterway becomes more like a sewer than a natural water course?

Chas, Rawai

Aroon Solos, the mayor of Rawai, replies:

Discharging waste into a fresh-water stream is illegal. The act of polluting a natural waterway breaches environment laws and can incur a fine of up to 2,000 baht for just the first instance, but the punishment for repeat offend-



Dumping waste into fresh water is illegal. Photo: Gazette file

ers gets very serious very quickly after that.

Thank you so much for letting us know about this. However, it would be nice if you could inform us of the exact location where this is happening, so we can immediately take action against it.

You can report this formally to Rawai Municipality by either call-

ing us at 076-613801 or on our 24-hour hotline 076-613800, by faxing details of the complaint to 076-289055, or by email to info@rawai.go.th

You can also file your complaint in person at our office at the southern end of Rawai Beach. Our office is open on weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

AROUND THE nation

Engineers build robot for better weather forecast

ENGINEERS in Bangkok have built a robot to gather and analyze data about air pollution to help forecast weather more accurately.

The robot was developed by staff from the Hydro and Agro Information Institute (HAI) with help from Kasetsart University and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, reported *The Nation*.

Surajate Boonya-Aroonnet, director of the Hydro Informatics Division at HAI, said due to the changing and harder rain patterns in Bangkok's city area, this kind of device could improve rain pattern predictions, as it collects data on the condition of the atmosphere.

Dr Surat Bualert, an environmental science professor at Kasetsart's Faculty of Environment, said the robot analyzes the elements and the intensity of dust particles less than 10 micrometers (PM10) in size. It also measures the greenhouse gas level in the atmosphere.

"We have built a 110-meter tower at Kasetsart University for the robot to climb to different heights in order to gather the data," Dr Surat said. "This is because the air has different layers according to height."

He said this data was vital in helping forecast weather, as air pollution had a major impact on weather patterns in Bangkok.

"The dust particles in the air are the key to rain drop formation," he explained. "The dust has the ability to absorb moisture. When the dust absorbs enough water it will fall as rain."

He said air pollution dust particles were unlike normal dust – more variable because they came from different origins. Thus, pollution dust had different rates of absorbing moisture, and the ability to shift rain patterns in the city.

He said analyzed data from the robot would be sent to HAI to help staff make more accurate weather forecasts.

Samui mall guards in custody for car bomb

POLICE found evidence during a search of homes belonging to Central Festival Koh Samui security guards that they believe is linked to a car-bomb attack on the shopping mall on April 10 (see page 7).

The three guards were detained on Monday for questioning after police said the guards gave conflicting and suspicious statements about the incident.

Investigators brought sniffer dogs to the guards' homes on Koh Samui and found some components they believed were used to assemble the bomb.

They also collected DNA from the three guards and the results, which will determine if the men were involved in the attack, will be known in a few days, *The Nation* reported on Tuesday.

A map of the department store and other evidence was also found during the search of their homes.

Surat Thani police are also going through criminal records in an attempt to identify people captured on a surveillance camera travelling to the island in two vehicles on the day of the bombing.

Maj Gen Somchai Nittayaborwornkul, deputy commissioner of Provincial Police Region 8, said officers would gather more evi-



The car bomb exploded in the car park of the Central Festival mall on Koh Samui. Photo: Suchart Hankij

dence before issuing an arrest warrant for a man suspected of driving the pick-up truck used in the attack to the car park where the bomb went off. CCTV captured his image as he left the car park.

Provincial Police Region 8 Commissioner Decha Butnampet

said investigators suspected that a person who bought a ferry ticket to travel to Koh Samui was connected with locals who served as lookouts during the attack.

He said one of the three security guards being questioned was assigned to guard the car park a

few days before the attack.

Gen Somchai added police had summoned eight former Central Festival workers for questioning.

A taxi driver was questioned after witnesses said that when a suspect left the store a taxi was parked nearby, he said.

Four executives arrested for alleged role in pyramid scheme

EVERYONE found to be involved in an alleged pyramid scheme that affected more than 100,000 people and led to more than 10 billion baht in damages will be arrested and face legal action, a senior police officer said on Monday.

Assistant National Police Chief Suwira Songmetta said this when reporters asked for a comment on a report saying a police lieutenant-general was an executive of the company at the center of the scandal.

"Police are investigating this case. Anyone found to be connected... will face legal action, no matter who he is," he said.

Lt Gen Suwira on Monday led a police search on the headquarters of U-fun Store Co, located on Soi 25 Bang Na-Trat Road.

Four of the company's executives were arrested on April 10 on charges of embezzlement, after police accused it of running a pyramid-scheme business.

The arrested executives are Ratthawit Thiti-arunwat, 34; Chaithorn Thonglorlert, 41; Ritthidej Warong, 39; and Apichanat Saenkla, 40. If found guilty, they face jail for five to 10 years and fines between 500,000 and 1mn baht each. The suspects have denied embezzling money from their clients, according to a police source.

The police team led by Gen Suwira confiscated a number of computer servers from U-fun Store's head office. He said the search was aimed at finding additional information for the investigation into the case.

Inside the executive room on the sixth floor of the building, police found many documents that could be used to develop links to the executives involved in the scandal, he said.

Arrest warrants have also been issued for four other executives of the company – a Thai and three Malaysian nationals.



Four executives were arrested on April 10 on charges of embezzlement, after police accused their company of running a pyramid scheme. Photo: The Nation

US nominates new ambassador to Thailand

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama has nominated a new ambassador to Thailand after a six-month vacancy, the White House revealed on Tuesday, reported *The Nation*.

The nomination of Glyn Davies comes amid a period of tension between the US and Thailand, a country the State Department described as "its oldest ally" in Asia.

Washington suspended military aid to Thailand after the elected government was overthrown in May. The ambassador post has been vacant since Kristie Kenney's tenure ended in November.

In response, Thailand has made



The US calls Thailand its 'oldest ally' in Asia. Photo: Mauri Grant

overtures to China and Russia on military cooperation.

The junta has summoned the US embassy's *charge d'affaires* several times over what it perceives as US meddling in the

internal affairs of the country.

Mr Davies' nomination has yet to be confirmed by the US Senate. He served as the Obama administration's lead man in North Korean negotiations.

Three more killed in South

A SUB-DISTRICT health official was gunned down on Monday in Narathiwat's Rusoh district, while a rubber farmer and his wife were shot dead in Yala's Yaha district. Police put the attacks down to the ongoing unrest in the region.

Anurak Salae, 52, a Rusoh health official, was shot dead at 9am by two gunmen while he was riding his motorbike to his job.

Baraheng Lalae and wife Maliwan Daebob were killed on a rubber farm. An investigation revealed that their two sons were working as paramilitary ranger

volunteers, wrote *The Nation*.

Meanwhile, provincial Governor Natthapong Sirichana and Provincial Police Chief Paththana-wuth Angkhanawin inspected the site of an attack the day before, in which suspected insurgents fired M16 rifles and killed four villagers in two homes in Narathiwat's Sukhirin district. Initial investigation found that the attackers split into two teams; one went to shoot Jul and Dam In-erb and burn their bodies, while the other went to the nearby house to kill Aree Rattana and her son Somneuk.

By land, air or sea: Humiliation for all

THE ferry fire that claimed the life of 12-year-old Israeli tourist Shani Manil last week is just the latest in a series of tourist industry maritime tragedies that have occurred in the Andaman region in recent years, demonstrating once again that transport safety for tourists and residents alike remains a chronic problem here.

There have been numerous sinkings, capsizings, fires and other mishaps in local waters over the years. Some *Gazette* readers will no doubt remember the 2007 blaze of *Jet Wave 3*, a ferry operated by the Andaman Wave Master firm, which was reduced to ashes above the water line in minutes by a suspected fuel line fire.

Fortunately, in that case, all on board managed to escape with their lives by jumping into the sea. Much like the SuperCheap fire a few years back, the lack of casualties meant the disaster passed under the international media radar.

These tragedies have cemented the region's reputation internationally as, literally, given the current lack of lifeguards, a 'swim at your own risk' destination when it comes to transport safety.

It is tragic and ironic that the victim in the ferry fire last week died on a vacation to celebrate her *bat mitvah*, the Jewish coming-of-age tradition for girls that marks a transition in life, after which adherents are held responsible for their own actions.

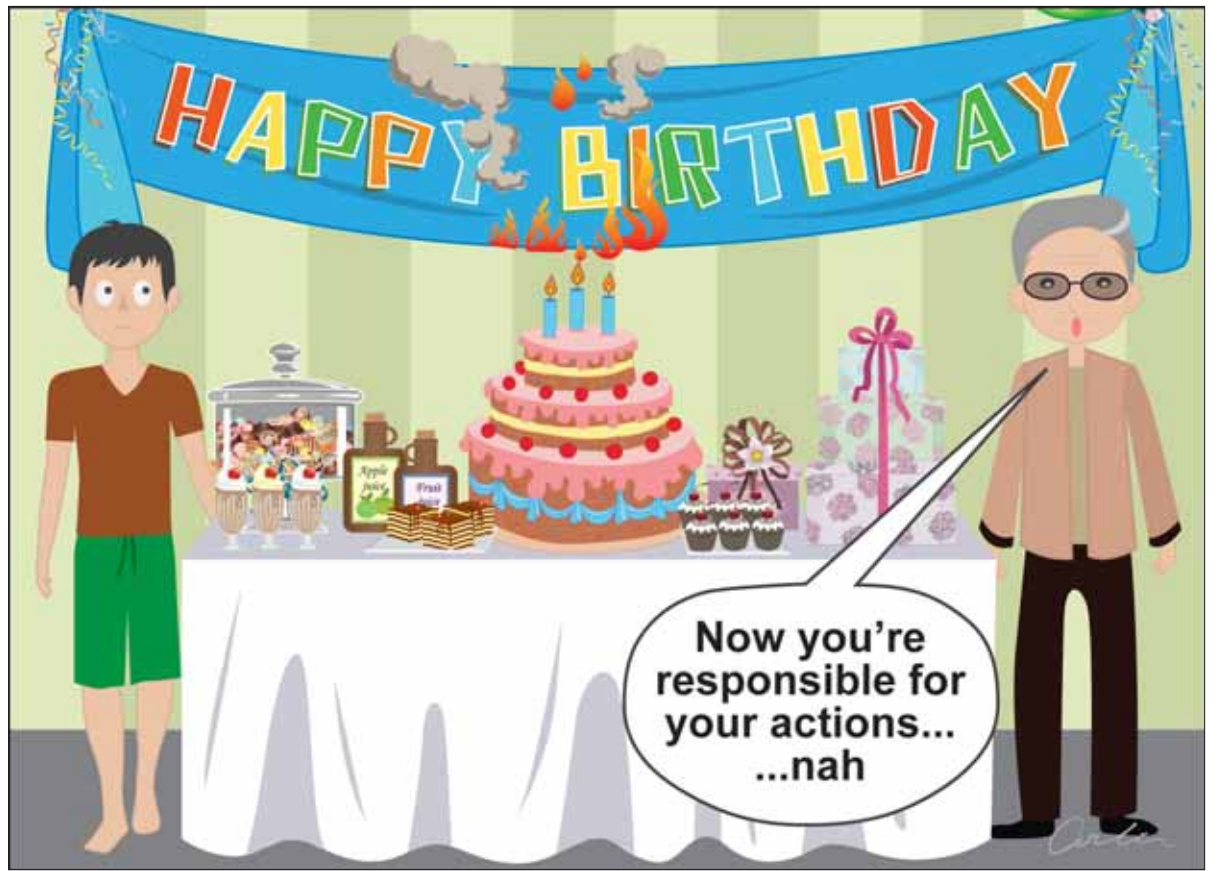
Perhaps we need something like that here in Thailand, where corruption mixed with a culture of carelessness continues to prevail and people seem uninterested in their own personal safety, let alone that of others. Just look at the high percentage of motorcycle riders who choose to risk getting fined rather than don a safety helmet to protect their brains in the event of an accident.

Despite whatever oaths are sworn, our law enforcement officials and others responsible for transport safety appear to be unable, or unwilling, to enforce even basic safety measures.

Clearly marked passenger carrying limits apply to almost all forms of public transport. Yet this editorial writer recently had the misfortune of travelling for several hours in an interprovincial passenger van clearly marked with a passenger capacity of just fourteen, but which actually carried more than 20 passengers, not including non-human passengers and as much cargo as could be crammed in under the laws of physics.

The international aviation community even recently shined the spotlight on safety failings in the Thai aviation industry [see Up in the Air p30], with several important tourism source countries banning any new charter flights from Thailand until safety issues at the Department of Civil Aviation [DCA] are addressed.

Sadly, international embarrassment can do far less to finesse solutions to transport safety problems, which remain one of the main causes of unnecessary deaths in Thailand and make it statistically one of the most dangerous destinations in the world. Any change in this regard is going to have to start from within.



Don't fall back on the right of way

Re: Gazette online, Shocked Danish tourist allegedly pushed from dive boat after hit-and-run accident, April 11

Avoid collision at all cost.

Anyone who has sailed in Thailand (and most of Asia) for a reasonable amount of time knows that commercial boats do not respect sailboats and exercise "might is right".

The dive boat acted wrongly in many ways, least of which throwing a terrified crew member in the water against his will.

The American skipper should have been more proactive avoiding collision and should have known there is little respect for right of way in these waters, unless he arrived yesterday, of course.

*Matt McGrath
Facebook*

Punish the ones who should be punished

Re: Gazette online, Drunk drivers targeted as Phuket police relax enforcement on Songkran bans, April 14

I have to say, I'm happy that the police were not harshly patrolling Songkran revellers in trucks and with the minty face paste.

Given all of the changes in regards to tourism and beach rules and all that, strictly enforced rules on the best holiday of the year could have very well been the nail in the coffin for Phuket tourism (unless the new beach rules have already killed it).

However, the arrests of drunk drivers is a different story. I shudder when I think about drivers, especially those in already dangerous vehicles such as pick-up trucks and vans, driving on the wet roads under the influence.

It's a relief to know that these people are being punished for such irresponsible actions, and that they

Letters to the Editor

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

might be deterred from doing such a thing in the future.

*Ginny Black
Samkong*

Have things always been this bad?

The amount of marine tragedy over the last week has been overwhelming.

What is this place coming to? Has it always been like this or are things getting worse?

I wish there was a way to accurately gauge the changes on the island when it comes to tourists' safety.

It seems like far too many factors for an individual to compile, and the government is far too big of a stakeholder.

Is the media twisting the reality on this island and making it worse than it is? I guess that goes back to the standard argument of what is news.

In other news, a nice Thai guy gave me a lift to the petrol station when my bike ran out.

*Jimmy Edward
Phuket Town*

Death trap waiting for first accident victims

I think I wrote in last week about motorcycles on the underpass as well, but this is going to become yet another death trap on Phuket!

I drive past the new island feature twice a day and have yet to pass it and not see a motorbike using it.

There are no signs at all in the northbound lane telling people that motorcycles are banned in the underpass and there is only a tiny logo far too close to the entrance saying they are banned as you head south.

There are these huge electronic billboards now, why not use them?

Otherwise, we will have a multi-death accident in that underpass in no time at all.

*Terry Brunson
Nai Harn*

Round of applause for our oceans' protectors

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Tides turn against IUU vessels in South-east Asia, April 15

Three cheers for Captain Sid and the crew of *The Steve Irwin*, and all of the other Sea Sheperds fighting against poachers in our oceans.

It's nice to know that we have these protectors of the sea out there making sure that greedy people aren't getting away with taking advantage of this beautiful natural resource and all of the life that inhabits it.

Keep doing what you are doing, Sheperds.

*Rae Kelly
Chalong*

Another work injury

Re: Gazette online, Myanmar worker hospitalized following electrical leakage, April 13

Yet another worker is injured on the job, and yet another story that will go without an update.

Worker safety here is truly abysmal and any stories regarding the lack of it get swept under the rug. Will anything ever change?

*Harry Underwood,
Kathu*

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

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat
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Contact us:

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

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

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Following a strong current

Neighborhood electric vehicle market thrives on luxury resort island

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

THE numerous luxury resorts in Phuket has helped grow Southern Thailand's golf cart and other neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) market, which is now in a dead heat with the Central Region, Ekasit Kunanantakul, managing director of Global Electric Motorcars Asia Company, said in an exclusive interview with the *Gazette*.

Global Electric Motorcars, now 12 years old, was among the first to sell golf carts to posh resorts and hotels, and has also seen sales of these vehicles increase in the Northeast since the end of last year.

"Chiang Mai and Mae Fah Luang universities have electric shuttle buses running in their campuses now. These are 14-seaters and have to work hard moving students from place to place... [the universities'] expenses have dropped by 50% just by not using petrol," Mr Ekasit said.

However, while Global Electric Motorcars distributes various types of NEVs throughout the country, it only has two showroom-cum-service centers outside Bangkok. One of which is on Phuket's Thepkasatri Road and the other in Hua Hin.

Even so, the size of the market in the South has resulted in a plan to open another one on Koh Samui, but Phuket remains key.

"We have lots of clients in Phuket because there are so many hotels and resorts on the island. We want to have the service center there so that buyers are confident that their vehicles will be serviced punctually and that



Golf carts for resorts are driving the neighborhood electric vehicle market in Phuket and Southern Thailand. Photo: Nina Suebsukcharoen

they will not have to dash to Bangkok to get this done," Mr Ekasit explained.

Mr Ekasit mentioned that the lifespan of a NEV is more than 10 years, but the battery has to be changed every three years.

"But these batteries are not expensive, they are not like the lithium variety installed in fast, air-conditioned cars," he said.

Very little fitting is done in Thailand to the electric golf carts, which the company imports from various countries including the

United States, Europe, Japan, China and Taiwan.

It is not worthwhile assembling kits here, as cost-conscious buyers can always opt for the cheaper Chinese models on which zero tax applies, which is significantly less than the 40-50% that is added on to the price tag of those being imported from other countries.

"Nowadays, the quality doesn't differ substantially, and we only have to select a good factory – there are a lot of factories in China, but only 10% are quality plants,

so you do have to choose carefully.

Global Electric Motorcars is also pushing for the licensing of NEVs to run on main roads, as medium-speed ones are now allowed to do so in the United States.

"Thailand allows the licensing of higher-specification electric vehicles, but not those of our size," Mr Ekasit explained.

"We have imported bigger electric cars, but not a large number of them because the market here is not very big, and the price is

about 1 to 2 million baht – closer to 2 million baht."

What is becoming increasingly popular, however, is electric brush cutters, which Global Electric Motorcars imports from Japan. Buyers have the choice between two-wheeled and four-wheeled vehicles. Prices range from 220,000 to 300,000 baht.

"It depends on the region. In the Northeast and national parks like Khao Yai, brush cutters sell well, but in Phuket, it's golf carts," Mr Ekasit said.

Blogging me bonkers with business



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

A BLOG in its simplest form is a website that gets updated regularly. The only real difference to a 'normal' website is the frequency with which it is updated or changed. My preferred working blog is a combination of the traditional website with a blog or news page included, so that it covers the best of both worlds and provides a positive consumer experience.

Because blog content is added regularly, Google regularly re-evaluates the website and updates the Quality Score. This means that the website will have a much better chance of being ranked in Google's organic search engine results, which results in free traffic to your website and, from that, increased customers and sales.

There are multiple types of blogs, and each one is slightly dif-



Start typing yourself up a new batch of clients. Photo: Colin

ferent in what it aims to achieve and the benefits it offers to the owner and user. To keep it simple, the purpose of the blog will dictate the style, content and the target market.

The main advantages of a blog, apart from the Google factor mentioned above, is that it provides potential and current customers with information they need to make informed decisions. This information could be about your product or service, it could be reviews about other people's products where you can receive

a referral or affiliate fee, or it could simply be used for branding and promotional purposes.

As you control the content, you can showcase you or your product in a positive light and provide potential customers a fun experience. You can also use it to highlight the unique benefits you can offer. It can additionally be used to promote yourself as an expert, sharing your knowledge and experience, which builds trust and rapport with your readers.

When I am asked to review blogs for clients, there are a few

basics that are often missing which I consider essential.

First, make sure your blog is a positive visual experience. Make sure the layout is spacious and easy to read.

Second, a blog should capture your audiences' contact details through a capture page or contact form. You have taken the time, and often expense, to attract a potential customer to your website, so you should at least get them into a database. This can be done by offering them an incentive for entering their details, from something as simple as a discount to an eBook or a gift of perceived value.

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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Understanding capital

Finance

By David Mayes

I OFTEN write and talk to my clients about what actually moves most major asset classes, as understanding this is essential to choosing wise, and poor, investments at given times during the longer-term cycles.

Capital is always the culprit, and it determines the direction prices will move as it flows into and out of any asset class, such as stocks, short or long-term bonds, currencies, soft and hard commodities, such as copper or wheat.

The reasoning behind the flows are unimportant, as the flow itself is what causes prices of anything to either rise or fall.

To understand what may influence flows of capital, it is important to understand what capital is, who controls most of it and how difficult it is to move. To put it most simply, capital is all of the 'money'.

In today's world, most of it is with institutions who manage massive amounts of it. The governments can also create it out of thin air, a fact which everyone by now is well aware.

This is important to understand because today it is nothing other than this monthly capital injection that has been feeding many asset classes.

As soon as American printing stopped, the Europeans took over. But for how long can the world live off of the constant drip feed

of money before capital outflows from many asset classes begin to burst the various bubbles that have been created around the world?

The timing on how capital flows or the intensity of it is impossible to predict.

However, with the recent move in oil it is easy to see how fast capital can flee out of any one asset class.

Sometimes capital flows steadily into an asset class over time and good returns allow an extended run. Bonds have gone through 30 years as a whole since the last major crash. It is important to be careful when balancing risks off each other to consider all downside scenarios, even ones that only happen once every 30

years. Bonds are a strange asset class because so much institutional money that is restricted has to sit somewhere. Most of this will remain inside the big 'umbrella' of bonds because of legal requirements. When the bond market crashes eventually, a lot of money will simply move down the yield curve to the shortest duration possible and thus safest.

If you understand this about capital, you understand why I have a lot of clients in short-term bond funds that have a recent history of doing nothing at all. If

there is increased demand for short duration bonds in the midst of a crash in the long duration side of the yield curve (people sell long-term bonds and buy short-term ones), then it stands to reason in my opinion that short-term prices will go up very quickly, even if only temporarily.



Photo: 401kcalculator.org

As soon as American printing stopped, the Europeans took over. But for how long can the world live off of the constant drip feed of money before capital outflows from many asset classes begin to burst the various bubbles that have been created around the world?



Knowing what effect policies can have on capital flow can help you insulate your portfolio. Photo: Alexey Kudenko

Diversifying across as many asset classes as possible is generally ideal. While it may seem inevitable that rates will eventually rise and cause a crash in the bond markets, governments of the world can continue adjusting the money supply and kicking the can

down the road. Understanding which effect government policy can have on capital flows can help you insulate your portfolio somewhat from any shocks which might come in response.

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.

Thai beauty industry looks set for rosy future

WITH rising awareness in regard to healthcare and wellness, Thailand's beauty industry is expected to grow by 8-10 per cent this year.

Ketmanee Lertkitcha, chairwoman of the Federation of Thai Industries' Cosmetics Industry Club, who is also president of the Thai Cosmetic Manufacturers Association, said the beauty industry had managed to enjoy continued growth because consumers had become increasingly health-conscious and concerned about their appearance and wellness.

Statistics show Thailand's

cosmetics market was worth about 250 billion baht last year, of which 150bn baht was from domestic consumption. Exports accounted for about 100bn baht.

"The annual growth rate ranges between 8 and 10 per cent on average. The Thai cosmetics market is expected to generate sales of 275bn baht this year. When not affected by factors such as Thai politics or global economic conditions, the cosmetics industry has indeed boasted an interesting growth rate," she said.

Ms Ketmanee pointed to the fact that Thailand was now a promi-

nent player in the world's beauty industry, with its cosmetics market now the largest in Asean.

Thailand is Asean's biggest beauty-product market, the world's largest exporter of haircare products and also the world's 12th-biggest exporter of skincare products, added Manu Leopairote, president of UBM Asia (Thailand).

Today, Thailand's beauty industry is growing rapidly thanks to its increasingly sophisticated consumers, and men's growing interest in the way they look, he said.

— The Nation



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WHAT'S ON

in Phuket

April 25. Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket

Wine Tasting with live music, tapas and sushi buffet plus 6 glasses of white and red wine, only 899 baht. Saturday 25 April, from 7 to 9 pm. Please call or e-mail to reserve your ticket. All welcome.

April 25-26, 4pm to 10pm. Lighthouse Market

Another weekend of entertainment is in store at Phuket's hippest family fun spot, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market.

Back by popular demand, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Market returns this weekend offering more entertaining evenings along Phuket's most vibrant boardwalk.

This month's Lighthouse Market promises to be bigger and better with a variety of exciting new stalls along the bustling dockside walking street, including a Champagne bar, a seafood bar, sweet treats and more organic delights.

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.

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.

light processions will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.

HM Queen Sirikit's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand, with festivities taking place throughout the country. Make sure to check out the Gazette for local celebrations.

July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

In celebration, evening candle-

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

Now on

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PGTV

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

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

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

LOCAL COVERAGE

Phuket Cable

Coverage: All of Phuket

Channel: 1

Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm

Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm

Rawai Cable

Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon

Channel: 1

Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm

KDTV

Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay

Channel: 10

Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm

NATIONAL COVERAGE

MCOT World

Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm

Wednesday: 6.10pm

Thursday: 1.10am

Friday: 1.10am

Saturday: 1.10am

Sunday: 6.10am

Truevisions

Channel: 79

PSI

Channel: 223, 320

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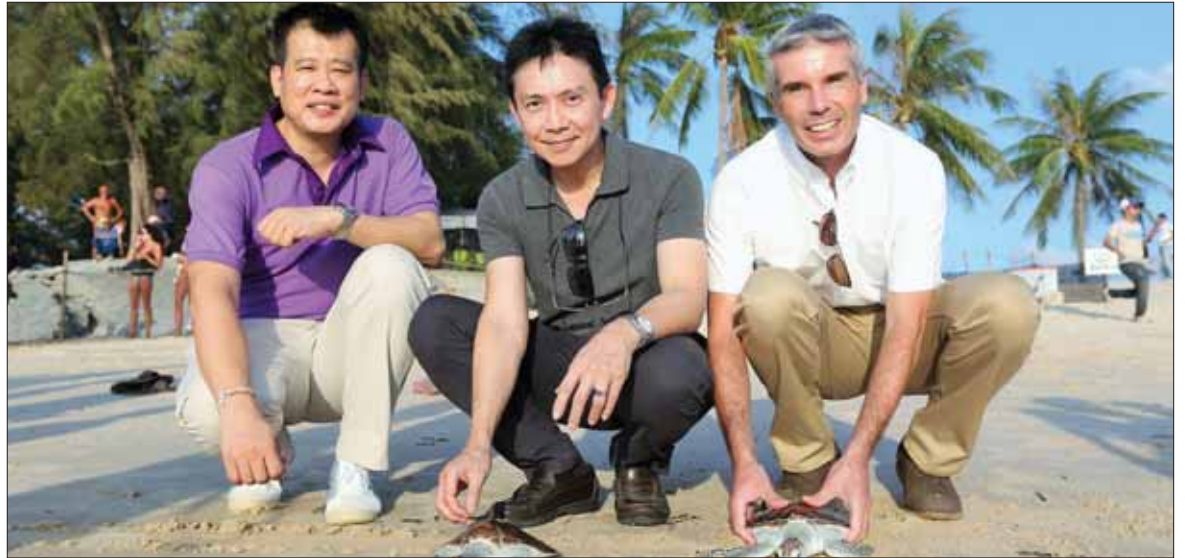
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YOUR Phuket

Turtle power



A youngster helps an even younger sea turtle to the ocean at sunset.



LAGUNA PHUKET TURTLE RELEASE: Joining the annual turtle release were (L to R) Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Marine Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center; David Seet, senior assistant vice president of Resort Operations for Laguna Resorts & Hotels; and Tony Pedroni, GM for Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.

Laguna Market on First



Thousands took part in a colorful, fun filled evening of shopping and entertainment at the park.



Thai pop artist 'Lula' takes the stage at the Laguna Market on First.



Indie band Paradox played at the Limelight Avenue event.

No booze, but still lighting it up at Limelight Avenue



More than 1,000 people joined the alcohol-free Songkran festivities at the Limelight Avenue Phuket on April 13. Photos: Thawatchai Sangmanee by porfotosmall

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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 SERVICE of the week

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See page 18

JOB of the week

Phuket Gazette
CLASSIFIEDS ADMIN

See page 19

BOAT & MARINE of the week



See page 21

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Properties For Sale

LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

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

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 or nearest offer. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.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 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

QUICK SALE HOUSE

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

LUXURY VILLA SALE

5 bedrooms. 10x5m pool. Big living room. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. About 300sqm. Quick sale only 8.5 million baht. Tel: 093-713 2278.

ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Spectacular seaview condo located on the 12th floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living / diningroom, 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: Es therandi@gmail.com

REDUCED PRICE PATONG

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

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 Please see our website at www.phuketcondo.net

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. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai).

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8m pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MAKRO. Start 9 million baht. Tel: 096-284 2463, 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bu mrung515@gmail.com

1-BED APT. SALE / RENT

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

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW LAND

For sale 5.5 rai. Ao Ma-Kham. Chanote title. 12 million baht / rai. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.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. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

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.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT CONDO

New fully furnished with amenities, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 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 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

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

KATA HOUSE SALE

4 bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-465 9939.

STUDIO FOR SALE

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

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.

LOVELY VILLA NEAR BEACH

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

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: rgartland@comcast.net

POOL HOUSE

Near Heroines Monument, Pa Khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big kitchen, furnished, 9x3m pool. Price: 5.25 million baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: cata yacht@csloxinfo.com

3 BEDROOMS 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

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. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

THE DECK CONDO

2-unit condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project. 1) studio unit no.0103309, floor 3, building A, 31sqm, 3.5 million baht. 2) 1-bedroom unit no.010310, 41.5sqm. 4.5 million baht. Full-furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornhol land@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Pay in 10 years. Sell for 1.1 million baht in 40 trimestrial payments of 27,500 baht. Full Chanote title. Ownership forever. Brand new. Fully furnished. Airon. Kitchen. Tel: 098-331 6449.

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270-degree view of Patong beach and town. 10th floor. 54.35sqm. 11 million baht or nearest offer. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

22 RAI - 400,000 BAHT PER RAI

Beautiful plot of land with nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5km from Tablamu golf course and 10km south of Khao Lak. Price: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 087-277 7794 (English & Thai). Email: patchanee.samranjai@gmail.com

KAMALA NEW HOUSE

Living room. Bedroom. Bathroom. Terrace. Cable TV. Internet. Quick Sale 2.5 million baht. Secure place. Tel: 098-045 5421.

CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER

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

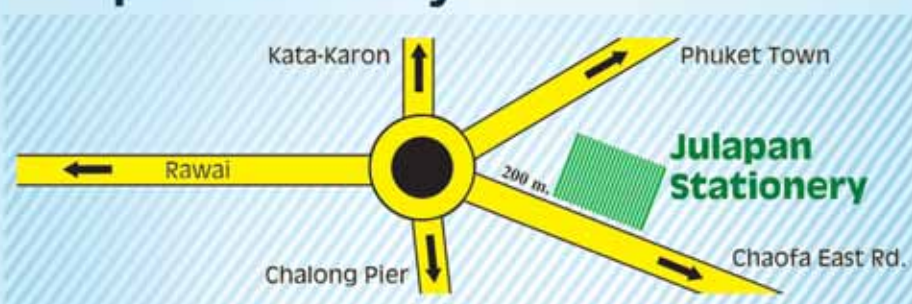
WAREHOUSE FOR SALE

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

KATA OCEAN VIEW FOR SALE

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PHUKET TOWN CONDO FOR RENT

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

CHALONG AREA HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms. Quiet area. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

CHEAP RENT RESORT

Luxury pool villa. Weekly or monthly lease. Laguna area. Has all. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LUXURY HOTEL ROOM FOR RENT

Large luxury 50sqm hotel rooms for rent in Rawai / Nai Harn area, with olympic size swimming pool starting from 35,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-613860. Email: info@thewindmillphuket.com, www.thewindmillphuket.com

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 50sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, balcony, big swimming pool. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). For pictures please email to jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

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PATONG 1 & 2 BED LONG TERM

Rentals available. Pool, weekly maid, free WiFi, parking. From 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL

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

SUPERB 2+3 BED POOL PENTHOUSE

Holiday rental, seaview, some availability Songkran period. Kata / Kata Noi beach 3 min stroll. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

LUXURY NAI HARN 2-BEDROOM CONDO

Available now, condo Sands, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 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: 081-613 1035.

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

VILLA FOR RENT

A beautiful villa in Patong. 3 bedrooms. En-suite 4 bathrooms. Fully furnished. Aircons. Kitchen. Indoor parking. WiFi, just a 2-min drive away from Patong Beach. Start from 70,000 baht per month. Minimum 1-year lease. For more information, please call 092-754 5375 (English & Thai), 094-486 9683 (English & Thai). Email: pimnapat12@yahoo.com

**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.

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms. 400sqm. Free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. www.palaigreen.weebly.com

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished, good & safe location. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai).

BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND

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

PATONG CHEAP

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished, aircons, now only 19,000 / month ono. Tel: 083-181 6037 (English). Email: thailegobricks@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Kitchen. Living room. Store. Pool. For 40,000 baht / month. 1-year contract. Contact Duang. Tel: 080-146 13 93. Email: vespajai@hotmail.com

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For sale (2.8 million baht) or rent (12,000 baht/month) in Supalai City Hill Estate, Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, convenient location, furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons. Available from May 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

LONG-STAY APARTMENT

Serviced. All inclusive. Pool. WiFi. Communal kitchen, quiet and peaceful location in Patong. Tel: 092-657 4287.

NAITHON BEACH PALACE

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

HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE

2-bed pool villa. February 18. 3-bed pool villa February 2. 4-bed pool villa January 27. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

SERVICED APARTMENT PATONG

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Male / female Thai, excellent in communication and presentation skill both Thai & English, self-managed, car fuel covered. 30,000 - 60,000 baht / month. Please send CV or call. Tel: 098-331 6387. Email: info@phuketsolar.com

**CHINESE WEDDING
PLANNER**

Wanted Chinese wedding planner, good command of Mandarin, working online, work at home and earn extra money for side business, basic fee plus commission included. Tel: 087-268 8159. Email: wedding@samer.com

**LOOKING FOR
MAID**

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

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

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

ENGLISH TEACHERS

School teachers wanted. Full time / part time. Students all ages / levels. Schools in and around Phuket city. Start middle of May. Teaching qualification and / or Degree req'd. Please apply to: The head teacher, ECC Language School, Phuket branch. Tel: 076-307 0579, 091-647 5465 (English), 089-139 8453 (English & Thai). Email: Giles@ecc.ac.th

COOKS AND MAIDS

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

**CHINESE
PROPERTY AGENT**

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

**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

**NEW RESTAURANT
IN LAGUNA**

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

SECRETARY

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

**PART-TIME
BOOKKEEPER**

Required to tidy up paperwork. Knowledge of Apple computer an asset. Patong area. Tel: 089-972 3861.

SALES COORDINATOR

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

**VIDEOGRAPHER
NEEDED**

Must be able to shoot video, edit, take photos. Tel: 085-212 8447.

**SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS**Qualified candidates will be:**

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

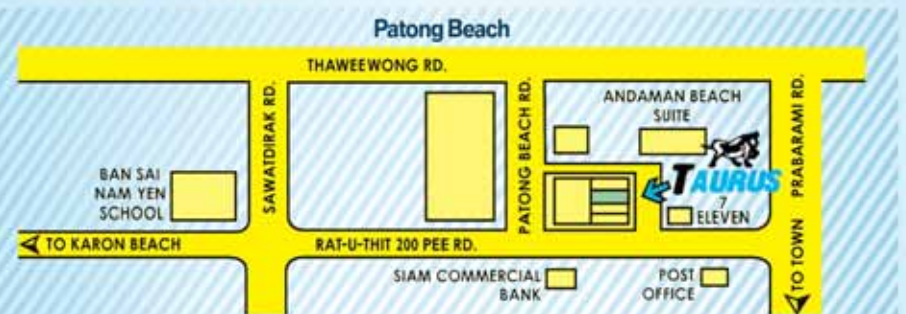
RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Business Opportunities

GUESTHOUSE / CAFE KARON

Busy, well-known guesthouse. Top 10 of Trip Adviser. 22 rooms, cafe, very profitable. Price 4.5 million baht. For rent 920,000 baht per year. Please call 086-551 1227 (English), 093-135 5116 (Thai). Email: steve@pineapplephuket.com

A GO GO BAR FOR SALE

Slippery A Go Go on Soi Sea Dragon. Sale: 1.7 million baht. Rent: 100,000 baht/month. to December 15th. Tel: 082-864 8050 (English). Email: ted@pianko.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Bar and Guesthouse for sale in busy area near Centara Karon. 9-year lease, fully equipped. Price: 1.4 million baht. Tel: 081-797 7282 (English & Thai), 094-578 4564 (English & Thai). Email: jack_filtech@hotmail.com

RAWAI RESTAURANT URGENT SALE

Area: 3,800sqm. Reduced from 1.5 million baht to 980,000 baht. Please call 089-646 7176.

Golf Stuff

15,000 BAHT

Wilson fat shaft-full set of irons and drivers, etc, with large Wilson golf bag with 8 outer pockets. For more information, please call 081-082 5004 (English). Email: arcott_rell70@hotmail.com

Household Items

CONTENTS LUXURY PENTHOUSE

Connecting Studio apartment Patong. Everything for sale. TVs. Used but new beds. Terrace tables. Chairs. Sun loungers. Fully fitted kitchen and utensils. Crockery. Refrigerators. Ornaments. Office equipment. Printer. Desks. Pictures. Wall decorations. Fans. Music equipment. BBQ like new. Genuine buyers only. Please call for appointment. Tel: 089-972 3861 (English), 089-570 1519 (Thai).

Business Products & Services

OUR SERVICE

Engineering structural design service- Steel structural design service-retaining wall structural design service-infrastructure design service-renovation engineering service. For more information, please call 076-283549, 089-652 0768, 081-255 7003 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-283549. Email: 2homerestort@gmail.com

STAMPED CONCRETE

Stamped pattern and colored concrete for driveways, pathways, etc. Many different patterns and colors available. Prompt and efficient service, at competitive rates. For more information, please call 085-576 6812 (English).



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

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

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

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

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

Cameras & Equipment

EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW

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

Pets

GUARD DOG WANTED

Puppy or young dog. For more information, please call 087-383 4452. Email: banwattana@gmail.com

Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Life family membership 490,000 baht, includes transfer. Tel: 089-292 7747. Email: matt.rich747@gmail.com

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

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

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

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

PCC MEMBERSHIP

500,000 baht includes transfer fee. For more information, please call 061-227 0743 (English).

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

BAR FOR SALE

OTOP Markets, top location, 3 years old, complete trading figures showing profit increase every year. For more information, please call 084-185 8719 (English). Email: charlie@paddy malones.com.au

FAMILY BAR / GRILL NAI HAN

Bar / grill area with separate kitchen, seating, play area, separate 2-bed living quarters, 4 months rent free. Good long-term rental agreement. Offers about 900,000 baht. For more information, please call 080-648 1987 (English), 085-575 3027 (English). Email: farman1@gmail.com

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

ER-6N 1,255KM GUARANTEED!

French Ermax parts. Gear Indicator. Double ABS. Sale: 185,000 baht (Model 2010). Tel: 093-575 1969. Email: thai-pascal@hotmail.com

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Please call 087-983 4815.

PROTON SAVVY 1.2 AT

2010, All options, leather, mag wheels, new tyres, new service, ect. 219,000 baht. For more information, please call 084-842 5920.

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

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

FORD ECOSPORT TITANIUM

With full options / accessories. Only 9,500km, October 2014, no accidents, no damages. New car. Insurance paid until October 2015. One foreigner driver. No smoking. Window films 80%-60%. Price when new: 890,000 baht. Now for sale at 770,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-889 86 44. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

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. For more information, please send email to ursaeabi@gmx.net

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

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

HONDA MSX 125, NEW (200KM)

2 Honda MSX 125s - year 2013. Only used around the property, only 217km. Offering 2 sets of tires. Price: 59,000 baht. Tel: 081-893 5270 (English), 095-526 7897 (English & Thai). Email: gilles@govao.com

FOR SALE

BMW 528i m sport. Dark gray, 6 months old. Includes first-class insurance and warranty. Car looks new with coating treatment. Only 3.25 million baht. Can continue finance 39,400 baht per month, down payment 750,000 baht. Tel: 086-274 2308.

RED MAZDA 2011

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

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

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. 90,000km. No marks or blemishes. 265,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 3111 (English). Email: pjddyer@yahoo.com

Pick-ups

ISUZU SLX 3.0 LITRE

2003, Dual Cab, manual, Carryboy, second owner, 111,000km. 230,000 baht. Tel: +61-04-8800 5408.

2010 RANGER DIESEL FOR SALE

4x4 auto. Loaded. Runs, drives, looks great. New service. Very reliable. For 400,000 baht. For more information, please call 083-645 3546.

Rentals

CARS FOR RENT

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

Motorbikes

HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY

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

AFRICA TWIN 750

Year 2005. 70,000km. Excellent condition. For sale: 220,000 baht. Tel: 081-078 9334 (English & French).

SUPERMOTARD

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

THAILANDS LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



Riviera 48

Year: 2000 | **USD** \$299,000
LOA – 48ft **Beam** – 17ft **Draft** – 4ft
Engines – CAT 3196B 660hp x 2

From Australia's largest boat builder we currently have the Riviera 48 Flybridge cruiser seriously for sale. Owner has taken delivery of his new boat and all offers will be considered on this reliable flybridge cruiser. Ideal for family cruising, sportfishing or even charter application alike. Thai registered and available for immediate sale.



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SEA RAY 330 SUNDANCER SPORT
 Cruiser (2008). Twin petrol 275hp. Mercury 8.1L Horizon engines with only 300hrs. Aircon. Generator etc. For more information, please call 084-842 6146. Email: alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

KANTER 54 PILOT HOUSE (1993)
 Aluminium Cutter. Yanmar 4LH 170hp diesel. Well equipped and maintained. Just reduced to US\$335,000. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

BENETEAU EVASION 34 FOR SALE



1981, 50hp Perkins motor sailer, many extras, best state. 1.29 million baht. Nihat Gunduz. For more information, please call 086-274 6272. Email: nihat_gunduz@hotmail.com

21M CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE
 Charming 21m motor-sail Gulet yacht, ideal for charter, 55 people. US\$150,000 or nearest offer. For more information, please call 085-666 5504 (English). Email: info@jabudays.com, www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/423591747727674

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



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

HOBIE CAT 16
 New main, mast float, cover, wheels, lifejackets. 99,000 Baht. Please call 087-976 0066.

BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)
 As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146.

TENDER / PWC
 3.5m RIB. 2011 Yamaha 4-stroke 20hp outboard. Brand new Hypalon tubes. Hydraulic steering, electric start / tilt. Fiberglass hull. Trailer and accessories included. 250,000 baht o.n.o. Please call 085-918 4661 (English). Email: wesleybaxter@hotmail.com

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)
 The owner has spent a fortune on her. New teak decks, B&G instruments, leisure furl in boom furling, upholstery and head linings. New stove, battery charger and inverter, a 42" flat-screen TV and much more. A great boat and good value at the reduced price of US\$245,000 FIRM. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com

DEAN 440 CATAMARAN (2002)
 Four double cabins. Twin Vetus 42hp diesels. Reduced to US\$160,000. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

SR MARINE BOAT MANUFACTURER
 SR Marine Boat manufacturer. 18-49ft. Used outboards from Japan. Visit our showroom in Rawai. For more information, please call 081-782 092, 081-782 0921 (English & Thai).

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 Hypalon Tenders HYS 280: 79,000 baht + VAT (2pcs). HYS 310: 85,000 baht + VAT (2pcs). Light-weight Aluminium hull RIBs. Good quality at very competitive prices. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

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 45ft HK teak junk, excellent family day boat. Extensive refit, single engine. Caterpillar, full galley and bathroom. US\$ 105,000. Tel: 852-9238 9114 (Hong Kong). Email: blan ny2000@yahoo.com

3.1M YACHT TENDER DINGHY



3.1m Stingray RIB with 9.9hp, 4 stroke Suzuki outboard, storage cover, fuel tank, etc. Great size yacht tender, dinghy, as new 140,000 baht. Tel: 089-873 4044 (English), 081-270 3538 (Thai). Email: sc@crone.net.au

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

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 paew@lambertbrothers.co.th
 Tel: + 66 76 273 385

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NAJAD 360 SLOOP (1989)
 Quality Scandinavian-built yacht. New Nanni 38 Hp Diesel. Well-equipped and realistically priced. Asking only 98,000 euros. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

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. UNHARNESS: 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: poorrate 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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See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

**Built: 1976**

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming 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
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

TECNAM P-92

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

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Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

Unique development - 124 Rai

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Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

	(heading)

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

See Phuket from above Book a trial!



Book now: 0935 92 7558

Phuket Bike Week

Riders rolled in from around the region to take part in the 21st anniversary Phuket Bike Week 2015, under the banner 'ASEAN Ride Together'. The party started on April 11 at Loma Park. If you missed it, join the bikers as things really heat up at Saphan Hin this weekend.



Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong presents Patong Deputy Mayor Boonma Eabsub, in honor of Patong's key role in the event.

Amari raises funds for Baan Huay Muang Border School

Team members of Amari Phuket are joined by representatives from ONYX Hospitality Group, Amari Vogue Krabi and Vogue Report & Spa Ao Nang as they meet Baan Huay Muang Border School students, after fundraising for them.



Music is My Life



British DJ Goldie (L) throws down at Xana Beach Club with Canadian soul artist Eka.



MY LIFE: With disregard for the rain Erich Friedl, GM for The Naka Island A Luxury Collection Resort, Phuket; Ian Lonnqvist, the beach club manager for Xana; Peter Hjert, sales for Layan Hills Estates; and Philipp Seipelt, director of operations at Xana.

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Words from the wise

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

– *Carl Jung*

Medium

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

		4	1					
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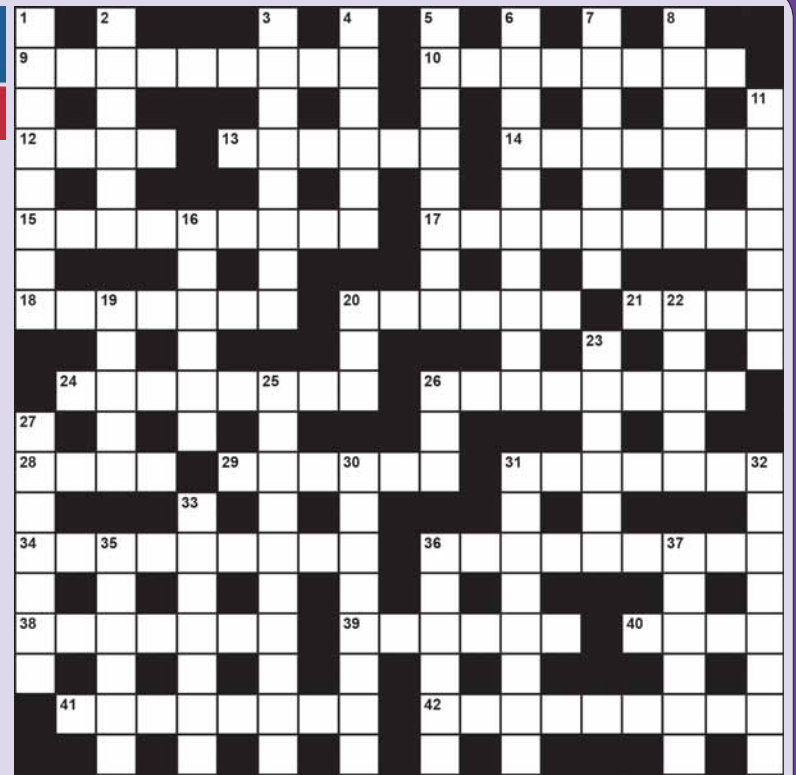
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Maybe I part on it breaking up (9)
 10. Girl to badly fleece Ron out East (8)
 12. Aver in return to go on about (4)
 13. One doing badly, a plant (6)
 14. Change light path concerning craft in motion (7)
 15. Note help out East nowadays usually mobile (9)
 17. Ed led more out and changed the structure (9)
 18. Right, a goodbye, time for a knock at the door (7)
 20. Observing possible siege out North (6)
 21. Thai merit is a blessing to the English (4)
 24. Rant, step out into arm of the church (8)
 26. Very excited if center disturbed (8)
 28. Miserable, not working (4)
 29. Thick washer capers about (6)
 31. By day, large streams of motorists (7)
 34. Report if maybe out East overcharge (9)
 36. Turn, evade new escapade (9)
 38. Puzzles, as same gin mixed (7)
 39. Behold, hope for the slightly miserable (6)
 40. Mixed pail of Thai anti-inflammatory herb (4)
 41. Great, move us no more (8)
 42. Possibly so late for old house cover material (4,5)



Down

1. Troop are shifting wheeler-dealer (8)
 2. Journey for strange varlet (6)
 3. Direction indicator notice, stop moving (4,4)
 4. Tempt teen, possibly in charge, inside (6)
 5. Naturally of different source (2,6)
 6. A noise more disturbing in a lane in Phuket Old Town (3,7)
 7. Breach of faith for each French D.I.Y. construction (7)
 8. Untidy hand son, move slowly (6)
 11. Learner to dust net out (7)
 16. Top ten may be influential (6)
 19. Maybe worth a fling (5)
 20. Put down clique (3)
 22. Oliver not right for the girl (5)
 23. Wandering ogre in the district (6)
 25. Put into words no, I change the look on the face (10)
 26. In favor of Foreign Office run (3)
 27. Text amender parted a different way (7)
 30. Bad creases left in, negligent (8)
 31. Sharing out section (8)
 32. Sample spice carefully, men! (8)
 33. Remiss, cooking around a minute, boils gently! (7)
 35. Vegetables on island, on sierra! (6)
 36. Occupied a time on labor (2,4)
 37. Paul, do arrange transfer of data from the server (6)

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



If you're looking for ways to enhance your income then look no further than your natural talents. This week you might need to access such abilities whether it's to impress a boss, an interview panel or to work on ideas you have. Want to save money? Consider recycling or bartering to make best use of what you already have.

Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



You'll be in a position to make key changes and take control once you realize you have more options than you thought. Take your time midweek if you need to make big decisions, and try to avoid getting irritable when discussing them, as it likely won't help. Romance wise, someone might think of you as an impressive catch.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)



Your dreams may contain some useful guidance, so consider keeping a note. Also watch for intuitive nudges that

could put an idea up there with the best of them, particularly if it lends a creative perspective to matters. Your communication skills can sparkle over the weekend, giving you a chance to stand out from the crowd.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)



Tuesday's Mars Pluto link can coincide with a dynamic encounter or an opportunity that might change the direction of your life. You'll find this week contains events that put you on the spot or that encourage you to think very carefully about your future. Feel you are at a crossroads? Get advice from a trusted source and fully check out the facts.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



It seems you'll be in the spotlight, which may give you more options to play with. And a desire to get ahead can be acted upon if you do some fact finding and attend to practical matters before taking the plunge. Once you've made the choice though, you'll show just how efficient and effective you are. If you're lucky, romance could also sizzle.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



Faraway places and new ideas can grab your attention this week, encouraging you to leave well trodden pathways for areas as yet unexplored. As a result, a new interest might sync with your natural inclinations, whether this involves study, a new job or a chance to travel. At any rate, there's plenty of excitement in the air.

Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



The Sun glides into Taurus on Monday, encouraging you to listen to your natural wisdom, as doing so could help you make better choices. You might want to get your money working for you by consolidating debt or cutting back on your expenses. Decisions made now might bring healthy rewards further down the line.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



The complexities of liaising with others can keep you on your toes, and generally very involved. You may find certain associates or even a loved one more demanding than usual, so don't feel guilty if you need to get away for some alone time and a chance to relax. Your social life looks lively but can be rewarding, nevertheless.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)



You may be faced with a wave of busyness, with projects and ideas all vying for your attention – not to mention the demands of a boss or of pressing tasks. However, you can benefit from increasing your income, whether with a job or by earning extra from skills already acquired. The weekend could prove to be a lot of fun, though!

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



It's a week when making one or two key decisions can bring relief, especially if you've

been holding back. Similarly, taking action after a period of procrastination could be equally liberating and leave you free to get on with others things. Meanwhile, you might benefit from leisure activities, romance and other fun diversions.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



You'll be busy on your home patch with plenty to keep you occupied. It's not all hard work though, as you might enjoy decorating or upgrading areas of your home, especially if you have an artistic side that you are keen to express. Sunday's Venus Uranus aspect also points towards a chance of a heartwarming and lively encounter.

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



Everyday communications can contribute to new friendships and working relationships with others. In addition, your interactions this week look to be productive. While you may be busy doing the groundwork for now, your efforts could soon produce results. Later, someone's life story might prove to be quite an inspiration to you.

Demand outpacing rentals



By The Book

Kevin Hodges

THE rental market in Phuket in recent years has been very strong, with rental prices increasing across the island, giving owners very attractive returns on their investment.

This surge in strength in the rental market has coincided with increasing tourist arrivals, which has led to demand for rental properties outpacing supply. Good rental properties have become more scarce as tenants have renewed leases or entered into long-term leases of sometimes as long as three years or more. This has made it much harder to source good rental properties on the island.

In Siam Real Estate's Residential Market Research Report 2014, we found the average rental returns for Phuket properties to be 5%, with rental returns ranging from 3% to 9% in some cases.

Long term rental prices for Phuket ranged from an average of 22,000 baht a month for a two-bedroom condo to more than 200,000 baht per month for a villa property with four or more bedrooms.

Many property developers in Phuket are now offering off-plan buyers guaranteed rental returns. There are a variety of offers ranging from 4% net to 9% gross over periods ranging from two to 15 years.

Buyers would be wise to check the small print when agreeing to rental guarantees as many of those offering very high gross returns actually net down to a much lower figure. This can be checked through your real estate broker,



The demand for rental properties in Phuket is outpacing the supply. Photo: Siam Real Estate

who will be able to provide you with a breakdown of gross returns minus costs.

As highlighted in our recent article on Phuket's resale market, currently certain owners are in a position where they can offer their properties for sale at a discount to the market value.

With the strong conditions in the rental market in recent years this has enabled buyers to purchase undervalued resale properties and achieve higher than average rental returns on their investment: with some owners able to achieve gross returns of 8% per annum or more. This is in stark contrast to other markets in the region such as

Singapore and Hong Kong, where gross rental returns average less than 3% per annum.

DIVERSITY

Phuket's rental market is very diverse and has experienced changing demographics during the past decade. Many different nationalities come to Phuket looking for holiday and long-term rentals, and therefore the rental market here is affected by changes in the global economy.

The global financial crisis in 2008-9 saw a fall in the number of Europeans and Americans coming to Thailand. These tourists were quickly replaced by a

growth in arrivals from Russia, who seemed to have money to burn. However, due to the recent economic situation in Russia, there are definitely fewer Russians taking on long-term rentals of luxury properties compared with previous years.

Looking at the long term, Russians' love of Phuket is unlikely to abate, and once the economy in Russia recovers this segment of the rental market is expected to recover with it.

There is also a trend of more and more expats in Southeast Asia relocating their families to Phuket due to the improving state of infrastructure, first-class international schooling and high-standard

amenities. This segment of the rental market tends to use Phuket as a base and then commutes throughout the region for work, a factor made very convenient by Phuket International Airport.

The growing number of Asian tourist arrivals to Phuket will once again change the landscape of the island's rental market, as this segment has different wants and needs than other traditional sectors that have been long established here.

Families want to be within easy reach of the island's international schools and Asian tourists are less inclined to be located close to the west coast beaches. Instead, they prefer to be nearer to the island's amenities, restaurants, shopping and other leisure activities and are more accustomed to staying inland. This will increase the demand for rental properties inland and push up prices in central, north and east Phuket.

The future of Phuket's economy is very bright: the growth in airport arrivals has been extremely strong and looks set to continue with the airport expansion well underway.

This clearly shows the resilience of Phuket as a driving tourist destination in Southeast Asia. Phuket is investing heavily in its infrastructure and tourism sector, with investment driven by government and private sector spending, all of which bodes well for the future of the island.

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.

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Green bonds for growth

By Stephen Williams

ASIA needs to invest heavily in infrastructure to sustain growth. But unless we design sustainable projects, we risk running up an environmental bill for future generations.

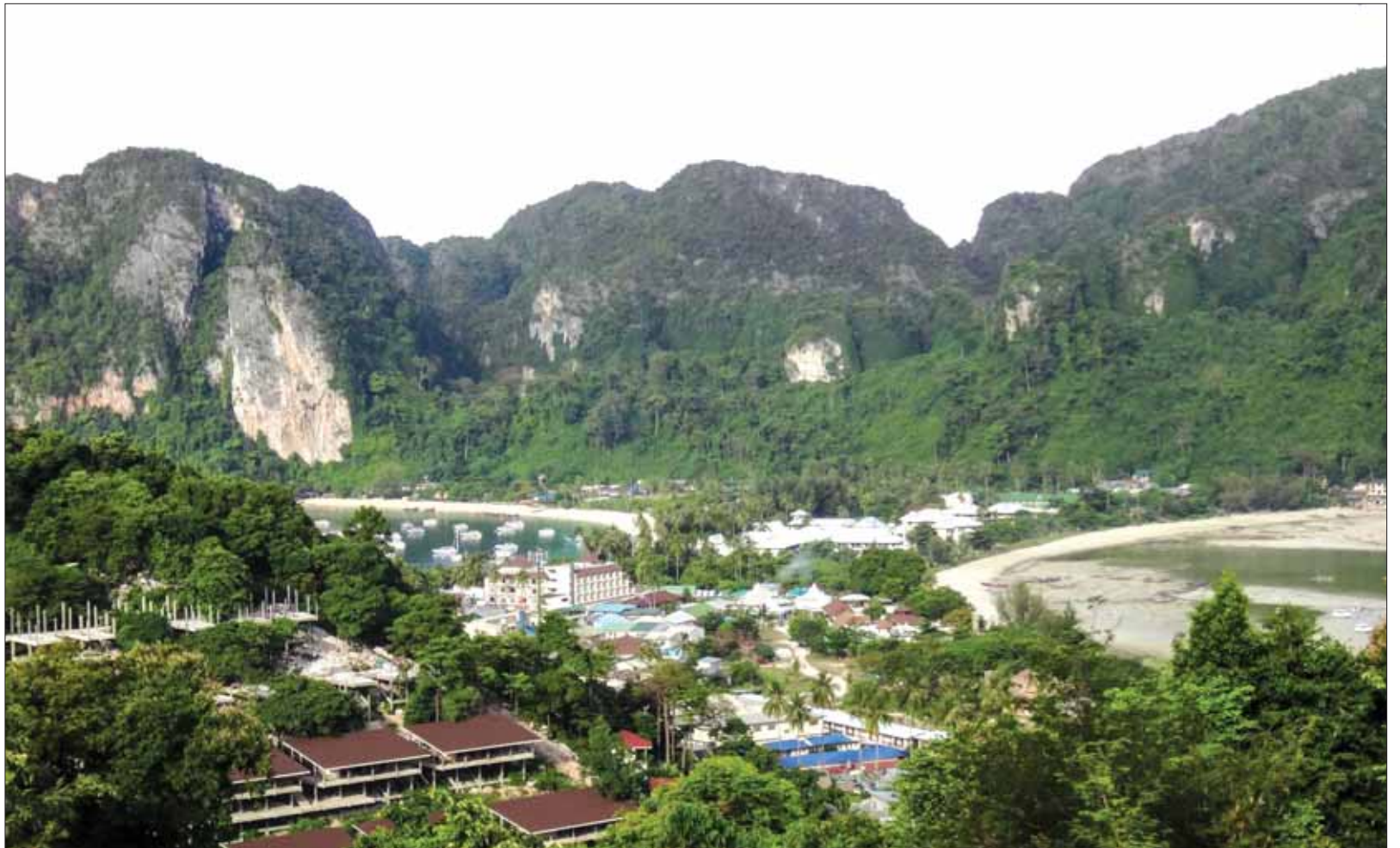
The cities and the power, sanitation and transport systems we build to support them have the potential to help or harm the communities in which we and our children live. As demonstrated by China's recent shift of focus from the quantity to the quality of economic growth, emerging Asia is beginning to embrace development that emphasizes environmental protection.

One way to promote sustainable growth is to unleash market forces that promote environmentally responsible development. Global issuance of 'green bonds', which are like normal bonds but come with a pledge to use the funds raised for environmentally beneficial projects, exceeded US\$36 billion (1.17 trillion baht) last year, according to the Climate Bonds Initiative.

That represents a tripling of investment year on year and a 12-fold increase on the \$3bn of green bonds sold in 2012.

We expect total green-bond issuance in 2015 to reach \$100 bn, with significant growth coming from China. Beijing has called for the use of bond markets as it begins the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Globally, green bonds are going mainstream. Early issuers were development institutions such as the World Bank, but last year a third of all green bonds was issued by corporations. Also, issuers have moved into new currencies including offshore yuan and Australian and Canadian dollars.



One way to promote sustainable growth is to unleash market forces that promote environmentally responsible development. Photo: russavia

The exact definition of a green bond still requires some work. Many of the world's biggest banks – including HSBC – have signed up to the voluntary green-bond principles, which set guidelines on transparency and external assurance evaluation, but leave the investor to judge whether a project is environmentally acceptable.

The World Bank, one of the most prolific green-bond issuers, focuses on climate change. It says eligible projects must 'seek to mitigate climate change or help affected people adapt to it'. Most

of the capital raised so far has been used to help the transition to a low-carbon economy.

But some issues remain unclear. The net cost or benefit of nuclear power, for instance, is disputed because it would cut carbon emissions but create nuclear waste.

Issuers are finding no shortage of take-up for their offerings. Investors are keen to diversify into real assets with long-term growth prospects, and green bonds provide an opportunity for pension funds and other investors to invest not just for, but also in, the future.

For Asia, green bonds offer a double opportunity. Besides promoting environmentally responsible development, they can accelerate the creation of deeper and more effective capital markets. Asian investment is largely funded by bank loans, but the next wave of growth will require more sources of capital.

China's huge pool of savings and limited investment opportunities are perfect for the development of a corporate green-bond market. These factors would help finance China's growing urbanization while

ensuring that the public infrastructure built would provide clean air and water, and help the move towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

Green bonds recognize the need for infrastructure improvements that protect the environment and the long-term well-being of the people who will be the ultimate drivers of growth in Asia and elsewhere.

– *The Nation*

Stephen Williams is head of Asia-Pacific capital financing at the international banking group HSBC.

Hua Hin wrestles with oversupply of condo projects

A 20-KILOMETER stretch of Petchakasem Road, from Hua Hin district to Khao Tao, has 30 condominium projects offering a combined 14,817 units worth more than 80 billion baht currently under construction and open to booking, according to a survey by *The Nation* early this week.

Most of the projects have seen sales of between 30% and 50% of total units, while the rest are in the presale process.

"The season for sales of residential units in Hua Hin is only three months a year – between March and May – as a result condominium projects for sale in Hua Hin will take a year to a year and half before they are sold out," Property Perfect Plc's chief business development officer Wongsakorn Prasitvipat said. The company has launched its first condominium project, Bella Costa, in Hua Hin worth 1.67bn baht.

The project has recorded presales worth 350mn baht of total project value. About 90% of customers are locals and the balance 10% are foreign buyers

both from Asia and Europe.

Pairaj Wattanavorodum, the managing director of The Confidence Co, which has launched its condominium project the Trust Hua Hin in 2013, said the condominium market in Hua Hin had been oversupplied since 2012 when developers from Bangkok expanded to this resort destination.

Most of the demand comes from Bangkok, where people are looking for a condo to be their second home rather than their first home. When the economy slowed down, it directly hit demand for property in this location.

However, there were signs of demand recovering in the last quarter of last year and will do better this year if the economy grows by at least 4 per cent as forecast by the government, he said.

The Trust Hua Hin is a ready-to-stay condominium, half of whose total 671 units have been sold.

Jones Lang LaSalle (Thailand)



Demand comes from Bangkok, where people are looking for a condo to be their second home. Photo: Ahoerstemeier

Co Ltd's managing director Suphin Mechuchep, who is now a sales agent for Bella Costa Hua Hin, said that the main demand to buy residential property in Hua Hin comes from locals and Scandinavian countries, and less from Asia. However, investors from Asia such as China, Singapore and Hong Kong are now interested in expanding their investments in Hua Hin, as the local traditions are ap-

pealing to Asian buyers.

"We see an increasing demand to buy residences in Hua Hin from Asian buyers. Earlier, most of the demand came from Scandinavians over the past five years," she said.

Other condominium projects for sale in Hua Hin, which were launched since 2012, also recorded presales between 40 per cent and 60 per cent on

average until now.

According to a survey by *The Nation* early this week, Energy Hua Hin by Baan Rajprasong Co, which was offered in 2012, has sold 70 per cent of its 5,997 units in its first phase, which has already been completed and transferred to buyers last year. The 529-unit second phase will kick off this year.

– *The Nation*

Fresh food, antique decor

By Sylvia Joy

AS YOU are driving down Phuket Road toward the Surin Circle clock tower in town, you may have noticed on the right-hand side a beautiful, modern looking building called the Chicroom Cafe.

This cafe doubles as a gallery to all things eccentric and antique. The decor resembles a fancy secondhand store with all the treasures that you always wanted to find, such as old toys, phones, jukeboxes and an entire car.

This eccentricity even spans to the antique furniture you sit on while you dine.

The Chicroom Cafe's menu is quite broad, from traditional Thai cuisine such as fried pork with Thai basil to western classics such as spaghetti bolognese. Whatever it is you are craving, there certainly will be something on the menu that catches your eye.

A good start to any meal, whether it be breakfast, lunch or dinner is the cafe's potato baked with cheese. You can still hear the butter and cheese sizzling as the waitstaff bring the plate to your table. The potatoes are perfectly tender while the melted cheese is wonderfully abundant and golden brown on top. On the bottom of the plate is just the right amount of herb butter to add a little flavor.

If it is breakfast you want, I recommend the eggs benedict, served with both bacon and ham. This morning's favorite is served with a bit of a twist, as the beautifully poached eggs smothered in hollandaise sauce sit upon two very thick pieces of melt-in-your-mouth toast, as



TASTY LEGS, TASTY DISH: Do yourself a favor and order the stuffed pork covered in a savory, sweet pepper sauce.

opposed to your traditional English muffin. It is the perfect amount of food to start your day right.

If it is lunch you are after, try the spaghetti bolognese. The pasta is *al dente* and perfectly supports the hearty and flavorful bolognese sauce. With an excellent sauce-to-meat ratio, this classic is served with your own sprinkling of Parmesan

cheese and will leave you brimming with happiness.

For dinner, please do yourself a favor and order the stuffed pork with pepper sauce. Plated with steamed asparagus, carrot and broccoli, this meal was massive and beautifully presented. The pork chop, still on the bone, was oozing with cheese and mushrooms and covered with a sweet and savory pepper sauce. The

meat was impeccably cooked and the flavors melded together without question.

If there is any one dish that stands out from this meal, it would have to be the potato baked with cheese. It was undoubtedly the star of the menu and a group favorite. It is the perfect size for an appetizer, small meal or large snack and fills you up in the same way as any

other home-baked meal.

After your food, grab one of the cafe's excellent coffees and walk around to view all of their spectacular treasures. This alone could take you an hour, and you won't be disappointed, rather, filled with nostalgia.

So, if you are in town and crave a little eye candy with your meal, stop into the Chicroom Cafe, open from 8am to 11pm.



The Chicroom Cafe in Phuket Town offers food for the stomach as well as the eyes, with its collection of antiques that decorate the open gallery-cafe area.



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New reef exploration

The rewards of organizing your own dive on an 'explored dive' site has its rewards, but comes with risks, especially for those who are unprepared.

YOU know you're on an adventure when you find yourself tramping through the jungle with a scuba tank on your back. Though the trail from the road to Banana Beach (Ao Kluay) is not nearly as epic as anything in *The Hobbit*, let alone *Lords of The Rings* proper, it does have the essence of a tropical adventure, with a big red banana blossom and some bamboo on the side of the dirt trail for ambiance.

There are two approach trails to the small, secret beach: one about 200 meters past the entrance to the luxury resort and residence Trisara, and the next just 100m farther down the road. It's best to park at the pull-off at the second entrance. Though it is a longer hike to get to the beach, it's not as steep and there is plenty of room to set up your gear.

On an island devoid of a proper scuba diving club – the kind seen in the United States, UK and elsewhere that organizes trips for members, yet is unaffiliated with a specific dive center – divers can quickly and easily become complacent. The multitude of safety factors and pre-dive checks that are all managed by the dive center you paid to go out with are suddenly gone when you're on a self-planned adventure dive – the emphasis perhaps needing to be more on the word 'planned' than 'dive'.

(That's not saying you have to cover everything on the check list. If you don't have a bottle of medical-grade oxygen in case of a diving emergency, well, that might be a risk you are willing to take. However, it needs to be a clear decision – one understood by

everyone taking part in the dive.)

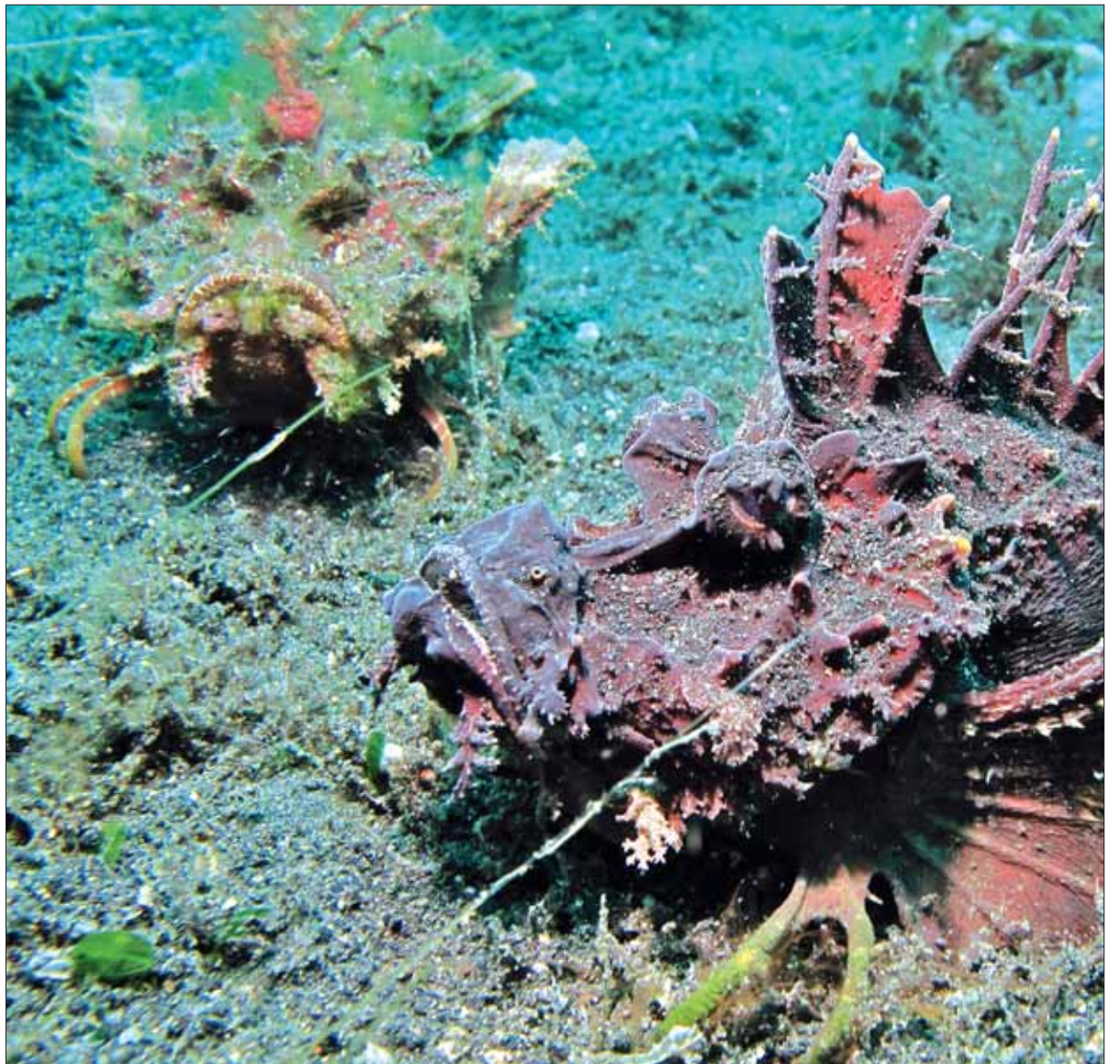
As we start setting up our gear on the side of the road, there's suddenly a sharp hissing as one diver turned their air on – a busted high pressured hose on a piece of rental gear. The first wrinkle in the plan. Driving an hour and a half back to the shop to swap out the piece of gear isn't an option, and nobody brought a spare hose or the tools needed to do a swap.

Lesson one: Check all gear before setting off. Lesson two: Always have some backup gear – if it can be carried. These aren't groundbreaking lessons. However, when a diver becomes used to the support offered when joining pre-planned trips – beach dives or boat dives – he or she can quickly get into trouble if not prepared.

Thankfully, we are on a mini-adventure – we haven't set out like Captain Robert Falcon Scott to somewhere as remote as the Antarctic. Nonetheless, a serious list needs to be made and checked off before embarking on even a mini-diving adventure (see below).

Most of these points should be a review of training you've already completed. However, in a place like Banana Beach, where the sun is warm, the sand is actually white and the jungle romantically saddles upon the edges of the beach, it is far too easy to become complacent. And complacency can lead to serious diving accidents.

With no extra equipment and no way to fix the inflator hose, we are forced to reconfigure the plan. Now, only one diver will be doing two dives while the other two will be doing one dive each – allowing our three-person team to function



The dive team spotted an Indian Ocean walkman (like the ones pictured here found in Indonesia), while doing an initial survey of the dive site. Photo: Bernard Dupont

on two sets of equipment.

The dive site was divided into three sections with a maximum depth of about 16m at high tide. The plan was to have the first team swim on the surface to a marker buoy hanging above a pile of rocks with sparse corals, give the area a quick once over and then head south along the sand until they reached the reef. The second dive would consist of going north along the shore line to see if the sloping granite boulders gave way to any particularly interesting marine life – the simplest answer turned out to be 'no'.

However, we first dropped down on 'Shrimp Rock', which turned out to be lovely. Thousands of little crustaceans – well-sized banded coral shrimp, Durban

dancing shrimp and cleaner shrimp – have clearly taken a liking to the place.

Leaving Shrimp Rock, we move over to the white, barren sand toward the reef on the southern end of the cove. There is a tingling of excitement – who knows what we were going to find? Enormous, fairly healthy coral bommies rose from the seabed.

The reef itself is a gently sloping rocky reef system, with a surprising amount of marine life. Though only a candle held against the sun when compared to Hin Muang or Hin Daeng, for a beach reef on a rapidly developing island like Phuket, it was doing fine. There are plenty of fishing lines, but few nets and the corals are relatively healthy – though show-

ing some signs of damage from sedimentation and algae growth.

On the edge of the reef there was a spectacularly strange fish – the Indian Ocean walkman, also known as a Devil stinger (*Inimicus didactylus*). This curious ambush predator was out and about, walking along on the four lower rays of its pectoral fins like the cannibalized doll created by Sid in *Toy Story*.

However, with our dive time running low, it was necessary to turn back – leaving much of the reef unexplored.

Breaking the surface, we trudged up the beach, wiser for adventure-preparedness and amped to have discovered a reasonably healthy and interesting reef just off our shore.

Safety checklists, dive planning essential for exploration dives (even little ones)

DIVERS should create their own checklists before preparing for a dive, especially one that is self-organized. However, here are a few of the essentials to think about.

- Do you have an O2 cylinder?
- Do you have a first aid kit?
- Where is the nearest decompression chamber? Where is the nearest medical center?
- What number can you call in an emergency? Will the person on the other end of the phone speak English?

- Does someone onshore know where you're diving, and have they been given a time to expect to hear from you (post-dive)?

- Do you have a clear dive plan? (This can be difficult due to the fact that you're not sure exactly what is down there. Nonetheless, establish a basic plan including max depth, max time and so on.)

- How can you anticipate the dive site being affected by the current and tide? Should you be diving it at a certain time

of day?

- When dealing with a new site there are many factors that you might not be aware of before entering the water, such as a strong current that might sweep you up once you exit a protected bay area. Do you have a plan? Have you established a missing diver plan? The key is anticipation.

- Do you have food and water?

- Don't forget to pay particularly close attention to your buddy during the dive, especially if there is low visibility.

Two divers off exploring different parts of the reef can easily become distracted.

- If it is a beach dive, are you going to be able to make a safe exit if the tides change? Will exposed rocks prevent an easy exit if the tide goes out?

- What boat traffic is in the area? Where are they driving? Do you both have safety sausages, so you can safely ascend if you become separated?

- If you do have surface support, do they at least have snorkelling gear to help support you if there is an emergency?

The drowning pool

A satisfying finale to St Aubyn's Patrick Melrose series

Books

By James Eckardt

EDWARD St Aubyn's *At Last* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, 2012, 266pp) is the highly satisfying finale to his Patrick Melrose series of five novels. This is a towering achievement in fiction, psychologically intense, philosophically deep, screamingly funny.

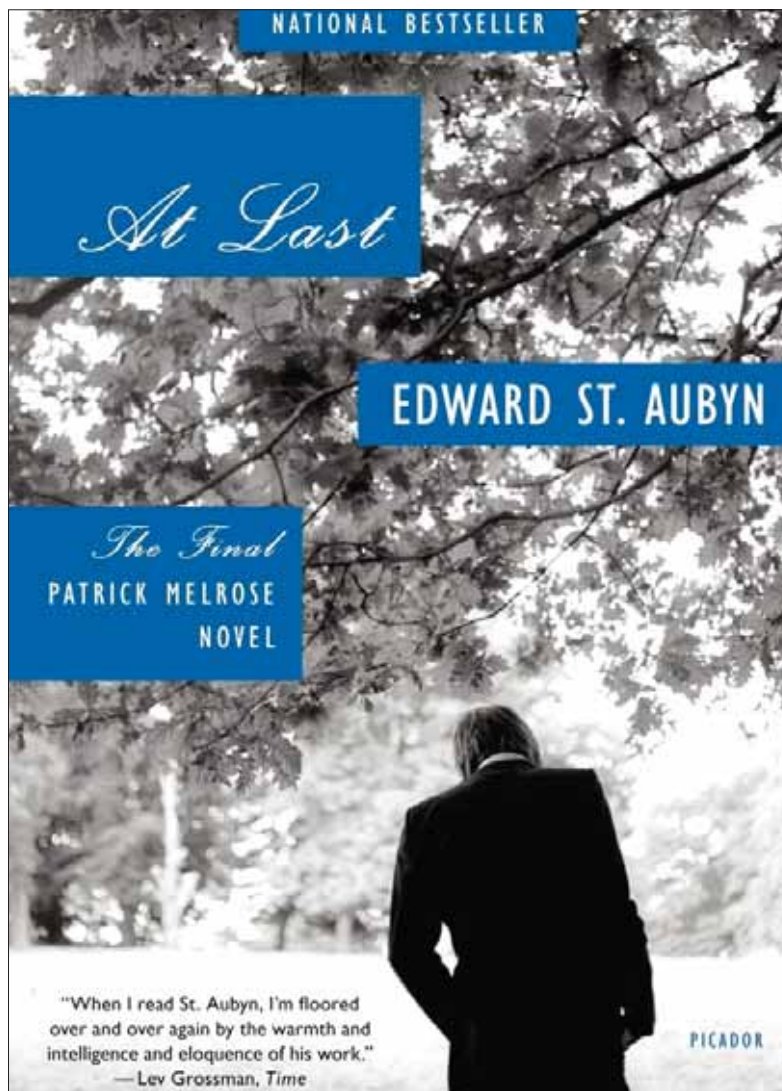
Introduced at the age of five in the first novel, Patrick Melrose grows up to be a highly educated heroin-and-cocaine junkie in the second, a recovering addict in the third and a husband and father in the fourth. The final novel takes place on the day of his mother's funeral in London. It's the second happiest day of Patrick's life. The first was two decades earlier when he collected his father's ashes in New York. His father David had raped him at the age of five; his mother Eleanor ignored him and finally squandered the last of his patrimony, a beloved villa in the South of France, by donating it to a ditzzy New Age cult. An orphan at last, Patrick Melrose envies the *Oliver Twists* of this world:

"Patient endurance of potentially lethal influences has made

Patrick the man he was today, living alone in a bedsit, only a year away from his latest visit to the Suicide Observation Room in the Depression Wing of the Priory Hospital. It had felt so ancestral to have delirium tremens, to bow down, after his disobedient youth as a junkie, to the shattering banality of alcohol."

Gathered at the funeral are major characters of the previous four novels: Patrick's long-suffering wife Mary, his preternaturally precocious sons Robert, 10 and Thomas, 6, his former lover Julia, his best friend Johnny Hall, his rich Uncle Henry, his broke sponger Aunt Nancy, his utterly selfish mother-in-law Kettle, his mother's cult sycophant Annette, philosopher Erasmus Price and his horrid wife Emily who "had three main drawbacks: she was incapable of saying please, incapable of saying thank you, and incapable of saying sorry, all the while creating a surge in demand for these expressions".

Also at the funeral is Nicholas Pratt, his hated father's best friend, the last survivor of his social circle of aristocratic monsters. Spewing acerbic observations, Nicholas makes Oscar Wilde look tongue-tied. His presence puts Patrick in mind of yet another



early childhood horror: when, at the age of three, his father grabbed him on the edge of the villa's swimming pool.

"Suddenly he felt himself hoisted off the ground and thrown into the air. With the slowness of horror, when the density of im-

pressions registered by the panic-stricken mind makes time thicken, he used all the incredulity and alarm that rushed into his thrashing body to distance himself from the lethal liquid... but soon enough he plunged into the drowning pool, kicking and beating the thin wa-

ter..." Meanwhile, his father sat smoking a cigar and extolling his educational methods to Nicholas Pratt.

At the funeral, favorite songs are played and guests take the lectern to recite biblical passages and inspirational poems. Eleanor's casket rolls away to be cremated to the strains of Frank Sinatra's *Fly Me to the Moon*.

At the reception afterward, a drunken psychiatric patient accuses Nicholas Pratt of being insane, prompting an apoplectic reply: "I have not suffered from the slightest taint of mental illness. The modern passion for pathology is a landslide that has been forced to come to a halt at some distance from my eminently sane feet." His long screed against psychiatry mounts into a towering rage about "that forgotten under-world of dangerous gibberish where toothless infants rip the nipples from their mother's milkless breasts". Then he topples to the floor with a heart attack. An ambulance is summoned, ending the party.

Mary invites Patrick home for a meal with his sons. Patrick waffles, returns to his lonely bedsit and, after he hears of Nicholas Pratt's death in the ambulance, changes his mind and decides to rejoin his family. As his son Thomas has observed, "In fact, you should change your mind, because that's what it's for". And with this lurch toward the freedom of decision-making, Patrick moves away from a lifetime of reacting to past trauma. It's a fitting end to a monumental work of fiction.

Bangkok joins international jazz day

THAI and foreign artists are lined up for Bangkok's celebration of International Jazz Day on April 30, which is set for the trendy bar Badmotel on Soi Thonglor.

International Jazz Day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2011 to celebrate "the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people".

This year, Unesco is partnering with the Thelonius Monk Institute to mark International Jazz Day, which coincides with the Unesco's 70th anniversary.

The 2015 celebration of International Jazz Day will also be a tribute to trumpeter Clark Terry, the American jazz giant who died in February at age 94.

The night will open with Kengchakaj Kengkarnka, winner of the 2011 Thailand Jazz Competition and the 2013 Thailand International Jazz Conference and a fixture on Bangkok's jazz scene.

The foreign act will be the Laura



Foreign act Laura Brunner Quartet will join the festivities. Photo: The Nation

Brunner Quartet, which recently enjoyed a successful residency in Bangkok. The world is literally a stage for Brunner, a vocalist and composer who has brought her velvety sounds and bold musicality to locales as diverse as her home base of New York, as well as to residencies in Vietnam, India and Thailand.

In a letter encouraging participation in Jazz Day events

worldwide, Unesco Goodwill Ambassador and jazz legend Herbie Hancock, spoke of jazz as "more than just a musical art form; it is an affirmation of our ability to peacefully collaborate and cooperate in spite of profound differences - to speak with our unique individual voices while still respecting and celebrating the collective".

- The Nation

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DCA woes continue

Miserable DCA audit results affect tourism, recreational aviation



By Stephen Michael Fein

FALLOUT from the miserable results of the recent audit of Thailand's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) by the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is having direct effects both on Phuket's tourism and general aviation industries.

Well-publicized action to ban any new Thai flights imposed by the governments of Japan, South Korea and China have already affected several Thai charter airlines who had planned to bring thousands of passengers to Phuket for the Songkran holidays.

Some 10,000 pre-booked passengers from Korea who planned trips to Thailand aboard three affected charter carriers would suffer from flight cancellations in April, DCA Director General Somchai Piputwat disclosed to the state run ThaiPBS network following failed talks with their Korean counterparts early this month.

While the bans are most crippling to low-budget airlines and charter operators, it also includes a ban on any changes in aircraft used on existing scheduled flight routes, which could affect scheduled carriers in the long run.

The ICAO audit found that the DCA met just 21 of 100 operational and safety requirements under review, prompting them to issue a global alert over "significant safety concerns" on Thai carriers on March 20.

Aviation officials in all three countries, as well as Singapore, have reportedly begun to carry out careful inspections of Thai-flagged planes landing at airports in their country. Thai aviation industry analysts fear safety concerns could spread internationally, resulting in similar "pre-emptive" bans by aviation regulators in even larger markets, including the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and its counterpart in the European Union, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

LOCAL REACTION

Pat James, who heads the Phuket Aviation Club (PAC) based at Phuket Airpark in Pa Khlok, said the results of the ICAO's audit came as little surprise among industry analysts who have

Straight from the horse's mouth

THE Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), the aviation authority of Thailand, is responsible for prescribing, regulating and auditing Thai civil aviation.

The authority on its website describes its vision as to "become a leading organization in the region to drive the nation's civil aviation to gain acceptance and be competitive worldwide."

In case you were wondering about the meaning behind the



Photo: Department of Civil Aviation

department's logo, there is a page dedicated solely to its description.

The description is as follows:

"The Department's Logo is a picture of a Machine Swan, which means a swan with a machine designed by the Fine Arts Department, drafted by Pra Prom Phi Chit and authored by Noree Rojanasilapin. The reason for this logo is because swans are considered sacred and high society bird and machine is equipment; therefore, these two combined should become a vehicle to move the Department forwards."



Regulations now being enforced have grounded many small aircraft in Phuket. Photos: www.oilinki.com

witnessed the Thai commercial aviation industry's huge expansion in recent years – with no commensurate expansion in DCA's oversight capabilities.

The ICAO audit revealed 'discrepancies' in the DCA's accountability in their policing of rules and regulations, as well as in the issuance of certificates, both to recreational flyers seeking Thai air operators licences (AOLs) as well as the additional and more stringent air operators certificates (AOCs) required by scheduled commercial carriers, Mr James explained.

"All of these certificates have come into question and are under a black cloud right now. The lack of personnel at the DCA itself, lack of enforcement bodies within the agency and the lack of clear, open regulations has hampered actions within the agency," he said.

However, Mr James agreed with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-

o-cha's decision not to place blame on the DCA itself. The agency has had numerous requests for additional funding and other forms of support rejected by politicians from successive administrations dating back many years. This has forced it to continue to operate in much the same way it did some 20 or even 30 years ago, he said.

GROUNDING

The DCA disruption is having a "hard, hard" impact on the general [recreational] aviation as well, he explained.

"It is filtering down to all the smaller aircraft also, because now rather than continuing to go by policies that gradually went into effect over the last 10 years, the DCA is reverting back to strict adherence to aviation law," he said.

Some of the regulations now being enforced date back almost

50 years, he said.

Key among them is renewed enforcement of a law requiring applicants for a pilot's licence to be listed as the owner, either fully or in part, of an aircraft already registered in the Kingdom.

"This has resulted in the closure of flight schools. Now you are not allowed to fly any aircraft unless your name is listed on the five-year permit. That is just one of many changes that have come about through this reversion to the rule, compared with what we were allowed to do over the last ten years," he said.

"Thailand is pretty much closing the door on student aviation activities, except for the bigger schools that train future commercial airline pilots. But for people who want to take their family out flying or enjoy other forms of recreational flying, that has pretty much come to a stop," he said.

The stoppage had a huge effect

on "bread-and-butter" operations at Phuket AirPark, grounding most of the small aircraft based there and forcing the Phuket Aviation Club, or PAC, to cancel a series of scheduled air show activities, the next of which had been scheduled to take place in May.

Mr James said he hoped the sweeping changes needed at the DCA, including re-staffing and promulgation of new regulations affecting general aviation industry, would take place in time for the AirPark to resume business as normal – and host more fun events like the PAC's recent Fly'N and Airshow – by the start of the next high season.

These activities are a way of getting people interested in flying, signing up for flight school, and so on. Such activities will obviously need to be postponed indefinitely, until new regulations are put in place, he said.

While an overhaul and upgrade of the DCA is long overdue and could yield positive results in the long term, short-term prospects for the general aviation industry nationwide are somewhat gloomy as the monsoon season looms.

"We have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. We are optimistic that there is light at the end of the tunnel, but we just do not know how long that tunnel might be," he concluded.

EFFECT ON TOURISM

Well-known tourism industry analyst Bill Barnett of the C9 Hotelworks consultancy told Up In The Air that the effects of the flight ban will have "an even greater impact" on Thai outbound tourism than on the inbound markets.

"Thais have been increasingly lured to Japan and Korea, due to [the waiver] of visa requirements and packaged tours via charter flights," he said.

Thais wanting to visit the two countries are now issued permits-to-stay on arrival of 15 days for Japan and 90 days for South Korea.

"Meanwhile, Phuket in recent years has seen a diminishment of both its inbound Korean and Japanese market segments. While the Korean honeymoon trade is still a mainstay of the island's hotel industry, this remains intact by means of direct scheduled flights to the island," Mr Barnett noted.

"But the broader issue is more about Thailand's reputation and branding internationally. Given that, I believe the government's strong stance on reforming the DCA is the correct response under the circumstances."

For updates from the author follow @Phuketsub on Twitter.



The new Finnish-built floating pier at Yacht Haven Marina has given Phuket the title of having the only 100-meter berths in the region fully dedicated to visiting superyachts.

A Haven in bloom

By Chris Husted

THE recent completion of the new dedicated superyacht pier at Phuket's Yacht Haven Marina in Mai Khao has delivered the region its first 100-meter superyacht berths marina-side.

Yacht Haven welcomes boats of all sizes, but is widely regarded as a first port of choice for superyachts. With deep-water access and sited 15-minutes' drive to the airport, it has become the largest and busiest marina in the region and has seen demand grow sharply for ever larger berths.

In response, the new pontoons increase the total berthing capacity at the marina by introducing over 800 linear meters of along-side berths, all configured to accommodate yachts from 60m to 100m.

The new floating pier is already drawing head-turning yachts to the island's northernmost marina. Leading the pageant is the stunning 60m *Diamonds Are Forever*, custom built by Benetti in 2011 and sold a year later for US\$59.5 million, that's more than 1.93 billion baht in a single boat.

Moored beside *Diamonds* is sibling Benetti, *Elysium*. Measuring 52m from stem to stern, *Elysium* may have been launched in 2001, but she underwent a full refit in 2012 – and she gloriously shows it.

Other sailing stunners *Northern Sun*, *Samax* and *Tanvas* now also call Yacht Haven Home.

Previously, the largest of these giant pleasure crafts had to tie up at the Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa, alongside cruise liners and cargo ships.

Construction of the floating pier was by Finnish Marinetek, and the accomplishment delivered the turnkey contractor with a landmark introductory reference in Southeast Asia.

The large concrete attenuating pontoon is used for berthing on both sides and comprises Marinetek 'Superyacht floats' to



Pedestals on the new pier provide high-amp power supply, fresh water – and soon fiber-optic internet access.

give a length of 260m, and nine further floats to create three 48m long 'fingers'.

All pontoon elements were manufactured in Johor, Malaysia, and made the 600 nautical mile journey to the marina on an ocean-going tug-barge equipped with a 100-ton onboard mobile crane.

The pontoons were installed and anchored in under six weeks by a team of specialists flown in from the Mediterranean.

Kristian Rame, Marinetek's Regional Director for Asia, reported he was simply 'delighted' by the project.

"Phuket is already a popular yachting and charter destination and with the new pontoon extension, the marina will offer the latest and best berthing facilities available for the growing Asian superyacht community," he noted.

"Yacht Haven will be the only marina in Phuket to accommodate mega yachts."

Joint marina managers, Nick Wyatt and Zara Tremlett, were also delighted to see the extension complete.

"The pontoons, mooring system and marine anchors are all very high-tech, allowing us to handle the huge loads and meet superyacht standards without traditional piles, with minimal impact to marine eco-systems, while maximizing berthing flexibility and minimizing the need for continuous maintenance," said Nick.

The large 20m long and 4.8m wide 48th concrete floats offer excellent stability with 66 centi-

meters freeboard and appropriate power and fresh water supply.

"Each outlet on the pedestals delivers 250 amps, so boats can double-up and draw a recharge

of up to 500 amps," explained Nick.

The pedestals will also soon serve as WiFi access points, providing coverage to the entire berth area of the marina.

"We are also in the process of laying fiber-optic cables to the pedestals so that yachts will be able to access a much-faster mainland internet connection," added Zara.

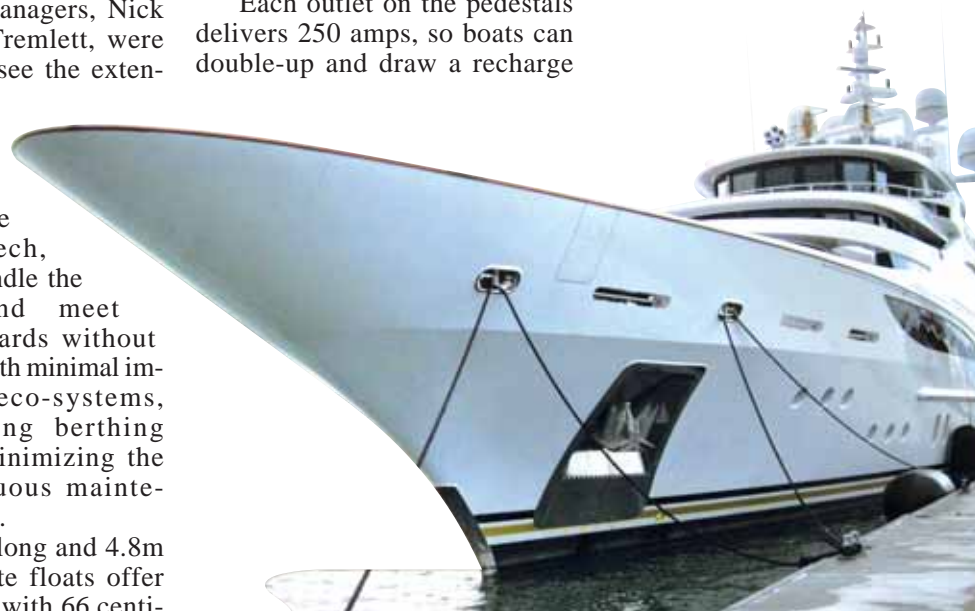
"We are very happy to bring in the superyachts on the waiting list to fill up the new berths. This, together with our extensive landside developments, will significantly advance our services to superyachts and their crews," she added.

Nick agreed.

"Presently with a restaurant, bar, gym, pool and accommodation, plans are underway to upgrade and increase our shoreside services.

"As a major full-service marina in Southeast Asia, we believe Yacht Haven has an important role to play in driving this part of Thailand's tourism sector.

"With a further 30 new superyacht berths and the aspiration to constantly improve our personal service at all levels, we aim to keep Yacht Haven Marina a secure, choice destination."



A garden 'full of beans'

LANGUAGE is chameleon-like. Expressions frequently change their meanings according to time or context. Take the phrase 'full of beans'.

I have always assumed it means full of energy and enthusiasm, but Americans use it as a derogatory term to signify full of hot air – or something less printable. Personally, I prefer the older connotation (I would, wouldn't I?). After all, beans or legumes are a rich source of protein and instant energy. Indeed, if you extend the expression to include coffee beans, then you add coffee's 'pick-me-up' qualities to the phrase.

Whether or not you accept the positive reading of the expression, it is undeniable that beans have been a massively important food source for aeons, especially in poor cultures where they have long been a major source of protein, and sometimes oil.

Unique among plants, legumes develop nodules on their roots that contain bacteria which fix nitrogen in the soil, thereby enriching the ground for future crops. North American Indians knew this: they grew climbing beans alongside corn, so that the vines could not only obtain support from the erect corn stalks, but leave a precious legacy in the earth.

From 40,000 known varieties, the most important for oil are soybeans and peanuts. The fuzzy, translucent skin of soybean pods, rarely seen here in their immature state, actually encloses tender fresh beans which, lightly boiled, are highly prized in Asia, especially in Japan.

Soybeans are mostly cultivated commercially and you are unlikely to consider growing them in your Phuket garden. Nor are you likely to be tempted to try temperate species such as broad or fava beans which favor cool, moist conditions, or kidney beans with their purplish, mottled seeds.

No matter. There is a plethora of tropical varieties to choose from.



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

When I first came to Thailand, I was amazed to find a variety quite unlike anything I had ever seen before.

Popular in salads and as a component in platters of raw green vegetables, it is known as a winged bean on account of pronounced frilly edges which sprout along four edges of the pod. Bright green in color and almost rectangular in section, this is an elegant and distinctive bean about six inches long.

Almost always eaten whole and uncooked, it has a distinctive, nutty flavor.

Known in Thailand as *thua phuu*, it also has the preposterous botanical name of *psophocarpus tetragonolobus* in reference to its tetroid shape.

I strongly recommend growing it in your garden.

Like all climbing varieties – and most bean species are vines – it will need the support of an adjacent tree or trellis, but will produce pods within

55 days. These should be picked when young and tender. If you let them grow too large, they will become stringy and tough almost overnight.

A day or two later and the pods will be brown and completely inedible. And they are not always easy to spot. Look carefully behind the foliage to find the hidden goodies.

Another advantage of picking the pods regularly is that this practice will encourage future cropping. As with all legumes, the soil need not be especially rich, but young plants will benefit from a dressing of organic material and will need plenty of sun and water in the early stages.

Just as ubiquitous in the Kingdom is the long bean or *thua fak yao*, which shows up in local markets in several forms. Broadly circular in section, the commonest variety is a long slender bean (known as the yard-long bean in America) with smooth pale green pods up to 16 inches in length, usually cut into sections before being eaten.



Long beans are often found on plates of mixed green veggies. Photo: David

Like its winged cousin, the long bean is often found on plates of mixed green vegetables, though it is also eaten with a spicy dip or lightly cooked in curries and stir-fry dishes.

A string-less bean that climbs vigorously, the cow pea (to give it yet another name) is again entirely suitable for your kitchen garden. Give it the same treat-

ment as the winged variety.

Full of beans? Why not.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com.

Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com



The tender, fresh soybeans, called edamame, are prized in Japan. Photo: Tammy Green

Tip of the Week

Balcony edibles

JUDGED by the number of new shophouses and condos around Phuket, an increasing number of island residents are surrounded by jungles made of concrete instead of trees.

And that trend is certainly borne out by the number of emails I get from apartment dwellers. In any case, as Thais become more affluent, the garden trend is toward flowers rather than vegetables.

If any of us yearn for that kitchen garden we never had back home, one solution is to grow veggies – literally – in your own front or backyard.

That means making the most of whatever conditions you possess. If your terrace or patio is in shadow, you will struggle with notions of small-scale



Consider growing mint. Photo: Kham Tran

self-sufficiency, but you might opt for cooler climate veggies, such as English spinach or mint.

If you are squeezed for space, but light levels are adequate, opt for container plants that require relatively little room in which to grow.

– Patrick Campbell

Sip the prized elixir



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

IN THE past few columns, I have discussed one of my favorite fats, coconut oil, and its many benefits according to the most up-to-date research. This week, I want to share some information about my favorite elixir: coconut water.

More than five years ago, when I first visited Phuket, an older Thai waiter at our hotel saw how much of a coconut-water fan I was from the amount I was consuming per day, so he proceeded to tell me all the wonderful tales of this amazing drink.

I already knew it tasted great and was ideal after a good training session, but the waiter told me that coconut water was also used for blood transfusions in World War II, and by sick people and athletes for re-hydration – it is better for this than sports drinks because of all its nutrients. It also kills pathogens and can heal many conditions, some of which the waiter listed for me. He was clearly quite a fan of coconut water.

Naturally, the scientist in me later checked out some of this man's 'tales' – turns out he was right about many of them. I'll include some of the snippets of his tales that I confirmed were true.

First, coconut water has been used for intravenous hydration and resuscitation of critically ill patients in remote regions of the world, according to an article published in *The American Journal of*

Emergency Medicine in January 2000. Also, coconut water may be an oral re-hydration alternative for patients with severe gastroenteritis when conventional fluids are unavailable, stated an article in the *New Zealand Medical Journal*. The addition of sea salt would rectify some of the deficiencies of coconut water.

As far as post-exercise re-hydration, I read in *The Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health* that coconut water is as good as ingesting a commercial sports drink for whole body re-hydration after exercise-induced dehydration, but provided better fluid tolerance. Additionally, an article in the *Journal of Physiological Anthropology and Applied Human Science* confirmed that the ingestion of fresh, young coconut water may be used for whole body re-hydration after exercise.

When it comes to killing pathogens and combating various diseases, I also found journal articles to support my waiter's tales. For one, I learned from an article published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* in 2011 that young coconut water could significantly reduce some pathologies associated with Alzheimer's Disease.

Furthermore, coconut water significantly reduces systolic and diastolic blood pressures in hypertensive subjects, as evidenced by research published in the *West Indian Medical Journal*. Researchers who published an article in *Peptides* in 2009 found that coconut water contains compounds with antibacterial activity



Coconut water is light and low in calories, as well as low in sugar, but still tastes sweet. Photos: Phu Thinh Co

against pathogenic bacteria.

In case you're wondering what nutrients and other goodies actually make up coconut water so that it can yield all of these amazing benefits, a recent article published on mercola.com lays them out for us.

Coconut water is rich in natural vitamins (especially the B vitamins), minerals and trace elements (including zinc, selenium, iodine, sulfur and manganese). Vitamins are necessary for the enzymatic reactions your cells need in order to function.

It is full of amino acids, organic acids, enzymes, antioxidants and phytonutrients. On top of this, it is light and low in calories, as well

as low in sugar, but at the same time is pleasantly sweet. It contains about a fifth of the sugar of other fruit juices and contains a little fiber to moderate absorption.

It is rich in cytokinins, or plant hormones, which have anti-aging, anti-cancer and anti-thrombotic effects in humans.

Fresh coconut water is one of the richest natural sources of electrolytes and, as we have mentioned above, can be used for re-hydration purposes. Because it contains so many electrolytes, it's been called 'Nature's Gatorade'. It contains five electrolytes that our body needs: potassium, sodium, magnesium, phosphorous and calcium.

Again – overwhelming amounts

of research have found the benefits of coconut water to be seemingly endless. Most of my sports and health friends in Europe and Australia pay big bucks just to buy the boxed variety. How lucky are we to be living on this paradise island surrounded by fresh, cheap coconuts?

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

Food allergies: When a simple tummy ache is not so simple

A STROLL through the children's section of a bookstore reveals that books on allergies are far too common. They are a testament to the increasing prevalence of allergies among young Thais.

An allergic reaction is the body's response to substances called allergens. These substances can be inhaled or swallowed. A child could be allergic to pollen, reacting to its presence in the atmosphere when he or she breathes it in. Or he or she could be allergic to peanuts, which you might discover only after he or she's eaten some. Food allergies can trigger symptoms related to the skin (rashes/hives), respiratory system (runny nose, wheezing), and the gastrointestinal tract (constipation, blood in stools).

Abdominal pain is a common

complaint among children suffering an allergic reaction. Tummy pain that seems similar to acidity might indicate gastric acid secretion in response to food. Abdominal cramps and intestinal spasms could also occur as part of an allergic reaction to highly allergenic foods, such as mackerel. Some food allergens can cause ulcers, diarrhoea, vomiting, and vomiting with blood. There might be itching or tingling in the mouth and the lips, face or tongue, or the throat could swell up. A sometimes fatal allergic reaction is anaphylaxis, characterized by a drop in blood pressure, shortness of breath, a rapid pulse and unconsciousness. It requires immediate medical attention.

An allergic reaction occurs when the body's immune system



Listen to what the tummy is telling you. Photo: The Nation

interprets certain proteins as harmful foreign bodies. An antibody, immunoglobulin E (IgE), attacks these unfriendly proteins, and triggers the release of certain chemicals that cause reactions

such as breathlessness or nausea.

Food allergies and food intolerance cause similar symptoms: nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting and abdominal pain. The difference is in the quantity consumed and the intensity of reaction. If a child is allergic to a particular food item, like milk, the body will react each time he or she eats or drinks the item, regardless of how much or how little. In contrast, food intolerance is related to the amount consumed, which means complete avoidance of the food item may not be necessary. Since some symptoms of food allergies, such as abdominal pain, could be indicative of other problems as well, diagnosis can be tricky. Food allergy cannot be checked by a blood or skin test. A food challenge test is best.

This involves having the child consume certain foods to test his or her reaction to them. The test is usually conducted in a hospital as an outpatient procedure and the child is monitored by medical personnel. If the child's reaction is severe, she/he is immediately admitted for treatment. This test helps eliminate non-allergens and identify allergens. Treatment is usually symptomatic.

It is smart to neutralize allergens by strengthening the intestine. This can be achieved by adding good bacteria (probiotics), good fiber (prebiotics) and unfermented food to the diet. Over time, children could be weaned off the medicated option in favor of the regular one. That tummy ache will then be a thing of the past.

– Prof Boosba Vivatvakin

Ronins shot down by Air Force Central

PHUKET FC is looking to rebuild their confidence after their 2-0 loss away to Air Force Central (AFC) FC on April 8.

AFC supporters had to wait until only the 19th minute to roar with delight as the Bangkok squad's Nigerian midfielder Julius Obioh slotted the ball into the net after receiving a superb cross from fellow midfielder Kittikrai Jantaraksa.

The home side struck again in the 37th minute, when Obioh's neat pass found AFC striker Sarayuth Chaikamdee, who volleyed the ball into the net.

But the high-fliers struggled in the second half as the Ronins raised their game. In the 77th minute, Phuket FC striker Pipat Thonkaya fired from near the penalty spot.

His shot passed AFC goalkeeper Kritsakorn Kerdpol, currently on loan from the Chainat Hornbills, but hit the post to count for naught.

Phuket FC Head Coach Songyot 'Dang' Klinsrisuk rued a reduced squad through injuries and squandered missed chances.

"We were missing key players. Midfielder Alef Pochi is sidelined swerving a ban, and midfielder Wasan Samansin along with forward Suriya Pawarana are both out injured.

"We fielded the strongest team we could and we played better in the second half, but it wasn't enough. We missed a lot of opportunities that we should have taken advantage of. We were not good enough in defense."

The loss cost Phuket FC three positions on Yamaha League One table, and they now face Samut Songkram at Surakul Stadium on April 22 in ninth position in the league.

This Saturday, Phuket FC will travel to Lampang for the early stage match for the Toyota League Cup.

"We are working the squad extra hard to fire them up to really want their next victory," Coach Dang noted.

"We have been in training all through the Songkran holidays for our away game in Lampang, and we will use the bench as best we can to mix up our play to earn a solid victory." — *Chutharat Plerin*



Phuket's Ronir Goncalves (in red) avoids a tackle by AFC as he heads upfield. Photo: Phuket FC

Gran Fondo arrives

By Chris Husted

ABOUT 150 riders will take to the streets of Phuket this Sunday for the Thanyapura Gran Fondo, a 120km bicycle road race to be headed by Tour de France green jersey winner Baden Cooke.

"Among the cyclists travelling to Phuket to join the major event are the women's bike team W2 from Bangkok and lots of Phuket cyclists as well, thanks to Bike Avenue," said Nathaphat Kaye Asavathanachart, Marketing Communications Manager at Thanyapura.

The Gran Fondo is a long-distance road bicycle race in which riders are individually chip timed and have the right of way at all intersections. The course heads north from Thanyapura in Thalang, crosses the bridge to Phang Nga, where cyclists complete a large lap of most of the province, then return to Phuket to cross the finish line.

The start line opens at 6am, with cyclists taking part in the Gran Fondo pushing off at 7am sharp. Cyclists joining the less-gruelling 40km "Mini Fondo" will start 10 minutes later.

Cyclists will race in Open or Junior (under 18s) categories on either course, and trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in the men's and women's division in each category.

Cooke, who retired in 2013 as a veteran of six Tour de France campaigns and as an athlete at the 2004 Olympics, has been heading a training clinic at Thanyapura in preparation for the race, alongside Nick Gates, a retired professional cyclist and Tour de France rider who now heads Thanyapura's new Cycling Academy.

The clinic, which began on



Australia's Cadel Evans grits his teeth as he makes a charge on his way to victory during the 14th stage of the Tour de France in 2011. Photo: Reuters

April 11, concludes on Sunday.

Among the training tips has been expert advice from Cadel Evans, the former Australian professional racing cyclist and winner of the 2011 Tour de France.

Evans was in Phuket recently for his first time training in the Kingdom.

"The humidity certainly is a factor, and it would do people well to lose a couple of pounds before getting here. Other than that the roads are good and the drivers are patient. They're not in a hurry to go anywhere," he recently reported.

Training in Phuket has other advantages, Evans noted.

"In powering over hills, power-to-weight ratio is key, but here the gradient increases as you get close to the top, which can be demoralizing as that is when you start to get tired.

"But the hills here are small enough [compared to the Tour de France] that you can stay out of the saddle all the way to the top."

Evans also advised cyclists to use the race as an opportunity to work on their levels of concentration.

"A race like the Tour de France requires a lot of concentration – not intense, but for a long duration. Otherwise it's one traffic island and it's one crash," he said.



The course takes in a large lap in Phang Nga province. Image: Thanyapura



Russian Swimming Federation President Vladimir Salnikov believes that talk of limiting Russian Olympic performances is beyond the realm of ridiculous. Photo: Reuters

Russians balk at Olympic limits

By Dmitriy Rogovitskiy

FOUR-TIME Olympic swimming champion Vladimir Salnikov is completely against the idea of limiting Russian athletes to only being allowed to compete in two Olympics in a row, he told Reuters.

The State Duma has proposed legislation that would ban Russians from competing in more than two successive Olympics.

The instigator was Liberal Democratic Party deputy Yegor Anisimov, who believes that double and triple Olympic champions do not give young athletes a chance to compete on the international arena.

But Salnikov, now the Russian Swimming Federation President, was scathing of the idea.

"Tomorrow someone will say let's introduce the 100 meters jump without a parachute into the Olympic program," Salnikov said in a telephone interview.

"The person who comes up with this idea will be someone who does not have a clue or anything to do with sport."

"In this case, will we also gather the general mood and discuss all of this? I don't even see the point of wasting my time to talk about something that is so obvious."

Russia's twice Olympic pole vault cham-

pion Yelena Isinbayeva and double Olympic figure skating gold medallist Yevgeny Plushenko were also critical of the planned legislation.

"This is complete idiocy from someone who knows nothing about sport. This legislation has no bearing on real life," Isinbayeva told the TASS news agency.

"I think the suggestion has no place and is impossible to understand. I think such questions should be decided by experts," Plushenko said.

"I would say exactly the same, only in a different form," Salnikov added.

"I do not discuss topics such as space

travel as I do not have the knowledge or competence. In the sporting world, there is a system in place to reach decisions. The International Olympic Committee governs the Olympic games. There is an Olympic charter and other documents which give one the right to compete in the Olympics.

"You can say what you like, but to make actual changes, you need to go through the correct channels," Salnikov said.

"If such a thing was discussed at an Olympic Committee Executive meeting – then I would understand. What is written and discussed should not be a cause for one to be worried."

– Reuters

Rexy demands BWF to take match-fixing more seriously

BADMINTON World Federation (BWF) should work harder to stamp out match-fixing in the sport, former doubles world champion Rexy Mainaky said.

The 1996 Olympic gold medalist, now head of athlete development in the Indonesian badminton federation, was concerned after two Danish shuttlers said in October that they had been approached via social media to fix matches at the Japan Open.

World number 11 Hans-Kristian Vittinghus and doubles player Kim Astrup said that the person who spoke to them said matches had been successfully fixed at the high-ranking Singapore Open and Thomas Cup.

"We have easy access to follow matches online or via live streaming, unlike in my era. Therefore, the BWF should take this matter more seriously," Rexy told the *Jakarta Post*.

Match-fixers have been prevalent in soccer in Southeast Asia, tarnishing the image of the world's most popular sport.



England coach and former Indonesian player Rexy Mainaky asks that match-fixing in the sport be taken seriously. Photo: Reuters

Rexy was keen for badminton not to go the same way and warned the Malaysia-based BWF they should not underestimate the threat.

"Match-fixing exists in every sport," he said.

"Fortunately, in badminton it is

rarely found except when Hans-Kristian Vittinghus and Kim Astrup openly reported a match-fixing attempt last year. It shows that badminton is not safe from match-fixing practices."

– Reuters

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