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# Phuket Gazette



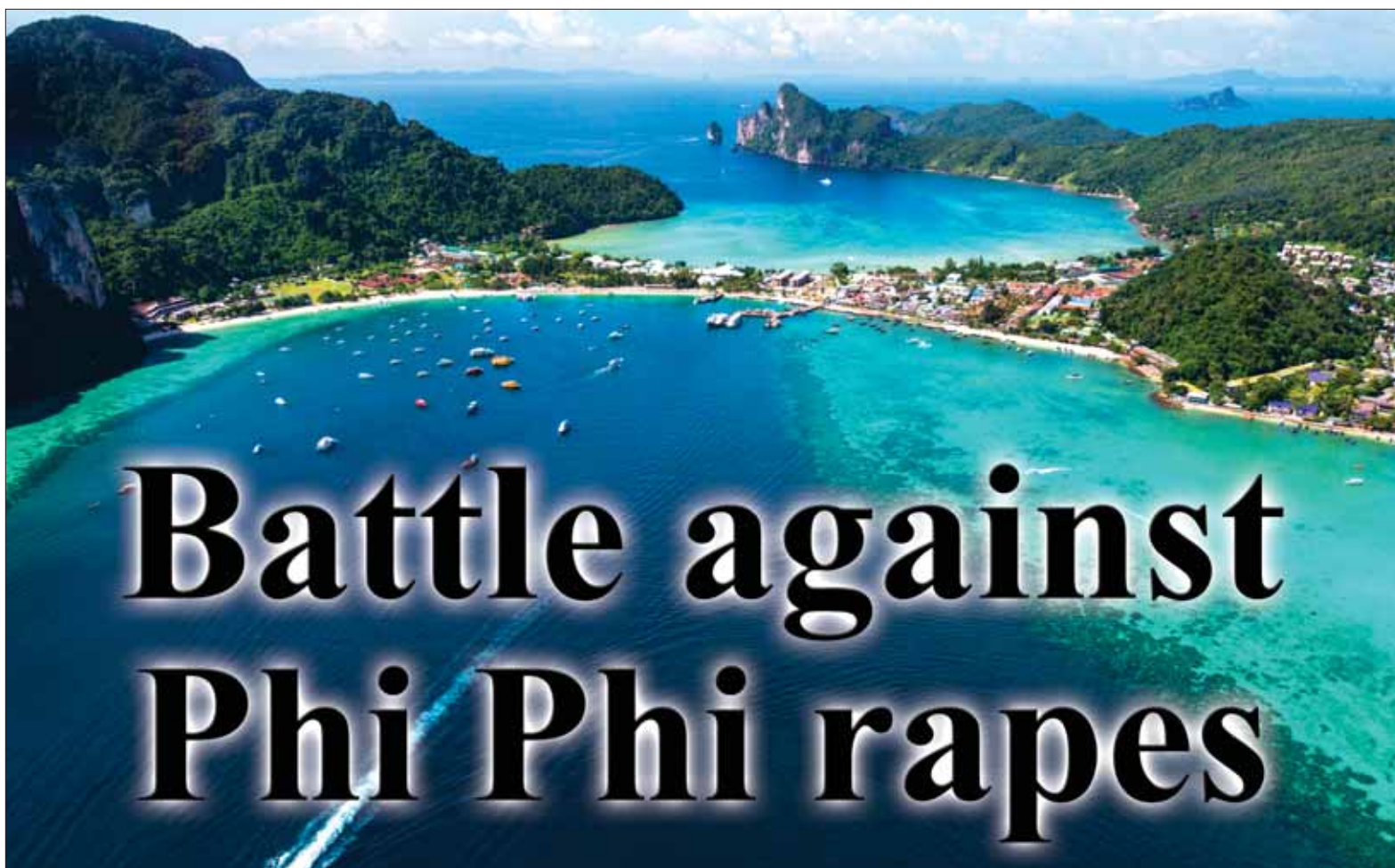
## Return of the guard

**Lifeguards to resume Phuket beach posts**

**INSIDE TODAY**

**20 Baht**

April 25 - May 1, 2015 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net) | In partnership with [The Nation](http://TheNation.com)



## Controversial Article 44 tabled to evict clubs

LOCAL authorities are investigating whether or not they can use the internationally controversial Article 44 of the interim Charter to evict business operators still occupying venues along Surin Beach.

Officials involved in the eviction of the beach clubs were slated to visit the business owners on Monday to confirm whether or not the appeals had been filed against eviction orders served on March 19. The visit on Monday never happened.

*Full Story on Page 6*

## Poll: Police lose battle in gaining public's trust

A STAGGERING 80% of all respondents to a *Gazette* poll have stated that they do not trust the Thai Police.

The message was sent loud and clear through the poll, which garnered more than 12,000 votes.

*Full Story on Page 5*

## Thailand battles devastating IUU fishing practices

NEW regulations are to hit Phuket as Thailand looks to close legal loopholes and enforcement issues being abused by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishers.

Experts estimate that the global value of economic losses from IUU fishing range between US\$10 billion and US\$23.5bn annually.

*Full Story Page 7*

## Phuket, Krabi officers to ensure rapes investigated

By **Chutharat Plerin**

A MAJOR leap forward has been taken to bring Koh Phi Phi rapists to justice, following concerns raised by the Norwegian Honorary Consul regarding jurisdiction issues which led to island rape cases failing to be fully investigated.

"We want to see police treat rape as a serious crime. We want police to bring rapists to justice. We want to ensure that police

are determining whether or not an alleged victim was sexually assaulted. We want police to pursue every rape case to an end," said Royal Norwegian Honorary Consul Pornphan Sittichaivijit.

Ms Pornphan raised the issue at a consular meeting with the Phuket Governor on Tuesday. She pointed out that rape victims were often brought from Koh Phi Phi, which is in Krabi, to Phuket's superior hospitals for medical reasons. Beyond personal trauma of the events, the first bureaucratic hurdle for a victim who wants to file a complaint against her assailant is having to return to Krabi to do so.

"Though I am new to Phuket, I am aware of this issue," said Col Jakkra Saowakon, head of Phuket Provincial Police Investigations. "Our old policy of receiving a criminal complaint made it necessary for the incident

to be reported to local police, who would have jurisdiction."

However, that is no longer the case. Though an order was issued in 2013 to address this issue, it is possible that most police officers were unaware of it, Col Jakkra noted.

"I can guarantee that from this point forward we will take the necessary steps to clear such bureaucratic red tape and expedite the investigation in order to swiftly deliver justice," Col Jakkra said.

"If a victim is taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital or any other Phuket hospital for a physical examination, the Krabi Police will come to take the victim's statement and gather any other evidence necessary.

"If Krabi police can't arrive before the victim flies out, Phuket police...

*Continued on Page 6*

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## This Week



### Business

Laguna's latest offer attracts golfers from all over. **Page 11**



### Property

Discover supreme elegance at Villa Verai in Cape Yamu. **Page 26**



### Explore

A cancer survivor takes the world by storm on his bike. **Page 28**



### Environment

PSU students venture Down Under to help our environment. **Page 29**



### Food

Smokin' Fish will fill your belly with homemade delights. **Page 31**



### Sport

Phuket FC sets sights on full points in Surakul double. **Page 34**

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Sunday



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Monday



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# Lifeguards to return 'as soon as possible'

By Chutharat Plerin

LIFEGUARDS are expected to be back on duty as soon as the new contract details are finalized, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) announced.

The news follows Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong signing his approval for the PPAO to expedite the process of hiring lifeguards by directly negotiating with the Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC) on April 16.

"I signed my approval as soon as I received the application," Governor Nisit told the *Gazette*.

"Lifeguards are very important to Phuket. We need them. We should not leave the beaches empty, as a lot of tourists come to visit our beaches.

"I also suggested to the officers involved in the annual contract to renew the contract well ahead of time. I personally do not want our beaches without lifeguards."

However, no specific date was given on which to expect lifeguards back on the sands.

The need for Governor Nisit's approval for a 'special process' to hire lifeguards came into play after no party came forward to bid on the 22-million-baht concession to sign the contract – not even the



Soon, there will be lifeguards looking after swimmers at the beaches.

PLC, who have guarded the beaches for years – after the contract was publicly offered twice.

PLC President Prathaiyut Chuayuan said that the key issue at the time was the 2.2mn baht required to be held in deposits in order to bid for the contract.

"We did not apply for the contract, as we cannot commit millions to be held in deposits," Mr Prathaiyut said.

That issue now seems to have been resolved, with the deposit required to be halved under the new concession, confirmed Chawalit Kiatdet, the PPAO officer responsible for issuing the contract.

"Other than the deposit required, all other terms will be as same as the previous year, which is a budget of 22mn baht to provide lifeguards at 38 stations at Phuket beaches," he said.

## Foreign tourist dies in resort swimming pool

A PAKISTANI woman found in emotional distress by hotel staff on Monday morning was later pulled unconscious from a resort pool and pronounced dead at Thalang Hospital.

Staff at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa in Mai Khao recovered Shumyla Mir, 26, from a pool at the resort at about 4:15am.

"Her body was later taken to Thalang Hospital, where doctors confirmed that she had drowned," said Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

Police have determined that no foul play was involved in the death.

"We found no evidence of foul play or other behavior that could be construed as criminal," Maj Santi said.

Mrs Mir was staying at the hotel with her American husband, Altamash Jamal Mir.

"There will be no further investigation as Mr Mir has not questioned the circumstances of his wife's death," Maj Santi said. "Arrangements are being made to return Mrs Mir's body to Pakistan for her funeral."

The Pakistani embassy in Bangkok has been notified.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Epileptic man drowns at Mai Khao

AN EPILEPTIC man drowned while catching mole crabs at Mai Khao Beach on April 19.

Uthai Wongpen, 45, was pulled from the water by Centara Grand Hotel lifeguards on patrol in the area.

"Police officers were told by eyewitnesses that Mr Uthai was catching mole crabs in knee-deep water, when he suddenly collapsed into the sea. He was floating in the waves for about five minutes before lifeguards were able to get to him," explained Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

Mr Uthai was immediately taken to Thalang Hospital, confirmed Maj Santi. He was



Lifeguards attempt to revive Mr Uthai at the scene.

pronounced dead on arrival.

"His relatives later told us that Mr Uthai had epilepsy and that he may have suffered an episode and fallen into the water,"

Maj Santi added.

Doctors determined the cause of death to be drowning, confirmed Maj Santi.

– **Thawit Bilabddular**

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## Mother, sister join search for missing American tourist

THE mother and sister of missing American tourist Joshua Devine on Monday joined a search by air for their loved one, who disappeared from a dive boat on April 11.

Mr Devine's mother, Marie Gallant Major, and his sister Jennifer Bakowski boarded a Royal Thai Navy helicopter.

"In light of the prevailing wind conditions, we have moved our search area to the north," Capt Puchong Rodnikorn of the Third Naval

Area Command told the *Gazette*.

"We have contacted navy officers stationed in Phang Nga and farther north to look out for any signs of Mr Devine. We have also contacted tour boats at the Surin and Similan islands to report to us immediately if they find any sign of him."

Capt Puchong said the Navy had yet to set any date for calling off the search.

— Chutharat Plerin



Ms Major joined the search for her son.



Col Panya. Photo: Mauri Grant

## No charges over boat collision off coast of Phuket

POLICE will not press any charges over the incident in which a dive boat and a sailboat collided heavily north of Koh Mai Thon, east of Phuket, last on April 11.

On returning to Phuket that day, the captain and crew on board the sailboat *Starship* alleged that the dive boat *North Star* struck their vessel and fled after throwing one of the Danish crew members who swam to the dive boat for safety back into the water.

"The *North Star* returned to Chalong Pier at about 6pm last Saturday," said Phuket Marine Police Chief Panya Chaichana.

"We checked all the documents for the boat and found that it is fully legal. As we saw no other aspects of the incident that could incur criminal charges, we handed the case over to the Wichit Police."

It is standard procedure for marine police to hand all cases over to the nearest relevant land-based police station.

Yet, investigating officer Lt Charus Lempand of the Wichit Police today also confirmed that no criminal charges were pending.

As neither party has accepted fault for the collision, the only recourse for damages was through a civil case through the courts, Lt Charus added.

"There will be no further investigation as the parties have agreed to take the case to court," he said.

— Kongleaphy Keam

# Officials to crack open alcohol promotion laws

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has confirmed that it will not take action against restaurant and bar owners for showing images promoting alcohol – unless a specific complaint is made against the venue.

The news follows a report of a restaurant owner in Bangkok being sentenced to pay 460,000 baht for breaking the Alcohol Control Act of 2014.

The venue operator was found guilty of showing pictures of beer bottles and glasses with beer and liquor brands for 220 days, from July 30 to March 6.

"By law, there must be no photos of alcoholic drinks on any menus," confirmed Dr Prapa Nakara, director of the PPHO Non-communicable Diseases division, who directly heads the enforcement of alcohol-related regulations on the island.

"Drink names and prices are allowed, but no pictures or promotions that encourage people to drink."

However, the PPHO will not



Dr Prapa confirmed that the PPHO will not launch a crackdown.

fire straight into legal action against Phuket venues that break the alcohol promotion laws on their own premises, Dr Prapa confirmed.

"If we receive a complaint of a venue breaching the Alcohol Act, we will send staff to investigate," she said.

"But then, we will see what action should be taken against the

offense. If it is not serious, we will advise the venue owner to rectify the problem. Only if they fail to do so will we call the police in to press charges."

Dr Prapa stressed that ignorance of the law was no defence against legal action.

However, she also assured that the PPHO had no intention of

launching any crackdown on the matter.

"We will not be picking on vendors in Phuket, as long as their actions do not obviously encourage people to drink alcohol in public. We will take each instance case by case," she said.

PPHO Chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus explained that the stance to not crack down on alcohol promotion within venues was in line with provincial policy to support tourism.

"We will not crack down on photos of drinks on menus. Phuket is a tourist destination. We do not want to be that strict on alcohol, otherwise it will affect our tourism industry," he told the *Gazette*.

"The law is the law, but we will apply the law in line with provincial policy. The PPHO works together with the Governor's Office and local police. We are not the sole authority for enforcing alcohol laws on the island.

"However, if anyone reports any venue breaking alcohol laws, we will have no choice but to investigate."



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## Road death toll ends at zero for Thai New Year safety blitz

PHUKET ended the national Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign for the Songkran New Year festival with no fatalities to report.

The campaign drew to a close on April 15 with a final tally of zero road deaths and 58 injuries during the week-long holiday, reported the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office.

There were a total of 57 accidents during this year's Seven Days of Danger, which is 159 per cent more than last year. The number of injuries also increased by 163 per cent.

The most dangerous times on the road were 4pm - 8pm and 4am - 8am, reported the DDPM-Phuket office.

Police manning checkpoints throughout the island stopped 18,530 vehicles during the week, and ticketed 3,908 people for committing traffic offenses.

— *Kongleaphy Keam*

# Deputy PM laying tracks to get light-rail to serve island beaches

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DEPUTY Prime Minister MR Pridiyathorn Devakula on April 17 told the governors of five Andaman provinces that he would like to see the Phuket light-rail project serve popular beaches on the island.

"In my opinion, having the light rail expanded to serve the beaches would be a good idea," Deputy PM MR Pridiyathorn said.

"A lot of people visit the beaches, and if we have light-rail from the beaches to Phuket Town, a lot more tourists will have a better chance to learn more about Phuket and provide an economic boost to the town."

However, Deputy PM MR Pridiyathorn noted that the current plan for the light-rail route is from Tha Noon in Phang Nga to the Phuket International Airport, Phuket Town then on to Chalong Circle, where the line will terminate.

"I will think about this further



Deputy Prime Minister MR Pridiyathorn Devakula.

and see if expanding the light-rail route can be done," he noted.

The light-rail project has been hailed by tourism experts as a game changer for Phuket. The

ment firsthand from the governors of Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang and Ranong.

He pledged his support for several projects, including the expansion of Phuket's Deep Sea Port.

"Expanding and developing the port is important," he said. "I am aware that Phuket has a plan to develop it, but I want to see a better port compared with other countries that are also marine tourist destinations."

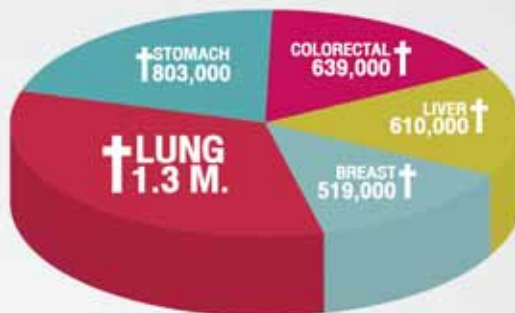
Deputy PM MR Pridiyathorn also highlighted the importance of understanding the interconnectedness of land and marine tourism.

To that end, he said he wanted to see better roads linking Phuket to Phang Nga, Surat Thani and Ranong.

"This should not be difficult. These provinces are important for tourism and Thailand's economy. Improving the roads would improve our tourism image overall," he said.

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## Homemade gun maker shot in leg during build

AN 18-YEAR-OLD man accidentally shot himself in the leg while assembling a homemade gun at his house in Mai Khao on April 18.

Anuphong Phuangjan was taken to Thalang Hospital for treatment after police were notified of the incident by his neighbors.

"He was assembling a handgun made from parts of a BB gun when he accidentally shot himself in the leg," said Lt Thanom Thongpan of Tah Chat Chai Police.

Police searched Mr Anuphong's room and found 30 shell casings and three unused bullets, as well as materials needed to build the gun.

Mr Anuphong was charged



Mr Anuphong was taken to Thalang Hospital for treatment.

with possession of a firearm without permission, confirmed Lt Thanom. The guns and ammunition have been seized.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

## Top official in heat-stroke coma after taking hot spring plunge

A SENIOR official at the Attorney-General's Office in Bangkok is on 24-hour watch in the intensive-care unit (ICU) at Vachira Phuket Hospital after jumping into a hot spring in Krabi last week.

Somkiat Phatkun, the deputy director of the Training and Development Institute at the Office of the Attorney General in Bangkok, is fighting for his life, explained Dr Jessada Chungpaibulpatana, hospital director.

"He suffered severe heat stroke from plunging into a hot spring at Huai Nam Khao in Khlong Thom, Krabi, on April 13," he said.

"Overcome by the heat, he passed out and the heat stroke triggered organ failure, specifically of his kidneys and liver."



Mr Somkiat (right) is in the ICU.

Mr Somkiat was on holiday with his wife when the incident occurred.

"She is fine as she entered the hot spring slowly," Dr Jessada said.

"He remains in a coma under constant watch in the ICU here at Vachira," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



# Poll: Police losing battle to win trust

By Gazette editors

A STAGGERING 80% of all respondents to a *Gazette* poll have stated that they do not trust the Thai Police – either in part or at all.

The message was sent loud and clear through the poll, which garnered more than 12,000 votes.

Thai nationals led the charge, with 49% of participants saying that they did not trust any Thai police officers. A further 23% said that most Thai police could not be trusted, and another 18% said that they believed only some Thai police were trustworthy.

Only 8% of Thais who voted in the poll said that most – or all – Thai police could be trusted.

In contrast, a combined 30% of local foreign residents who voted in the poll said that they did trust all, or most, Thai Police.

However, that figure was countered by 39% of foreign respondents saying that they did not trust any Thai police officers, and a further 18% saying that most Thai police were not to be trusted.

If the Tourism Authority of Thailand and the Royal Thai Police believe they are convincing tourists that the Thai police are to be trusted, they might have to



The majority of tourists said that most Thai police officers were not to be trusted. Photo: Gazette file

think again.

Only 9% of all tourists and visitors to Phuket who cast their votes in the poll said that the Thai police were generally trustworthy.

A combined 65% of Phuket

tourists who voted in the poll said that most – if not all – Thai police were not to be trusted.

A further 25% of tourists said that only some Thai police could be trusted.

In our latest poll we ask *Gazette* readers: “What is the best way to hire Phuket’s lifeguards?”

Have an idea for a poll? Contact us with your suggestions at [polls@phuketgazette.net](mailto:polls@phuketgazette.net).



Mr Pongphol confessed.

## Career car thief flunks yet again

POLICE have arrested a man who has confessed to breaking into and stealing items from five cars in Phuket Town last weekend.

Pongphol Boondetpiti, 25, was arrested in Rassada on Monday. He confessed to using scissors to break into the cars.

“I looked for cars with at least one bag inside,” he said. “I can break into any car. It doesn’t matter how expensive it is. It takes me no more than 10 seconds to get in and grab any valuables inside.”

Mr Pongphol was released from prison less than two weeks ago, after serving two sentences for other smash-and-grab crimes.

“Mr Pongphol was sentenced in 2009 for 10 smash-and-grab robberies, and sentenced again in 2012 for another 15 thefts,” said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Somsak Thongklieng.

“After receiving a complaint about the car robberies in Phuket Town, we checked criminal records and pulled in likely suspects for questioning. Mr Pongphol was among them.

“He was arrested when we went to pick him up for questioning.”

Mr Pongphol gave media some ironic advice: “Please do not leave valuables in your car. It attracts thieves.” – **Woranut Pechdee**



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# Top cop labels bomb threat via Line application as 'rumor'

THE island's top cop has brushed aside a Phuket car bomb threat circulating on social media sites as only an unsubstantiated rumor. Nonetheless, the governor has asked that police boost security measures throughout the province.

The increased security measures follows a message passed through the Line application and social media sites last week that urged readers to be weary of a 'cream white Honda Jazz car bomb with a black hood' that would be coming onto the island 'soon', and to be especially careful in Patong and Phuket Town.

"This is only a rumor. We are already taking measures to ensure everyone's safety – there is nothing to worry about," said Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit.

Maj Gen Patchara declined to explain what efforts had been made to verify that the message was only a rumor. However, he reiterated to the *Gazette* that the message was in fact a poorly thought out prank.

"Nonetheless, we will inspect every vehicle entering Phuket. I have also ordered Patong and Phuket City Police to be alert to any suspicious activities," he said.

"Please do not panic. Everyone needs to

be careful about the information they spread – both media outlets and locals."

Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong pointed out that island officials were already on high alert, following the car bomb incident on Koh Samui.

"Please do not spread rumors like this," said Governor Nisit, after conferencing with military personnel.

"I have spoken again with staff at Central Festival and Jungceylon. They are already being more vigilant after the Koh Samui incident," said Gov Nisit.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Security staffers at Central Festival Phuket are inspecting cars as they enter.

# Beach clubs may face Article 44

By Kongleaphy Keam

LOCAL authorities are investigating whether or not they can use the internationally controversial Article 44 of the interim Charter to evict business operators still occupying venues along Surin Beach.

Officials involved in the eviction of the beach clubs were slated to visit the business owners on Monday to confirm whether or not the appeals had been filed against eviction orders served on March 19 by the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

The visit on Monday never took place.

"We will check those businesses soon," Thalung District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol told

the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"But first the Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*, officials from the Governor's Office and the Thalung District Office will meet to discuss to what extent we can

use Article 44 to deal with the beach clubs and restaurants."

Mr Veera added that local representatives of the military would likely be invited to join the talks.

Prime Minister Gen Prayut

Chan-o-cha introduced Article 44 earlier this month to replace martial law, amid heavy criticism from the international community.

The Article bestows PM Prayut and the military with unlimited power to handle security and political matters.

In response, PM Prayut vowed that the powers would be used

'The government has ordered us to enforce local laws regarding these cases, which is what we are trying to do with the Building Control Act'

– Ma-ann Samran  
President, Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*

| ARTICLE 44 VS MARTIAL LAW                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Comparison of powers for military officers serving as peace and order-maintaining officers under the new order issued by the National Council for Peace and Order chief through Article 44 and authorised military officers under martial law. |            |             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Article 44 | Martial law |
| ■ Acting as authorised officers under Penal Code                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes        | No          |
| ■ Acting as administrative officers or police officers under Criminal Procedure Code                                                                                                                                                           | Yes        | No          |
| ■ Summoning suspects to report to the authorities                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes        | No          |
| ■ Making arrests for immediate offences                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes        | Yes         |
| ■ Detaining suspects for no more than seven days                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes        | Yes         |
| ■ Conducting searches                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes        | Yes         |
| ■ Examining correspondence and communication                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No         | Yes         |
| ■ Freezing or seizing assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        | Yes         |
| ■ Prohibiting the distribution of news, publications and other media                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes        | Yes         |
| ■ Prohibiting broadcasts through radio or television                                                                                                                                                                                           | No         | Yes         |
| ■ Helping or taking part in investigations                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes        | No          |
| ■ Declaring curfew                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No         | Yes         |

"only to root out deep problems".

Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* president Ma-ann Samran, however, told the *Gazette* that his office was

seeking a more traditional approach to resolving the impasse.

"We still have no idea whether the restaurant owners have

appealed to the Administrative Court. We are in the process of checking," he said.

Mr Ma-ann told the *Gazette* last week that the *OrBorTor* was only trying to enforce laws already in place.

"The government has ordered us to enforce local laws regarding these cases, which is what we are trying to do with Building Control Act BE 2522 [1979]," he said.

"The National Council for Peace and Order did not order us to demolish these buildings. They are government property, therefore we have no right to demolish them."

Vice Governor Punlop Singhasene on Wednesday told the *Gazette* that his office had yet to receive any formal notification from the court.

"If the business owners did file appeals, all we can do is to wait for the court to conclude its hearing," he said.

"However, if they did not, they will have to leave."

## Progress made in slashing red tape for Phi Phi rape cases

From Page 1

...will step in and move the investigation forward."

Ms Pornphan confessed that she was unaware of the number of reported, and unreported, sexual assault cases on Phi Phi, but a single case brought to her office last year highlighted the bureaucratic obstruction to justice.

"I am very impressed with how quickly and appropriately the Phuket police have responded to my concerns," Ms Pornphan told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview on

Wednesday. "I glad to see such a positive development and the promise of better co-ordination between the two police forces in finding justice for rape victims – it was shocking to see how quickly they turned their backs on the victim last year, simply due to the crime having happened outside of their jurisdiction."

"Who knows how many young travellers returned home after violent sexual assaults without having first filed a complaint and brought criminals to justice simply due to the limited time in Thailand they had available to them following the attack."

# Energy-saving campaign to slash consumption by 10%

THE Ministry of Energy will launch a campaign that aims to reduce Phuket's power consumption by 10 per cent within six months.

The campaign will target hotels, shopping malls and condo projects – and also government offices, explained Pramoul Chanpong, an inspector with the Ministry of Energy.

"Phuket is one of the top three power users in all of Southern Thailand," he told Governor Nisit Jansomwong on April 17.

"Support from the private sector alone should be able to reduce the island's power consumption by 10 per cent, or about 32 Megawatts, within our six-month trial period."

The Ministry of Energy is hoping to brand Phuket as a 'model province' for energy saving, Mr Pramoul explained.

"But we need help from both the government and the private sector to make it happen," he said.

"We will provide some budget to support the project so that en-



Pramoul Chanpong (right), an inspector with the Ministry of Energy, said the campaign will target hotels, malls, condos and government offices.

ergy-saving devices, such as LED lighting and low-energy air conditioners, can be introduced. Then we will expand the project to other provinces in the South."

Governor Nisit voiced his support for the project.

"Southern Thailand uses more energy than it generates, and so we must draw power from supplies in Central Thailand," he said.

"If we can reduce the amount

of electricity we use, it will reduce the need to build more power stations or spend millions of baht on upgrading them."

Mr Pramoul did not discuss the move by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) to build a controversial coal-fired power plant near protected mangroves in Krabi, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# War declared on illegal fishing

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

NEW regulations are to hit Phuket as Thailand looks to close legal loopholes and enforcement issues being abused by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishers.

Experts estimate that the global value of economic losses from IUU fishing range between US\$10 billion and US\$23.5bn annually, reported the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2011.

"IUU fishing poses a direct threat to food security and socio-economic stability in many parts of the world. Developing countries are most at risk from IUU fishing... Fishermen who operate in accordance with all regulatory requirements can also be affected by reduced availability of target stocks due to poaching by IUU fishing operators and reduced revenues as a result of competition with lower-priced IUU product," reported NOAA.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives launched the anti-IUU campaign in Phuket, Chumphon, Ranong and Songkhla following the seizure of Atlantic toothfish vessel



Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya visited Phuket on April 19.

*Taishan* in Phuket last month.

The ship had already fled from the navies of New Zealand and Australia, as well as conservation organization Sea Shepherd, before passing through Indonesian waters and mooring near Phuket.

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

ued at about 179mn baht.

"I came here to listen to a report about the fishing industry in Phuket, following our launch of a crackdown on IUU fishing in the region," said Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya during his visit to Phuket on April 19.

"During our 10-day blitz against human trafficking, we have been able to gather a lot of information about Phuket fishing boats."

Though the blitz was designed

to tackle human-trafficking concerns, the information gathered helped paint a better picture of how IUUs are operating in Thailand.

"We are now working on collecting data in order to assess... what needs to be done to better regulate the fishing industry," Mr Petipong said.

"We aim to establish laws to resolve issues with IUU fishing vessels operating out of Thailand. This will give a positive boost to our fish-product export industry."

The new fishing regulations are expected to be drawn up and implemented on May 6, but not officially signed into law until July.

Only days after the minister's visit to Phuket, the European Union put Thailand on formal notice for not taking sufficient measures in the fight against IUU fishing, *The Nation* reported.

Thailand has six months to implement a corrective tailor-made action plan, read a press release issued on Tuesday.

"As a result of a thorough analysis and a series of discussions with Thai authorities since 2011, the Commission has denounced the country's shortcomings in its fisheries monitoring, control and sanctioning systems and concludes that Thailand is not doing enough," read the statement.

Should the situation not improve, the EU could resort to banning fisheries imports from Thailand. Such a measure was taken in the past with Belize, Guinea, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Imports from Belize were banned last year, but due to the reforming efforts of the authorities they are now allowed.



The garbage collector was clipped by a truck. Photo: Phuket Highways Office

## Sidecar scare prompts more safety measures

A GARBAGE collector driving a motorbike with a sidecar escaped serious injury in the first road accident in Phuket's new underpass, prompting fines, improved safety measures and a warning from island officials.

At about 2pm on Monday, the motorbike driver entered the new Darasamut Underpass heading southbound toward Chalong, Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Lueduanghad explained to the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"The motorbike driver went inside the underpass and started to make a u-turn to head north again when he was clipped by a passing truck," he said.

Neither driver, both of whom Mr Samak declined to name, was charged for the accident.

"The motorbike driver was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment to minor wounds sustained in the accident, and was released shortly thereafter. He was

lucky that he was not more seriously injured," Mr Samak said.

Motorbikes, sidecars, bicycles and other small two to three-wheeled vehicles have been prohibited from entering the underpass since it opened, he noted.

"From now on, every small vehicle driver will be fined 1,000 baht if they are caught driving through the tunnel," Mr Samak confirmed.

Officials will also be installing more visible and larger warning signs, as well as CCTV cameras both outside and inside the tunnel.

"We are now installing four 360-degree CCTV cameras; two in the middle and one on each end of the tunnel," Mr Samak said.

"Larger signs informing motorists that two to three-wheeled vehicles are prohibited from driving through the tunnel will also be posted outside of the underpass."

— Thanaphon Phromthong

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## AROUND THE nation



Mr Anupong re-enacts the crime. Photo: The Nation

## Taxi driver kills couple with gun stolen from cop

A TAXI driver, who ran over a traffic policeman, stole the officer's gun and shot dead a couple in Nonthaburi's Bang Yai district on April 17, surrendered to police the next day, reportedly out of fear that he would be killed while on the run.

Anupong Reungsawat, 29, allegedly ran over Sgt Maj Jakkri Palasin while he was directing traffic, resulting in the officer sustaining a serious head injury and broken shoulder and leg.

Mr Anupong then killed his landlord Somchai Thaenjantha, 52, and his landlord's wife Sangwal, 50.

Mr Anupong told police that he shot the couple because they often scolded him for being too noisy at the apartment, reported *The Nation*.

He claimed that the couple recently humiliated him in front of other tenants by scolding him for playing a guitar too loud. He also claimed they ransacked his room.

Mr Anupong surrendered at Taling Chan Police Station and officers from Bang Mae Nang Police Station later picked him up.

The gun was located behind a gas station as per Mr Anupong's confession.

Mr Anupong is facing charges for the attempted murder of an on-duty police officer, stealing a police officer's gun, double premeditated murder and carrying a gun in a public place without permission.

# Anti-fracking protestors rally outside US embassy

By Pratch Rujivanarom

ABOUT 20 members of the 'Stop Fracking Thailand Network' rallied outside the United States Embassy in Bangkok on Monday to protest chemical fracking in Thailand.

Two network representatives, Rangsit University professor Dr Smith Tungkasmit and Pipat Samanchuen, were allowed to enter the premises to hand a letter to Eric Frater, first secretary of the economic section of the embassy.

The letter demanded that US authorities encourage an investigation into companies Apico (Khorat), Apico LLC, Hess Corporation, Chevron and CEC and stop them using the chemical hydraulic fracturing system, reported *The Nation*.

Chemical fracking is a petroleum-drilling process that pumps a solution of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure underground to crack the rock layers and allow natural gas to flow out.

The network claimed that this process would leave a huge amount of chemicals under the surface, which could contaminate the groundwater and weaken the bedrock – possibly causing an earthquake and releasing flammable methane gas into the atmosphere.

"We are demanding that the US



Anti-fracking protestors gathered outside the US Embassy in Bangkok on Monday. Photo: The Nation

companies and other companies that have concessions to drill for petroleum stop using the chemical-fracking process," said Dr Smith.

"This is because we are concerned about the impact to the health of people in local communities.

"Our observation of the Namoon site in Khon Kaen province found that a company used the toxic chemical zinc oxide, which is not shown in the environmental impact assessment report.

"Packages of this chemical, which should be disposed of by a hazardous-waste-management company, were instead donated to

a nearby school."

After handing in the letter, Dr Smith said that the embassy promised to investigate this matter and would discuss it with the US companies within seven days. He also stated that the embassy claimed it would take action against the companies if they were found guilty.

Apico has denied fracking at the Namoon site in Khon Kaen.

Pisutth Nilasinthop, public and community relations director of Apico (Khorat), said in an email to *The Nation* on Monday, "The government's Department of Mineral Fuels confirmed no

fracking at the DM-5 site [in Khon Kaen], and we also confirmed no zinc oxide on drilling operations at this site."

On the issue of packages of zinc oxide being found at a school, the company explained that Waste Management Siam, a contractor to Apico, had used an improper bag to donate plastic bottles to the school and a recycler, but the company insisted it did not use zinc oxide in its operation.

The company assured that the use of improper bags had been prohibited and measures were put in place so it would not happen again.

## Teacher among suspects arrested for Samui bombing

A TEACHER is among the two new suspects arrested for allegedly playing a role in the Central Festival Samui bomb blast on April 10.

An informed source revealed on April 19 that the 33-year-old teacher, who works in Pattani province, was being questioned at a military base, reported *The Nation*.

"He is suspected of stealing a pick-up truck on March 31 that was used in the bomb attack," the source said.

The stolen vehicle, which belongs to a local administrative body, was driven into the Central Festival Samui shopping mall car park on April 10 loaded with explosives. The blast late that night injured seven people.

Assistant national police commissioner Prawut Thavornsiri on April 19 confirmed the arrests of the two new suspects. He said one

of the pair ran an automobile business.

Asked about the other suspect, Lt Gen Prawut said, "The other one is part of the team. But we can't disclose what role he played."

Gen Prawut said that the ongoing investigation suggested that the team might have used four vehicles, not three.

Meanwhile, Muang Yala Police Chief Jamlong Suvalak said that security officials were now trying to locate three other vehicles: a silver Honda Civic, a white Mitsubishi Triton and a four-door Isuzu D-MAX.

"We believe the vehicles are now in the three southernmost provinces," Col Jamlong said.

According to Gen Prawut, at least five suspects are now in custody. Three were security guards at Central Festival mall in Samui.



Officers inspect the scene of the bombing at Central Festival Samui. Photo: The Nation

## DSI provides information for probe into alleged UFUN pyramid scheme

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) passed information about the case against UFUN Thailand's alleged pyramid scheme to police on Monday for further investigation, as three more people – one a military officer – filed complaints with police about the company.

The number of plaintiffs has risen to 90, who have claimed losses totaling 35 million baht, reported *The Nation*.

However, many members of UFUN claimed on Monday that the firm was legal and said that allegations of fraud had hurt them financially.

UFUN member Napapat Horakiat, 44, claimed there was evidence suggesting the

Office of the Consumer Protection Board had issued a new licence for the company and its financial transactions were done online, meaning there were no receipts.

She said it was untrue UFUN was illegal because Thai law didn't cover online trading and transactions, adding that the company was not linked to the U-Fun Store.

DSI chief Suwana Suwanjutha said that



Members of UFUN have claimed the company is legal. Photo: The Nation

she and Assistant National Police Chief Suwira Songmetta would hold a press conference on Monday to announce the DSI and police's cooperation in the investigation.

The DSI would transfer information – including other pyramid schemes that had changed names and whose members may be involved in UFUN – to support police inquiries, Ms Suwana said.

Consumer Protection Police Division Deputy Commander Angkul Klaikleung revealed three more people had filed complaints.

Meanwhile, the military officer, who asked not to be named, said that he and other officers at an Ayutthaya camp joined the UFUN scheme in February. He paid an application fee of 105,000 baht.

He said that he found online information about pyramid schemes that mentioned this company and he asked it for clarification but didn't get a clear answer.

Upon learning UFUN executives had been arrested, he and his Army colleagues filed complaints.



# Social media's role in unwanted pregnancy

## FIRST PERSON

THE way we live our lives and the ways in which we communicate with each other have changed drastically over the years.

We cannot deny that having a smart phone is important in this day and age. In fact, most people cannot stand to be caught without their smart phones next to them at all times. The same goes for teenagers.

At that age, it is important to be the center of attention – especially for most young women. Teenage girls dress nicely and put forth a certain image of themselves on their social media profiles. This is then seen by a lot of people, men included.

The social media lifestyle has also made it very easy for people to connect and meet each other. Once young people are interested in starting a relationship with someone, they do not have to try very hard to do so.

This way of connecting provides more opportunities for young people to meet and have sex, which can result in unwanted pregnancies.

It is therefore imperative that parents take up the role of both protector and friend for their children, and help them make more informed choices. This can help prevent a number of unwanted pregnancies among the younger generations.

Although Phuket itself does not have a serious record of unwanted teen pregnancies, I still urge parents on the island, and everywhere, to keep a close watch on their children.

Parents must try to be a good friend and leader, rather than attempting to control the lives of their kids. Young people have minds of their own, and will not respond well to being told what to do and how to do it. The more



**Yaowanit Nongkom, 33**, a psychologist originally from Roi Et province, has been working in Vachira Phuket Hospital for nine years. She graduated with a degree in clinical and community psychology from Ramkhamhaeng University, and is now head of the One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) at the hospital.

Here, she talks about how social media networks can play a part in unwanted pregnancies and what options these expectant mothers have, without taking the life of a child.

a parent tries to control what a child does, the more that child will push themselves away and continue to make decisions on their own.

Be a good friend. Be open to their opinion and give them advice when needed. Get close to them, but not too close. Most important, though, is to not let them be alone with their computer or smart phone at home.

This can be a big challenge for parents, but it is important to try to monitor these activities.

If an unwanted pregnancy does occur, however, it is not the end of the line for these teenagers. This is where we are available to step in. These young girls should know that they have options – they do not have to terminate their pregnancy.

Some pregnant women do have the right to have a legal abortion. For example, it is granted as an option for those who have become pregnant as a result of rape, or if the mother is incapable of having the child due to mental or physical problems. If the mother is not in either of those situations, our suggestion is to keep the baby. We will guide her and help her.

There is free medical care and psychological counseling provided

for mothers in need.

When an expectant mother comes to us, we will talk about what it means and takes to raise a child, and all of the reasons there are for going through with a pregnancy.

The mothers can have their lives back without taking any lives in the process.

If, in the end, the mother has the baby and decides not to keep it herself, the government will take over. The child will be sent to a girls' or boys' home and will enter the adoption process.

There are so many loving parents in this world who are unable to have children of their own.

We also work closely with other government agencies, such as the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families in Koh Sireh. Expectant and new mothers who for any reason cannot stay in their home or their community can go to the shelter.

The doors are always open for those in need.

If you, or someone you know, has found themselves with an unwanted pregnancy, please have them contact or visit the One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) at Vachira Phuket Hospital. We are here to help.



Step right up and take a photo with a beautiful snake. Photo: Mauri Grant

## Lovin' the python

I LOVE snakes. Whenever there is a news story about snakes sneaking into houses during the southwest monsoon season – I'm clicking on it. Snake in the road? I'm getting as close as possible to get a picture – which I admit is not the best idea in some situations, depending on the snake.

Naturally, when I saw a man walking through one of the local watering holes with a beautiful python the other night, I immediately ran over. To my surprise and delight, he asked if I wanted to hold it. You can probably guess how I reacted (I'll tell you anyway: I squealed like a kid on Christmas morning).

My buzz, however, was promptly killed by a friend in my group. After a few glorious seconds holding this majestic creature, I hear my friend yell, "That's animal abuse!" Immediately, I descended from my own personal heaven and handed back the snake to its owner. I had just been publicly shamed for something I saw no problem with.

Later, with a clear head and embarrassment washed away, I thought back on the incident. What exactly qualifies as animal abuse?

Take this snake, for example. It looked very well cared for and well fed. It wasn't on its way to be skinned to make a pair of boots. Many species of snakes are active both day and night, so it wasn't being kept up 'past its bedtime' or when it would normally be sleeping. I didn't ask to have a picture taken, and the man didn't tell me I had to pay to interact with the animal.

The man wasn't touting a slow

## Island View

By Rae Kelly

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

loris for cash in the baking afternoon sun on Bang Tao Beach, when the nocturnal animal should have been sleeping. I wasn't riding an elephant at a trekking camp, or cheering on a tourist as he climbs on board a baby elephant with a bottle of whiskey in hand.

I've taken multiple pictures with a friend's snake while we were out and about at a park in my hometown – as did many strangers passing by. Does this count as animal abuse? What about when I see a cute dog at the beach with its owner... should I be ridiculed for wanting to take a picture of it? And where are the critics and pitchfork-wielding mobs when an iguana is carried around at one of the beaches?

My point is that everyone has a slightly different definition of animal abuse, and many of them only extend to certain types of animals.

If you want to champion animal rights, refuse to take a picture with the animal or pay the person who owns it. Make a logical argument about your opinion to a friend who maybe doesn't share the same view, rather than shoving it down his or her throat.

If you're going to start a riot about an elephant being featured at a beach club party, then maybe you shouldn't continue to turn a blind eye to elephants being ridden for hours per day at various trekking camps throughout the island.

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

### Accident waiting to happen

I WOULD like to ask the relevant road works department to paint a center line on the road from Thepkasattri Road to the Phuket International Academy and the Thanyapura Sport Complex.

It is just a matter of time before a student or visitor is hurt or killed by vehicles crossing over the middle of the road, into oncoming traffic. Having a center line to separate traffic would help to avoid this. Thank you.

Graham M'M  
Thalang

Boonyong Koktong, a techni-

**cian at the Civil Works Division of the Thepkasattri Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:**

We would like to thank you for your concern. However, at this stage we have no plans to paint a center line along that road, as we have not allocated any budget to do so because that road is not a main road.

None of our councillors have raised the issue. However, I suggest that someone come to our office and file a complaint so that the issue can be formally raised and considered. Meanwhile, please drive with caution.

### Concerned about the state of the reservoir

WHEN was a workers' camp allowed to be set up at the Baan Jo water-treatment plant? They are housed inside the restricted area by the water's edge and the sheets of corrugated iron used for the accommodation are bright and new.

Are they now going to contaminate this water as their own private swimming pool and toilet facility? Can the authorities not clear them out? Disgraceful.

Robin Sole  
Srisoonthorn

**Saksun Khaoon, a technician for the Civil Works Division of Srisoonthorn Municipality,**



Here's hoping the water won't be contaminated. Photo: Gazette file

replies:

Thank you for your concern. I do not know of this particular camp, but I will have staff search the area and see what can be done.

There is the possibility that the

camp is on private land, which we cannot do anything about.

However, it is illegal for people to interfere with public water supply, and it is illegal to swim or even fish in the reservoir.

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



# Zap footing the power bill

IT'S hard to argue with the objective of the Ministry of Energy's campaign to reduce electric power consumption on the island by 10 per cent within six months, but the *Gazette* hopes that more energy will be saved in the effort than calories expended.

As mentioned in an announcement by Ministry of Energy Inspector Pramoul Chanpong, primary targets include private-sector businesses, including hotels, shopping malls and condo projects.

Government buildings were also mentioned, but these should be the primary targets – not only to set an example for the public, but also because the government needlessly wastes power in ways few private businesses could afford – or even imagine.

The sad fact is that for decades successive governments have lagged woefully behind the private sector when it comes to energy saving, both in terms of implementing cost-efficient, energy-saving designs as well as the sheer number or kilowatt hours wasted through neglect, indifference and lack of any real incentive to conserve: after all, the underlying reasoning appears to be that taxpayers will foot the bill in the end.

It is shameful how government offices at all levels waste energy by conducting 'face-value' events, despite years of pleas for the nation to act in moderation and with energy efficiency in mind.

Much to the contrary, the situation across most of the private sector is what takes place in the vast majority of Phuket households and small businesses. The person ultimately responsible for footing the bill – the main breadwinner or business owner – invariably leads the charge to keep costs down by forcing those under them to conduct easily-understood cost-saving measures, such as switching off air-conditioners, lights and other electrical appliances when they are not really needed.

As for government waste, it appears to matter little which political party, if any, is in control at the time. Just a few years back, convoys of 'sound trucks' crawled through the narrow streets of Phuket Town to present billboard displays and distorted, high-decibel sound messages imploring people to 'report corruption'.

We are not aware if any cost-benefit analysis of that campaign was ever carried out. What we do know is that the government behind it – the same one that subsidized a huge expansion in the number of new vehicles across the Kingdom – was brought down amid corruption charges with surprisingly little public outcry, especially given the methods used.

The *Gazette* can think of many government offices that could do with an energy-saving overhaul. One that quickly comes to mind – of all irony – is the main electricity bill-payment office in Phuket Town, where an array of high-BTU air-conditioning units pump continuously while the doors remain open much of the time.



## Trust takes years to rebuild – better start now

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Thai police lose battle in gaining trust, April 20*

The trouble is trust is something that takes years to build and weeks to destroy. You can not rebuild trust with a couple of quick publicity campaigns.

It will take several years to regain the trust of the Thais and maybe even longer with foreigners as the corruption is so widespread throughout the whole force. It will take years to repair.

But look at Songkran: zero road deaths.

Great start. This is how to get the trust back.

Simon  
Gazette forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

buses roadside at inspection points will affect tourism?

Dead tourists are what will affect tourism.

Trucks also need to be inspected at roadside checkpoints.

They couldn't run a pub raffle if they tried.

Start handing out the maximum fines and penalties.

Skip  
Gazette forum

Those who have the ability to enact changes make all the appropriate 'noises' when something goes wrong, then blame others for not having the 'budget', manpower or willpower to solve the problem.

Does this only apply to Thailand?

Well, no. The difference, though, is that here it's been accepted by the local culture.

Agogohome Agogohome  
Gazette forum

## Flouting the law to line the pockets

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket health officials to crack open alcohol promotion laws, case by case, April 21*

"The law is the law, but we will apply the law in line with provincial policy."

It is the same problem in the whole country, where laws are flouted on a daily basis by civil servants and law-enforcers to fit their own interests such as bribes for closing their eyes.

Whistle blower  
Gazette forum

## Boats and alcohol are a lethal combination

*Re: Gazette online, Alcohol ban pondered for Phuket passenger boats, April 18*

Good idea, boats and alcohol are a lethal combination.

It is unrealistic to expect boat operators to be able to control their customers' alcohol consumption or estimate how intoxicated a person is.

More effective to just have an absolute ban.

Anon  
Gazette forum

## A ridiculous, dangerous Songkran holiday

I do not understand the Thai people, especially the authorities.

The water festival has nothing to do with tradition, and this event has become very dangerous for people who drive motorbikes.

I had to move my motorbike and I personally got a bucket of ice water on the face which made me fall. There is something to be angry about – it's ridiculous and dangerous.

Michel Gremion  
Phuket

## Start handing out the maximum fines

*Re: Gazette online, Officials call for strict vehicle checks after bus tyre takes out noodle stand, April 17*

I have seen buses with multiple rust holes the size of soccer balls, taped up broken windscreens and bald tyres being passed by inspectors in Phuket Town.

Do they really think checking

## A good time to start enforcing the law

*Re: Gazette online, Minister battles devastating illegal fishing practices, April 20*

With the strong warning from the EU to ban all seafood products from Thailand, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation has a good excuse to reinforce the law by cracking down illegal fishing by poachers inside marine national parks in Thailand, and especially on the Andaman Sea.

By protecting fish and coral reefs, Thailand will get more friendly, eco-tourist divers from around the world.

Seafarer Divers Charlie Phuket  
Facebook

## Accepting non-acceptance of responsibility

*Re: Gazette online, Opinion: By land, air or sea – embarrassment for all, April 19*

Nobody wants to take responsibility for anything!

### Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Volume 22 Issue 17

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# Golfers flock to Laguna

Short-term memberships draw golfers from all over to the gorgeous greens of Laguna

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

THE newly re-designed Laguna Phuket Golf Club is winning the hearts of golfers with the island's very first offer of shorter five or 10-year memberships, Paul Wilson, the club's director, told the *Gazette*.

This new product sits between a lifetime membership and the one-year access card that most clubs, including Laguna, offer. The new memberships target several key markets in Phuket.

"Those people could be expats on the island who are not sure they are going to be here in 10 years. It is also for older people who maybe don't think they are going to play golf that regularly after five or 10 years," said Mr Wilson.

The freshly upgraded 18-hole course currently has an even spread of members with Laguna's varying range of hotels and the properties drawing in a lot of different markets.

"We have quite a large percentage of Hong Kong-based members; not necessarily Chinese people, but a lot of expats that work and live there," Mr Wilson explained.

"We also have a lot of European members who have invested

in Phuket. They're often called snow birds. I think this is because they come here for the winter and then they leave for the summer.

"We have a reasonable number of Thais who play golf all year round – it's a very even spread to be honest."

Mr Wilson also revealed that the club is working on a junior event, which will be the first-ever Phuket Junior Golf Tournament.

"We are working with one of the international schools. This is almost ready to be confirmed now; it will be coming soon. At the moment it is in a planning stage," he said.

"We are also talking about doing an internationally-recognized golf event in the future. Previously, in 2009, we held the Thailand Open on the Asian Tour. We would really like to bring some sort of golf event back to Phuket."

As Phuket moves into the low season, Laguna is gearing up to refurbish its three tennis courts and turn one of its two hard courts into a soft one with artificial grass. This is very popular among tennis players, because it is easier on the knees and better for amateurs, as they move a bit slower.

While tourism and golfing businesses are always slower



Laguna's freshly re-designed 18-hole course is drawing golfers from all over, even during the rainy season.

from the end of April through November, Mr Wilson pointed out that seasoned travellers and players are aware that it rarely rains all day, every day during the southwest monsoon season in Phuket, and with a bit of flexibility, they could get a better experience.

"The golf course is a lot qui-

eter, there are less people around and you get more time to yourself. There is not so much waiting for tee times and things like that, and also the rates are considerably lower," he said.

"The only thing you don't get in the low season is swimming in the sea, because it is quite choppy. So, you will need to use your

swimming pool instead.

"You just need to be a little flexible with your timing. Maybe you wake up in the morning and it's raining, so you wait a couple of hours for it to stop, and then play. Or, maybe you play half the game and it starts raining, so you have time to go have some lunch and then continue after that."

## Cashing in on Google's greed



Business Buzz

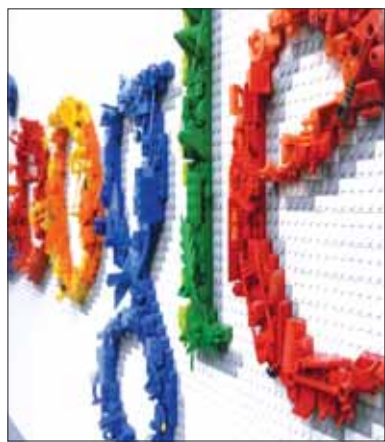
Simon Wetherell

WHEN asked what Google is, most people answer 'where to find things', while the more technically minded reply 'a search engine'. Google's own mission statement is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful.

What many people do not realize is the true dominance that Google already has in the online world. Put simply, Google has a version of, or a finger in the pie of, almost everything you need on the internet – and if someone comes up with anything that has promise, they acquire it. For marketing, this is a gold mine for us if we understand Google's structure and how to use it to our benefit.

Google controls the top two websites in the world, Google and YouTube – both of which are search engines. They also own their own blogging platform and they control a large amount of paid online advertising, through AdSense and Adwords.

So what does that mean for us, the small business or entrepreneur



Google has a finger in the pie of everything. Photo: Cory Doctorow

who wants to make an income or promote our business online? Well, it tells us where the gold is buried. By knowing what is important to Google, we can use this to help Google love what we do.

All internet material is ranked by Google's search engine in one way or another. Google gives each piece of content a 'Quality Score', which denotes its opinion on how relevant our content is to someone looking for information.

Getting an excellent Quality Score for your website and content will put you ahead of the competition and ranked highly in the organic search results, the free

part of Google's platform based on search-engine optimization (SEO).

By understanding what Google owns, we know that it will always rank that above all else as it helps generate additional income for itself. An example of this is where YouTube videos now rank at the top of a Google search. This makes perfect sense, because by sending visitors to a page controlled by Google, the search giant has more people visiting pages that it's getting paid to display ads on.

From this information, we know that supporting Google products will get us better rankings than by being on a competitor's platform, such as Yahoo or Bing.

Having a blog on Blogger.com allowing AdSense ads and displaying YouTube videos for content is like the perfect storm, and in theory will get you a much higher Quality Score on Google.

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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# Cashing in on retirement



Finance

By Don Freeman

GENERATING an income in retirement beyond any pension or government-sponsored retirement plan has become much harder in today's low-interest-rate environment. The income from defined pensions and even retirement benefits from government-sponsored plans are no longer a sure thing.

However, there are strategies that help to maximize income during retirement:

**Dividend-paying stocks or exchange-traded funds (ETFs).** Dividend paying stocks are the best way to generate income in retirement, but picking the right stocks can be tricky. It is ideal to avoid those with the highest yields or any stock with uncertain cash flows or profits. Instead, look for well-managed, profitable companies in stable industries that also have good balance sheets and are seeing at least modest or steady growth.

With that in mind, there should be no shortage of consumer stocks, utilities, real-estate investment trusts (REITs) and master limited partnerships – usually oil or gas pipelines – with reasonable yields from 2% to 5%, but be sure to check payout ratios, as anything over 100% is not going to be sustainable in the long term. If the risk associated with picking and owning individual stocks is a turnoff, then ETFs that invest in sectors where dividends tend to be high can be a good alternative.

**Fixed-income investments.** Individual bonds held to maturity are a good way to receive a guaranteed stream of income – unless the bond issuer goes bankrupt. For that reason, avoid so-called 'junk bonds' with high yields, and be careful about investing in individual municipal bonds as municipalities and cities can, and do go, bankrupt (think Detroit).

Just remember that when inter-



The income from defined pensions and even retirement benefits from government-sponsored plans are no longer a sure thing. Photo: Tax Credits

est rates rise, bond values fall, but bond values rise when rates fall.

In addition, and when investing in individual bonds, be sure to 'ladder' the maturities: for example – six months, one year, two years, five years, 10 years and so on – so that everything does not come due at once when interest rates are super low, like right now. Also, investing in low-cost bond ETFs can limit the risks associated with owning individual bonds.

**Cash in term deposits or money market accounts.** Setting aside a couple years worth of cash in CDs or term deposits and money market accounts is always a good idea. While the funds themselves will not generate much interest

right now, money can still be drawn to supplement income from other sources as needed, and can be used in case of an emergency or to invest when interest rates start rising again.

As with individual bonds, try to ladder the maturities of CDs/term deposits to avoid all deposits coming due at the same time.

**Annuities.** Generally, annuities are a bad idea for most investors and retirees because they often come with unnecessarily high annual expenses that reward Wall Street, and high commissions that reward the financial advisor who sells them to you.

That said, having an annuity generating some guaranteed in-

come to cover fixed expenses during retirement could make sense in some situations – but be sure to read the fine print and fully understand what is being offered.

**Limit-investment expenses.** A good indirect way to earn additional income in retirement is to limit the investment fees paid in the form of high commissions or annual expenses on fund products by choosing individual stocks, individual bonds and/or ETFs with low expenses and commissions.

**Cut back on expenses and debt.** Another indirect way to boost retirement income is to simply spend less money during retirement. Also, it is prudent to pay off any debt

before entering retirement and to not take on any new debt so that interest payments will not take a bite out of income or savings.

In other words, take a reality check about the life to be lived in retirement and decide what is essential and what is not affordable.

*Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has more than 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com*

## MPC could trim policy rate: Sommai

THAILAND'S economy has been suffering from the softness in global demand, so the Bank of Thailand's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) could 'in theory' continue its accommodative trend and lower the policy interest rate by another 25 basis points at its next meeting, slated for April 29, Finance Minister Sommai Phasese said last week.

The central bank still has space to take further steps to invigorate the economy, as the country is running a current-account surplus and inflation is in negative territory, he said.



More fiscal stimulus measures are coming. Photo: epSos.de

The MPC surprised the market by taking the benchmark rate down from 2% to 1.75% on March 11.

The current account showed a

US\$3.51-billion surplus at the end of February, while headline inflation was negative 0.57% at the end of last month.

The central bank in March

trimmed its forecast for GDP growth this year from 4% to 3.8% because of sluggish exports.

"In theory, you cannot not just lower the policy interest rate by 50-75 basis points in one go because you have to lower it by 25 basis points at a time to make people believe that the rate is on its way down and that would help depreciate the baht," Sommai said.

"If you inject the anaesthetic another time it would help but that is up to the central bank to decide because they also know the same theory as me.

"More fiscal stimulus mea-

sures are coming, since monetary and fiscal measures both have a supportive role for the economy.

"If the MPC does not lower the rate next time, that would probably mean that it does not want to signal that the baht is on a downtrend," he said.

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking at its meeting this month continued to urge the central bank to mitigate the strong baht in order to increase the country's exchange-rate competitiveness.

– *The Nation*



WHAT'S ON

in Phuket

April 25. Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket

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

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.

May 30. The Southern Criterium 2015 Night Race

Experience the most exciting cycling race at 'Singha presents The Southern Criterium 2015'. Test your speed in this entertaining cycling race right in the vibrant heart of Phuket at Saphan Hin on May 30.

The 'Singha presents The Southern Criterium 2015' offers a multitude of race classes for both men and women, in multiple of laps around a short but technical circuit along a remarkable view along the shorefront. Each lap is 2km: 12 laps for men and 5 for women, a VIP race and 15 for the men's elite race. Savor the ultimate DJ experience, exclusively played by local artists. For more information and to register, please visit [www.bangkokcriterium.com](http://www.bangkokcriterium.com)



Cyclists and spectators alike are encouraged to join the fun at the Southern Criterium Night Race at Saphan Hin on May 30. Photo: Alex Ranaldi

June 1. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month in the Buddhist calendar. The day usually falls in either May or early June. The day commemorates three

important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of Buddha.

July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month in the Buddhist calendar commemorates the

Buddha's first sermon to five disciples after he attained enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

In celebration, evening candle-light processions will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

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

Now on

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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  
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**Truevisions** Channel: 79  
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## YOUR Phuket

### Medical professionals gather in Phuket

Bangkok Hospital Phuket played host on April 20 to an academic conference called 'Pressure Ulcer Management: Benefits of Pressure Ulcer Treatment Following Clinical Practice Sharing'. It aimed to encourage medical professionals to learn and share new techniques to handle chronic pressure ulcers in light of more effective patient care and a better quality of life. More than 130 doctors, nurses and medical professionals from all over Southern Thailand joined the event.



Dr Narongrit Havarungsi, director for Bangkok Hospital Phuket, welcomes guests.

## Amari Phuket rings in Thai New Year

The Amari Phuket team got together to celebrate the Thai New Year, or Songkran Festival, on April 16. The team performed a traditional Thai ceremony to make merit so that they and their loved ones could be happy and healthy throughout the year.



TAKE A SEAT FOR A SONGKRAN BLESSING: Pierre-Andre Pelletier (L), Vice President & Area General Manager, South Thailand; Tipaporn Koonphol, Deputy General Manager; and Richard Margo, Hotel Manager, sit amongst members of the Amari Phuket team.



ONE MAN'S BEAUTIFUL CREW: Phakapol Yawaluk (2<sup>nd</sup> L), general manager for Centra Ashlee Patong, poses for a photo with party guests.

### Party people foaming up to make a colorful splash in Patong

Centra Ashlee Patong Hotel held a Rainbow Splash Pool & Foam Party at the Air Rooftop Bar & Lounge at Patong Beach on April 12.

## Lucky turtles find a way back to the big ol' blue

JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa teamed up with the Mai Khao Turtle Foundation this Songkran holiday to give back to nature. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mai Khao turtle release, which took place on April 13, saw 65 green turtles sent off to sea, as well as a big welcome ceremony for 'Tommy the Turtle', who was born in March 2013.



LET IT GO: Utit Limsakul (L), assistant director for the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office; Oriol Monta, general manager for JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and Chairman of Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation; Phuket Vice Governor Pallop Singhasanee; and his son.



'Tommy the Turtle' made his big debut at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mai Khao Turtle release ceremony.



TEAM UP FOR A GREEN PLANET: Brett Wilson, general manager for Pullman Hotel & Resort Phuket (back row, center); Orasa Singha, director of human resources (front row, center); and Bella Thirapan, marketing communication (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> R) with other members of the Pullman management team.

## Pulling all stops for Planet 21: Reduce, reuse and recycle for a cleaner world

Pullman Hotel & Resort on April 21 held a 'Planet 21' event under the theme 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' to promote sustainable development. All member hotels of Accor around the globe held the same event on the same date.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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## PROPERTY FOR RENT of the week



HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT NEAR BIS

See page 18

## JOB of the week

**M** | SQUARED  
INTERIOR DESIGN

See page 19

## BULLETIN of the week

**Alcoholics  
Anonymous**

email: [phuketaa@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketaa@yahoo.com)

See page 20

## BOAT & MARINE of the week



See page 21

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## Properties For Sale

### 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

### 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: ornholand@hotmail.com

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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.

### 3 BEDROOMS SALE / RENT



Furnished house in Chalung. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.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. Aicon. Kitchen. Tel: 098-331 6449.

### FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

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

### 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

### 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.

### 1-BED APT. SALE / RENT



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

### 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassarabee@gmail.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

### 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.

### KATA OCEAN VIEW FOR SALE



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

### ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Spectacular seaview condo located on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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).

### 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 Ravi Warin Resort). Starting price: 4.8 million baht per unit. Special price for all 5 together. Tel: 081-846 2980.

### 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.

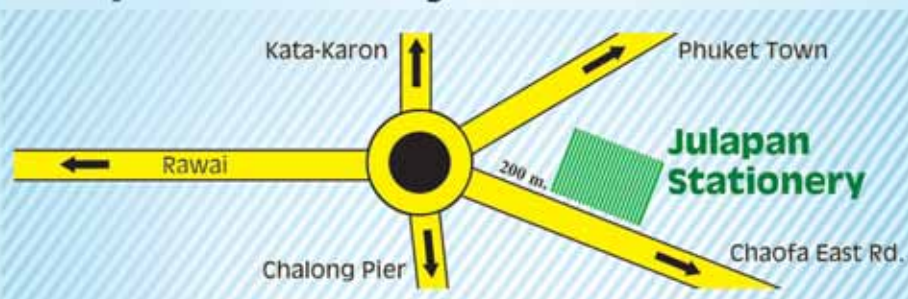
### LOVELY VILLA NEAR BEACH

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

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## Properties For Rent



## HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

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new kitchen, aircon.  
Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.9 million baht.  
Tel: +61-488 005 408.  
Email: offshorebizz@yahoo.com

2-BED POOL  
PENTHOUSE KARON

Holiday rental, 2 bedrooms/  
bathrooms, kitchen, rooftop  
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Beach 5-min walk. Email:  
resortgm@gmail.com

## CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms,  
aircons, free WiFi, starts from  
6,000 baht per month. Tel:  
081-892 4311. [http://panwa  
green.weebly.com](http://panwa.green.weebly.com)

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(English).

## KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

New ocean view condo. Low  
season special promotion.  
Now - October 31. 23,000  
baht / month. Tel: 087-282  
3724 (English). Email: key  
west\_aloha@hotmail.com

APARTMENT  
FOR RENT

88sqm apartment with sepa-  
rate kitchen, living room,  
overlooking the beach and  
mountain, for long stay. Tel:  
076-344922, 083-102 5928.  
Fax: 076-341870. Email:  
kkiran23@hotmail.com

NEW MAI KHAO BEACH  
HOUSE

10,000 baht. New fully fur-  
nished and aircon. 500m to  
beach. Tel: 081-693 4463  
(English & Thai). Email:  
321orchidilla@gmail.com,  
www.orchidilla.com

PATONG LUXURY  
1-BEDROOM CONDO

Large luxury 1 bedroom / 2  
bathrooms condo in Patong,  
recently renovated, fully fur-  
nished. Tel: 081-270 6009  
(English). Email: yesgeoff  
@gmail.com

CONDO IN KATHU  
FOR RENT

Ideally located 2 bedrooms,  
2 bathrooms, brand new 6th  
floor condo for rent. Fully fur-  
nished with aircons, cable  
TV, WiFi, kitchen, washing  
machine. The complex also  
has a gym, large 100m swim-  
ming pool, parking and 24-  
hr security. Only 5 - 10min to  
Central Festival, Phuket Town,  
golf courses and schools.  
Tel: 081-893 9127 (English).  
Email: duncanecclipse@  
yahoo.co.uk

PATONG 1 & 2 BED  
LONG TERM

Rentals available. Pool, week-  
ly maid, free WiFi, parking.  
From 20,000 baht / month.  
For more information, please  
call 080-052 8082. Email: so  
litude001@aol.com

LUXURY APARTMENT  
PATONG

1 bedroom, 50sqm, fully fur-  
nished, 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

Property  
ServicesPROPERTY / RENTAL  
MANAGEMENT

We manage whole condo  
complexes (includes J.P.M.),  
estates, individual condos/vil-  
las. We can assist with de-  
veloper/management issues.  
Email: resortgm@gmail.  
com

FOR RENT  
RAWAI / NAI HARN

Vassana Residence start-  
ing at 35,000 baht per  
month for long-term rent.  
Sea view rooftop deck  
and bar overlooking the  
Andaman Sea. 2 bed-  
rooms, 2 bathrooms.  
LCD TV in every room,  
swimming pool, washing  
machine in every apart-  
ment. 160sqm in size,  
free Wi-Fi. Tel: 087-882  
9604. Email: vassana.  
residence@gmail.com

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@thewind  
millphuket.com, www.the  
windmillphuket.com

## HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

NAI HARN PENTHOUSE  
FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,  
118sqm. Long term: 35,000  
baht/month. Tel: 087-882  
9604. Email: artlpmj@ya  
hoo.com

STUDIO ROOM  
FOR RENT

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

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

## KARON SEAVIEW

Eden Resort. Fully furnished,  
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Long  
term: 30,000 baht/month. Tel:  
087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj  
@yahoo.com

LUXURY NAI HARN  
2-BEDROOM CONDO

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

## BOUTIQUE ROOM

Fully furnished, WiFi, Mae  
Luan Road. Tel: 089-668  
3639 (English & Thai).

Accommodation  
WantedPHUKET TOWN CONDO  
FOR RENT

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

## POOL VILLA RAWAI



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

## HOUSE FOR RENT

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

## Accommodation Available

TOWNHOUSE  
SUPALAI CITY HILL

Townhouse for sale (2.8  
million baht) in Supalai  
City Hill Estate, Phuket  
Town. 3 bedrooms, 2  
bathrooms, quiet, conven-  
ient location, furnished,  
full kitchen, decor, gar-  
den, car park, 2 aircons.  
Available from May 2015.  
For more information,  
please call 089-874  
0061, 086-291 4115.  
Email: stephenfein@  
gmail.com

SURIN GATE  
APARTMENT

For rent and sale, 3 bed-  
rooms, 2 bathrooms, pool  
view, full-size kitchen, wash-  
ing and dryer, free parking,  
Wi-Fi. Long term for 25,000  
baht / month. Contact Too.  
Tel: 083-642 6381. Email:  
admincontrol@bayshore  
projects.com

NAITHON BEACH  
PALACE

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

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



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net





Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following position available in the field of villa rental and management services.

### Reservations Supervisor

- Experience in reservations in the hospitality or property management sector is preferred.
- Excellent command of English language both spoken and written.
- Strong sales skills and ability to liaise with International Customers/Owners/Agents.
- Position available for Thai nationals only.
- Good organizational skills and ability to prioritize work.

Please send application and photo to Human Resources Dept.  
Email: [tasanee@pipsphuket.com](mailto:tasanee@pipsphuket.com)

393/2 Moo1 Srisoonthorn Rd, Chergtalay,  
Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076 270 750 Fax: 076 270 751

### 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](mailto:jellinecastro@yahoo.com)

### ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

Or native English speaker. Needed for private lessons for my 19-year-old Thai son. Tel: 081-797 1497.

### EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER

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](mailto:info@phuketsolar.com), [www.phuketsolar.com](http://www.phuketsolar.com)

### 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](mailto:Giles@ecc.ac.th)

### HOTEL STAFF WANTED

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

## 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](mailto: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

### GUEST RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

Boutique resort is seeking a strong and highly motivated person. Candidate must be fluent in written and spoken Thai and English. Experience of at least 5 years in hospitality or related field is required. Salary and commission scheme. Tel: 086-004 3008. Email: [andreaangius@icloud.com](mailto:andreaangius@icloud.com)

### FRONT OFFICE MANAGER WANTED

Thai and English speaking. Salary negotiable. Please send CV or contact Anne. Tel: 084-845 0003. Email: [admincontrol@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:admincontrol@bayshoreprojects.com)

### FITNESS PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR

Wanted. We are recruiting for our Weight-loss / Fitness Program Department. We are looking for qualified professionals to join our team. Fluent English speakers only! Rawai. Tel: 087-271 7447 (English & Thai). Email for job details at [recruitment@phuketfit.com](mailto:recruitment@phuketfit.com), [www.phuketfit.com](http://www.phuketfit.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](mailto:wedding@samer.com)

### 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.

### CHINESE PROPERTY AGENT

Phukets 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](mailto:info@propertyinphuket.com)



MSquared Interior Design would like to add two new people to its team on Phuket.

### Interior Designer / Draftsman

Key skills and attributes required:

- Thai national with (basic) fluency in English, and with great communication skills
- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Interior Design or Interior Architecture
- At least 3 year's experience as a draftsman or relevant ID work experience
- Good organizational skills and self-disciplined
- Skilled in using AutoCAD; Sketchup; 3D Max
- Excellent understanding of the entire design process, from conceptualization through to construction stage
- Comfortable using Microsoft Office 'Outlook'; 'Word'; and 'Excel'
- Hard working, conscientious, trustworthy, and a great team player
- Ambitious to grow with a young and dynamic business
- An existing portfolio of successful work is required

### Interior Designer / FF&E Specialist

Key skills and attributes required:

- Thai national, Bachelor's degree in Interior Design or Interior Architecture
- At least 3 years experience in design (with a focus on FF&E)
- Creative thinker with design flair, great time management, and well organized
- Bi-lingual fluency (Thai & English)
- Excellent skills in: AutoCAD; Photoshop; (Sketchup & 3D Max would be advantageous)
- Excellent understanding of the entire design process, from conceptualization through to construction stage
- A great team player with excellent interpersonal skills
- An existing portfolio of successful work is required

Both positions offer a competitive basic salary, and after a 3-month probationary period the successful candidates will benefit from:

- Participation in a company sponsored medical insurance scheme
- Annual paid holidays
- Participation in the company's performance bonus scheme

If you'd like to apply for either of these positions, please send your CV, with a covering email introducing yourself, to:  
[david@msquared-design.asia](mailto:david@msquared-design.asia)

### 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](mailto:rbv@royalperspective.com)

### HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. For more information, please call 081-893 5492 (English & Thai).

### REAL ESTATE EXECUTIVE 70,000+

Live Phuket is a leading agency looking for a talented, motivated and hungry person to join our sales team. The role will involve managing and maintaining leads and inquiries for the sales team. Please contact by email at [paul@livephuket.com](mailto:paul@livephuket.com)

### LOOKING FOR MAID

Household in Layan Beach is looking for a maid. Should be dog friendly and speak English. For more information, please call 084-007 7553 (English). Email: [liz22gap@yahoo.de](mailto:liz22gap@yahoo.de)

### 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. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: [luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com](mailto:luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.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](mailto: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



## 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

**RESORT FOR SALE**

9 apartments with Chanote, fully furnished, aircon, terraces, garden, easy to rent. Rawai / Sai Yuan. Tel: 086-274 3060, 092-423 7313, 089-909 0759. Email: asia.yachting@yahoo.com

**KATA RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

Fully furnished restaurant and guesthouse for take over, near Kata beach. Tel: 087-674 5804 (Thai & English).

**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

**RAWAI RESTAURANT URGENT SALE**

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

**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

**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

## 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 &amp; 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).



**DINO DAYCARE CENTER**

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

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

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

**DINODAYCARECENTER**

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994.

## Cameras &amp; 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

**BLUE CANYON FAMILY**  
Golf membership. Good title. For only 650,000 baht and transfer fee. For more information, please call 081-895 5022.

**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

## Wheels &amp; Motors

## Saloon Cars

**2012 PORSCHE CAYENNE S HYBRID**

Excellent condition, full options: Bose sound. Panoramic roof. Navigator, etc. 100% no accidents, low mileage, one owner. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 086-280 6526 (English). Email: danlim@singnet.com.sg

**URGENT CAR SALE**

Toyota Vios 2013, auto, great condition, gray color, for only 365,000 baht. Tel: 098-732 7402.

**2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT**

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

**HONDA CITY**

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

**RED MAZDA 2011**

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

**HONDA CITY**

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

**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 uraebi@gmx.net

**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

**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

## Motorbikes

**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. For more information, please call 081-893 5270 (English), 095-526 7897 (English & Thai). Email: gilles@govao.com

**AFRICA TWIN 750**

Year 2005. 70,000km. Excellent condition. For sale: 120,000 baht. Tel: 081-078 9334 (English & French).

**VESPA PRIMAVERA 125**

Black, 11 months old, only 930km. One owner, Green book, taxed. Includes: Akrapovic exhaust. Vespa flyscreen. Malossi variator, etc. 84,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 084-292 0008. Email: robinson kevin@maccom

**HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY**

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

## Others

**TRACTOR FOR SALE**

Kubota Tractor 3608 with syncho shuttle. Used only 50 hours with front loader with bucket and dozerblade. Back is a bio shredder. For more information, please call 089-588 4550.

## Pick-ups

**PICK-UP WANTED**

Hilux, Ford Ranger or Isuzu. 2006 or later. Email: mark\_313@hotmail.com

**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: bcurrent@hotmail.com



**HIGHFIELD 310**

3 months old, engine 10 hrs, electric start, GPS speed, hour meter, stainless boarding ladder, 45-liter built-in tank, aluminum hull, boat cover, covers for console and engine. Price new: 326,000 baht. Asking 269,000 baht. Tel: 098-551 5007 (English). Email: gebergmann@t-on line.de

**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.

**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.

**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

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INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS

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

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**750,000 Bt**

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M: +66 84 8426146  
boats@boatshedphuket.com

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**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.face book.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/423591747727674

**BENETEAU EVASION 34**

1981, 50hp Perkins motor sailer, many extras, best state. 1.29 million baht. Nihat Gunduz. Tel: 086-274 6272. Email: nihat\_gunduz@hotmail.com

**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

**POWER CATAMARAN**

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

**BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)**

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

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**Schionning Wilderness 1500X (2010)****Genuine offers invited**

Sam Chop features the 3 double cabin layout with huge bridgedeck saloon. Set up for long distance, short-handed sailing, she has recently undergone a full refit and is in immaculate condition. Lying: Langkawi, Malaysia

**Dean 440 (2002)**

Asking 169,000 EUR

Bengali is a strong and comfortable sailing cat built in South Africa. The current owner has added new equipment and upgrades, representing good value. Genuine offers are welcome. Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

**THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S****Cryptic Crossword**

Abbreviations: UPPERCASE (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. PROSTRATE: *storepart* 10. APPLIANCE: App.-iclean 12. RARE: R-are 13. UGLIER: U-girl(E) 14. COLORED: cool-red 15. AGITATION: *toitagain* 17. ANCHORAGE: *nochargea* 18. SPANIEL: *lapsein* 19. PRE-PAY: pr-E.P.-ay 20. ACES: aces 23. PRIMITIVE: prim-iveit 25. MOTORCITY: drive-an urban area 26. ERNE: ernie 27. AVERSE: *saver-E* 29. REPRISE: *respire* 32. INITIATES: 1-istatein 34. ASSOCIATE: *seacoasti* 35. THOUGHT: T-H-ought 36. NAMTOC: *cantom* 37. EMIL: lime[rev] 38. OVERSHOOT: *hoverstoo* 39. RESPONSES: *presseson*

**Down:**

1. SPORRANS: *parsons(R)* 2. COORDINATION: *cordoi-race* 3. RANGHILL: *haring-L* 4. LEGION: le-goin 5. CARRIAGE: deportment 6. SPACECRAFT: lay out-skill 7. MILLION: *imillon* 8. NEEDLESSLY: need less-L-Y 11. NORMA: norm-a 16. ALIBIS: *bailis* 19. PIE: pie 21. CRITICALMASS: *claimitcrass* 22. TROPIC: t-R-opic 23. PREDICTION: pre-diction 24. INVITATION: *toitinvain* 25. MEE: me-E 28. RESONATE: *tonesare* 29. RESPONSE: *persons-E* 30. EVENLESS: *elevenes* 31. BIGGEST: B-1-G.G.-set 33. INONE: *nonei* 34. ARMORY: arm-or-y

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**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.

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- Price: 1.5 million baht  
- Registration: U-B08  
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# Engines rev for Bike Week



START YOUR ENGINES: Rujira Nasawadi (L); Sirinapa Phapteja; Sosuree Lookon; and Chuda Sripongplerd.



Miss Social Award winner Rujira Nasawadi.



JAMMIN' OUT: Famous Thai rock band Carabao thrills the audience at Phuket Bike Week.



A veritable plethora of impressive motorcycles joined Bike Bike Week. Photos: Isaac Stone Simonelli

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### Words from the wise

“Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot.”  
– *Charlie Chaplin*

#### Medium

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

#### Hard

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

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

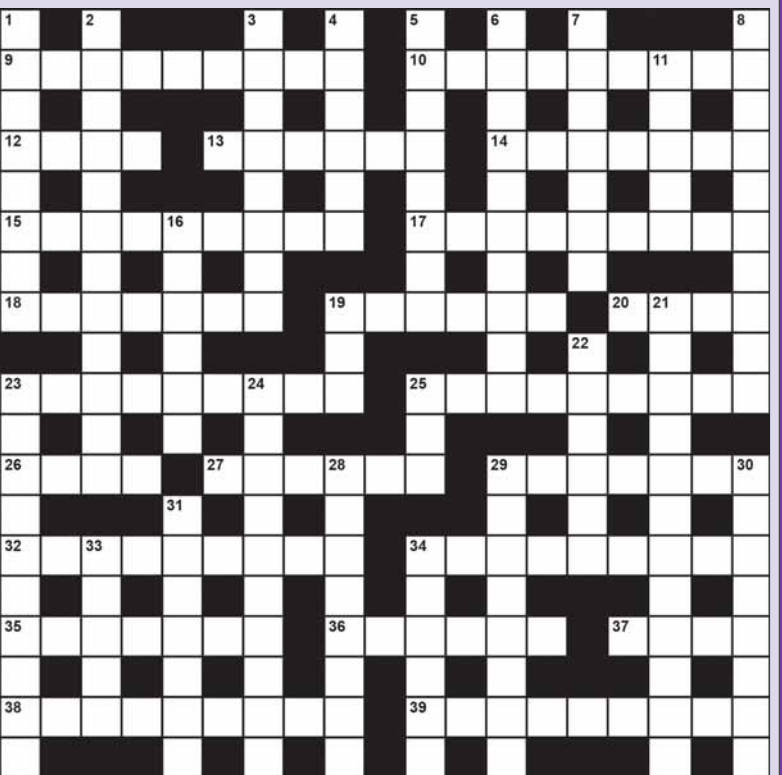
## COFFEE

### break

#### Cryptic Crossword

##### Across

9. Prone to store part untidily (9)  
10. Application I clean out in device (9)  
12. Right, are uncommon (4)  
13. Turn strange girl around, note not as pretty (6)  
14. Cool, turned red, blushed (7)  
15. Disquiet in moving to it again (9)  
17. No charge, a free mooring (9)  
18. Lapse in conduct of dog (7)  
19. Remunerate, beforehand pray about old record (3-3)  
20. Cards experts (4)  
23. Straight-laced, possibly I've it very basic (9)  
25. Drive an urban area, Detroit or Rayong? (5,4)  
26. Ernie lost one bird! (4)  
27. Against saver moving East (6)  
29. Respire carefully for repeat of tune (7)  
32. Introduces one I state in confusion (9)  
34. Sea coast I possibly connect with (9)  
35. Time, hour, should give idea (7)  
36. Can Tom move in a waterfall in Thailand (6)  
37. Lime sent back by a Frenchman (4)  
38. Go beyond the mark, possibly hovers, too (9)  
39. Wildly presses on and retorts (9)



##### Down

1. Maybe parson's about right for Highlander (6)  
2. Working together, Cor! do I madly race (12)  
3. Haring about, left large Phuket Town viewpoint (8)  
4. The French go in, moving in a horde (6)  
5. Deportment for coach (8)  
6. Lay out skill in making extra-terrestrial vehicle (10)  
7. I'm ill on shifting a great number (7)  
8. Don't require so much left unknown unnecessarily (10)  
11. Standard, a girl's name (5)  
16. Bail is unusual for pleas that one was elsewhere (6)  
19. Bird is a dish! (3)

21. The minimum required to start off, claim it crass! (8,4)  
22. Topic covering river near the equator (6)  
23. Forecast before pronunciation (10)  
24. Solicitation to it in vain perhaps (10)  
25. Can in Thailand myself, note (3)  
28. Possibly tones are echo (8)  
29. Persons carefully note come-back (8)  
30. Elevenses out East could be still smaller (4,4)  
31. Bravo! One horse set off, the largest (7)  
33. None I arranged combined (5)  
34. Or in army, a weapons store (6)

#### Taurus (Apr 21 - May 21)



There can be an upbeat mood at home, though personal plans could clash with family members. While it's not always easy to compromise, a small sacrifice might make a positive difference. Finances get a boost as Mercurial energies encourage wise shopping – though someone may refuse to barter over the weekend.

#### Gemini (May 22 - June 21)



The Sun in your spiritual sector hints that certain activities may be drawing to a close. If a plan or project has run out of steam, this is an excellent opportunity to let it go and leave some room for new ideas to replace them. Meanwhile, Mercury in your sign from Friday will bring out the best in you, as your lively curiosity could be enhanced.

#### Cancer (June 22 - July 23)



Your social life can bring opportunities for relaxation, with close friends being pillars of support. Romantic options

look brighter too, as a dreamy link on Wednesday could be excellent for a lively night or the option to break the ice regarding a love interest. Even so, a chance to mull over your priorities might also be welcome.

#### Leo (July 24 - Aug 23)



Leadership qualities are plainly evident this week, particularly if you are taking charge of a project or have a job that requires responsibility. However, even if a personal goal is calling to you, your determined stance can help you make plenty of headway. From Friday, your social life heats up at a pace, and could bring new friends into the mix.

#### Virgo (Aug 24 - Sept 23)



It's up, up and away, as travel adventures or the discovery of information could change your life. By researching an idea in-depth you'll be rewarded with insights and understanding that can take you in a new and rewarding direction. You'll need to be flexible to sidestep someone's stubborn outlook this weekend, though.

## YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

#### Libra (Sept 24 - Oct 23)



Interacting with other people, networking and making new friends and acquaintances can play a delightful, yet important part in your life. As well as the usual crowd providing inspiration, new people you meet might propel you into experiences that broaden your perspective. Meanwhile, the urge to invest wisely could bring future rewards.

#### Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)



Though a friend may encourage you to resolve a muddle, they'll be delightful company too. Plus a Taurus focus suggests a significant other can soothe any ruffled feathers and bring sensible and practical advice to the table. Additionally, if a potentially lucrative opportunity shows up, go for it, or you could miss out.

#### Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21)



You'll realize the advantage that positive routines can have on you and how productive they could be. Similarly, dropping bad habits may bring profound changes to your life, too. Practical steps to create daily disciplines and enhance results might be a game-changer. From Friday, social opportunities positively sparkle, Archer.

#### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 20)



Romance and pleasure options can entice you out and about. Even if you have a lot on your plate resist the temptation to work harder and take a break. Immerse yourself in doing something you really enjoy and you'll soon find yourself energized. Meanwhile, Mercury's change of sign this week can help you resolve a more complex problem.

#### Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



You may be in the mood for some DIY, as attending to various tasks around the home can have a therapeutic quality. Whatever you de-

cide to tackle seems to act as a relaxant, helping you to feel calm and think clearly. Even so, as Mercury powers into Gemini, your curiosity may be peaked by a creative pastime or exciting hobby.

#### Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



Smart planning gets you everywhere this week as a desire to make practical choices could help you get ahead. Even so, be prepared to look deeper into matters before committing to anything midweek, as you could miss a piece of crucial information. Later, upbeat activities at home could bring friends and family members happily together.

#### Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)



Try to curb any desire to overspend, especially as a Sun Neptune link hints at a potential errant purchase. However, you'll enjoy financial benefits if you invest your time and money wisely. This week and the weeks ahead can be excellent for study, writing and liaising – though beware of a communication blip on Sunday.



# Nai Harn Beach Condos on top

## Nominated 'Best Phuket Condo 2015' at Thailand Property Awards

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

IN THE highly competitive condominium arena it takes a lot to get ahead, and among those that have done so is the stunning Nai Harn Beach Condominium, which recently won applause for its low-density structures.

The development is nestled into a prime location on the island, cheek by jowl to Nai Harn Beach, which was recently rated among the 10 best beaches in Asia by TripAdvisor. Nai Harn Beach is useable year-round, while developments on the west are affected by the southwest monsoon season from May through October.

"You can have very strong waves and currents there [on the west coast], but Nai Harn is much safer and you can swim all year round," Frederic Perrochon, Nai Harn Beach Condominium's sales director told the *Gazette*.

Unlike high-density condominium developments mushrooming across the world, there are only two seven-storey low-rise buildings, housing just 25 units each, including spacious 48 square meter studios, 71sqm 2-bedroom accommodations and superb 118sqm penthouses. It also features a large swimming pool, children's playground and laundry service. Customers can get to their apartment with a panoramic glass elevator.

"Nai Harn Beach Condominium was projected by British engineers and designed by a French designer, ensuring that the project was developed according to all European standards to provide a comfortable experience. The idea of the French designers at the first stage was to preserve the internal



From left: Frederic Perrochon, director of sales for Nai Harn Beach Condominium Group, and Igor Protasov, CEO of Nai Harn Beach Group, show off the new development to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong and Thanusak Puegdej, president of the Phuket Real Estate Association.

green courtyard with a pool, cafe and playground, without any car access. It provides a quiet, comfortable and safe stay, comparable with living in a five star hotel," explained Nai Harn Beach Condominium CEO Igor Protasov.

"According to the Thai law, condominiums are the only property that can be owned in full by foreign citizens in Thailand – a powerful argument for the customers look-

ing for a housing purchase."

All these features of the condominium leave little doubt as to why the project was nominated for 'Phuket Best Condominium 2015' in the Thailand Property Awards.

"All units are already complete and ready for owners to move in. Our development is certainly a very safe investment choice, as we are able to transfer ownership to our buyers immediately. Sweetening

the deal is an offer of 7% guaranteed rental return for two years," Mr Perrochon said.

"NBC management company will ensure a 24/7 security service and daily cleaning of all public spaces including the garden and pool. Guests will be able to book any kind of leisure service at our on-site management office.

"It will also assist the owners with short or long term rental of

their apartments while they are away from Phuket."

So far, most of the buyers at Nai Harn Beach Condominium are Europeans, Americans, Australians and Russians.

"There is no specific target [market]... we are really trying to get people to come in from all parts of the world. We are trying to create a multi-cultural atmosphere," Mr Perrochon added.



# Villa Verai: Supreme elegance

Renowned designers team up to create one incredible villa capable of evoking envy in almost everyone



**Phuket Pads**  
**Patrick Lusted**

IN TERMS of value for money, Phuket has it all, especially when the vast number of mid-range to luxury villas in all price ranges and located in all areas of the island is considered.

Yet there is one incredible villa on the island that is likely to evoke envy in almost everyone, and this villa takes the spotlight this week.

Villa Verai, one of Phuket's most coveted properties, is tucked away on the exclusive Cape Yamu, where Christina Ong's boutique hotel Point Yamu became a new addition to the esteemed collection of Como Hotels & Resorts in 2012.

The soft sands of Cape Yamu are at your feet at this picturesque estate, which lies on a 16,000sqm plot of land with about 100 meters of beachfront, and stunning views of Phang Nga Bay from every room.

The estate's beachfront access is just steps away from a 40m

infinity pool, believed to be the largest on the island – even spacious enough for an elephant to take a delightful dip.

A masterpiece of East meets West, this building was designed by acclaimed Jean-Michel Gathy, who has fused Thai and contemporary design to create the unique structure.

The 4,500sqm of indoor and outdoor living spaces are decorated with high ceilings, imported limestone floors and the finest international materials, so that the structure stands as a work of art in and of itself.

The minimalist interiors along with the rest of the interior design are by renowned Hong Kong-based designer Debbie Oppenheimer, and the artwork and fittings were privately commissioned by the owners for this particular villa.

The villa's landscaping has also been thoughtfully decorated with mature plants and trees from Northern Thailand, creating an ambiance rich with the Kingdom's finest flora. Most of the property's land lies flat or on a slight slope, providing ample space for outdoor fun and leisure

**The estate's beachfront access is just steps away from a 40m infinity pool, believed to be the largest on the island – even spacious enough for an elephant to take a delightful dip.**



Lounge in the impeccably designed living area.



Indulge in a relaxing meal by the infinity pool.



Work up a sweat while taking in an amazing view.



The villa offers beachfront access.

by the pool.

The house includes seven ensuite bedrooms, a gym with bay view, state-of-the-art movie theater, hotel-standard kitchen and

a suite of rooms for three live-in staff and an estate manager.

The villa is for sale for 700 million baht, or US\$21.45mn, including *Chanote* title.

For more information contact: Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSOB7442. Tel: 076-288908 Website: [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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## Green building trend catching on

'GREEN' architecture and design is the rapidly growing trend when it comes to the construction of new office buildings in Thailand, with such buildings capable of fetching rental rates that are between 10 and 20 per cent higher than those for normal office space, say property experts.

Aliwassa Pattanathabut, managing director of CB Richard Ellis (Thailand), said office tenants now increasingly prefer LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified buildings, especially if they have a policy to undertake LEED-certified interior fit-outs, which more companies are doing.

Multinational companies such as Citibank, Unilever and L'Oreal have all completed LEED fit-outs in their Bangkok offices, and all new Starbucks retail branches will have LEED-certified interiors.

People are most familiar with LEED for New Construction or Core and Shell certification



Green architecture is popular all over the world. Photo: Wonderlane

applying to new building projects, the latter being intended for buildings that will be rented to multiple tenants that will conduct their own interior fit-outs.

At present, most multinational firms expanding investment overseas, including in Thailand, have a policy to find a green office building from which to operate, rather than a building of traditional design and construction, despite

the fact that they have to pay more for the privilege.

Ms Aliwassa noted that it was not only new buildings that could be certified as green, as older buildings could be updated and renovated to achieve green-building status.

This would offer yet more opportunities for office tenants to rent space at a time when the country is targeting being a headquarters hub for the region as the Asean Economic Community comes into effect at the end of this year, she said.

"Most multinational firms that expand their investment in the region have a policy to rent green office space as the first priority. When office owners are interested in new green building or renovating their office space as a green building, that will open up business opportunities to get these tenants and also generate higher income over the long term," she added.

– *The Nation*



# Lost and found in Eden



Island Fever

By Bill Barnett

AS MANY jaded expats living in Thailand for any length of time know, the search for enduring values in a littered landscape is often a bottomless pit. Perhaps it was that herd of stampeding elephants which obliterated those rose-colored glasses. In the heat of a sunny tropical landscape, blindness is inevitable. In some ways, it might even be comforting to live in a black box. Where is the love, understanding and a return to simplicity?

Let's turn our focus for a moment to loyalty, which for all its faults remains an admirable human quality and one that Wall Street long ago tapped into as a business tool. It's very simple math, when you reduce the cost of customer acquisition and have them returning time and time again. This recurring magic wand of a revenue stream is pure magic.

Major hotel chains have for years tapped into the concept, with incentive programs such as Marriott Rewards, Hilton Honor, Starwood Preferred Guest or InterContinental Rewards. For anyone who saw the Hollywood film *Up in the Air*, who can forget that scene when two frequent travellers play show and tell with their mass of loyalty cards.

For hotel groups, the ability to lure corporate guests with rewards enticements, so that they pay premium rates when the company is footing the bill, is as tempting as the snake offering Eve the apple in the Garden of Eden.

But we do live in a changing world and the skyrocketing travel landscape of online travel



For hotel groups, the ability to lure corporate guests with rewards enticements, so that they pay premium rates when the company is footing the bill, is as tempting as the snake offering Eve the apple in the Garden of Eden. Image: Jan Brueghel the Elder and Sir Peter Paul Rubens

agents (OTAs) and TripAdvisor are changing hotel booking patterns. Be it Agoda, Expedia or Hotels.com, choices are only increasing and attracting more users each day in the search for values that do not focus on a single brand or offer.

We continue to evolve in the long-tail of choice, where there is engagement rather than pure selling and users are no longer content to be at the mercy of a hotels marketing department, but they want to search our deals, new hotels and destinations. Niche, lifestyle and personalization are at the crux of the matter.

For large-scale hotel groups, one of their key selling points to attract developers into signing those lucrative management agreements is the perceived ability to outperform the independent hotels and obtain higher rates and occupancy. Call it scale or what not, but in most – but not all – cases, the function does work.

Yet the hospitality sector is not one that is rampant with innovation. You have to look at the four walls and programmed check-in and out welcome drink experience that has not changed for decades. Perhaps the over-riding concept is: if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

But times are changing. OTAs are now looking at loyalty programs of their own that are not limited to their own hotels or brands. The world is indeed the traveller's oyster, and now more than ever the third-party booking avenues are taking on increased market share.

You have to wonder if hotel loyalty programs in the coming decade will become obsolete, just like the DVD or landline telephone. How will hotel groups who want to contain loyalty deal with these OTA interlopers? Eventually one has to view what value there is for a large brand if they can only offer reduced com-

missions for OTAs and not deliver the business.

Certainly there are other merits of hotel chains in terms of systems, processes and scale, but the revenue side, which drives the business, is going into unknown territory and it remains unclear who the winner and losers will be. Customer choice reigns supreme, and frankly speaking the next switch from web-based systems to mobile is inevitable and only a heartbeat away. The real question is where does loyalty belong in 2020 and who can capture the market? Hotels, OTAs or maybe even Google?

## Property developer going for gold

GOLDEN Land Property Development wants to be among the top 10 property developers for home buyers, its president Thanapol Sirithanachai said.

"We want to build our products and corporate brand to be in the minds of our customers when they want to buy residential properties residences," Mr Thanapol explained.

He said that after the Sirivadhanabhakdi family firm Univentures Plc took a major stake in Golden Land Property Development in 2013, the first step was to restructure the business by separating good and bad assets, and then revising the business strategy.

"We took about a half a year to develop a business plan until finally the company focused on the property business to develop both the sale of residential properties and property to generate recurring income," Mr Thanapol explained.

After revising the business and

taking a major stake in Krungthep Land last year, the company kicked off its business strategy by setting up its subsidiary Goldenland Residence as its business arm to develop residential property for sale by focusing on low-rise residences such as single detached houses and townhouses. Goldenland Residence also combines the business of Krungthep Land to develop low-rise residences to cover the middle and upper market.

This year, the company plans to launch 13 new residential projects worth 12.28 billion baht. This is part of its efforts to boost its total revenue to 8bn baht by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, Golden Land Property Development is also developing property projects that generate a recurring income, such as offices. It is currently developing offices worth 5bn baht that will apply for a Gold certification from United States-based Leader-



Thanapol Sirithanachai is leading a new charge. Photo: The Nation

ship in Energy and Environmental Design.

"Our business goal is to drive total revenue to achieve 30bn baht in 2019 from both the sale of residential properties and property projects that generate recurring income," he said.

– The Nation





# Global round trip by bike


**Blazing Saddles**

By Baz Daniel

'INSPIRATIONAL' is the word I would use to describe many of my fellow cyclists who I met when I cycled Bangkok to Phuket last December with Siam Bike Tours. However, one individual stood out above all others for his sheer bravery, tenacity and individualism – a 55-year-old Canadian Fire Department Captain named Rudy Pospisil.

Fifteen years ago, Rudy was diagnosed with cancer, a huge blow that would lay most people low and send them into mental and physical decline, but Rudy is made of sterner stuff in every sense.

He resolved to beat the disease, which he did, but not content with that, he decided to bicycle around the world as a means of raising awareness about the disease and also to raise funds to help fight cancer of all kinds.

Prior to his arrival in Thailand, Rudy had already cycled from his home in Vancouver, down the west coast of the US and then across the country from San Diego to Florida along the border of Mexico.

His next great leg was in Europe; from Portugal, across Spain, France, Switzerland and Germany and even into Istanbul. Then it was onwards across the Middle East and Iran, into Pakistan and across northern India.

When we met in Thailand, Rudy had already completed about half of his global ride, amounting to some 15,000-plus kilometers, and had scaled over 60,000 meters of vertical climbs, including such huge challenges as the St Gotthard's Pass in Switzerland.

Cycling with Rudy on the Bangkok-Phuket leg of his 30,000



Cancer survivor and Canadian firefighter Rudy Pospisil decided to bike around the world – bit by bit – in order to raise funds and awareness to fight the disease.

plus kilometer journey was certainly inspirational, and on this stage, he was accompanied by his charming wife and son.

His strength and determination were immediately evident and as he was gregarious and good natured, I was fortunate enough to learn something of his tremendous endeavor in his own words:

"The idea to circumnavigate the globe by bicycle was born when I was diagnosed with cancer 15 years ago. I survived and decided to do my part for cancer research. Over time my entire family was diagnosed with cancer, even my dog!

"In each country I ride through I try to raise money for local charities and hopefully arranging ongoing fundraising events."

Rudy's Thailand adventure had started with a hike through the jungle at the Thai-Burma border, followed by 2,000km of cycling from Chiang Mai to Krabi.

I asked him if he was following a specific route:

"I follow the circumnavigation rules set out by The Guinness Book of Records who've determined that to claim you have cycled the whole circumference of the globe the journey should be continuous and in one direction,

and the total distance traveled by the bicycle and rider should exceed the equator's length of 24,900km."

Naturally I was fascinated by Rudy's extreme motivation and the personal strength that allows him to keep going.

"It's like asking people why they climb Everest. Why risk your life? It comes down to doing something you so strongly believe in and so you surprise yourself with a strength and determination you thought you never had. I knew I was a good cyclist since I started when I was six and I certainly believed in the charity and chal-

lenge strongly enough to do it. Plus, I knew it would inspire others. Many people cycle across Canada which is an extreme challenge in itself. I thought that since cancer is a global disease, cycling around the world would be a way of reaching everyone with my message. People email me all the time and follow my fundraisers... it inspires me," he said.

To promote his amazing charity effort, Rudy carries a movie camera and shoots theater quality film. The movies are amazing and he gives talks and shows the films on each leg of his journey, leaving audiences stunned by the scenery and dangers he has encountered.

Following his Thailand trip, he will take a break and then carry on going from the north to the south of Australia, cycling from Cairns to Melbourne.

When I asked Rudy what kept him motivated, he said, "Mostly it's the letters from people telling me to keep going, and the donations. Sometimes I find the poorest people give the most. That really inspires me.

"My aim is to make a difference, and this journey is not so much about fundraising as it is to draw people around the world together to finally end a disease that affects one in three of us. I hope to do this by inspiring others to do similar events, promote awareness of these diseases and start ongoing events in places I visit. I am very happy to say that so far this has been successful."

*If you would like to join Rudy's inspirational fight to eradicate cancer through cycling, he'd appreciate any donation you can spare. You can contact him at: rudypospisil75@hotmail.com and www.firefightercycle.com*



Rudy, pictured in Rome, has already completed half of his global ride.



Rudy, from Vancouver, is a 55-year-old Canadian Fire Department Captain.



# Environmental mojo

## University students head Down Under for inspiration

### Green Scene

By Dr Peter Harris

PRINCE of Songkla University (PSU) continues its campaign to build a strong foundation in sustainability on the island through well-educated environmental leaders.

The youth environment leadership project 'Our Common Backyard' was an initiative to do just that through the new International College of Arts and Sciences Phuket, with the help of funding from the Australian government.

The students were taught that sustainable development is a process of learning how to think in terms of 'forever'. It is about balancing and integrating the long-term future of the

economy, the natural environment and the well-being of all members of the community – key 'compass' points of Society Environment Economy Knowledge (SEEK) indicators for Phuket.

An essay contest, which saw more than 80 students from schools and universities in the Andaman region participate, was used to select 50 participants to take part in a three-day workshop at PSU.

Those taking part in the workshop were required to address two major environmental issues facing Phuket: wastewater management and marine conservation.

Exposure to a variety of ideas about how the community can take part in monitoring and solving environmental problems in creative ways has definitely inspired students.

After three days, the field of 50 was whittled down to five promising representatives selected as environmental ambassadors for Phuket, to travel to and team up with the University of Queensland (UQ) and assess the strategies being implemented in Australia.

Led by Dr Chantinee Boonchai from PSU and Dr Bob Beetong from UQ, the students joined members of the local environmental group Friends of the Escarpment Parks in Toowoomba, Queensland.

The non-profit community group is focused on the management, maintenance and development, as well as the public use, of Toowoomba's bushland escarpment parks.

"The students learned how to

create environmental monitoring programs through partnerships and the use of citizen science via the example of South East Queensland Healthy Waterways," Dr Chantinee said. "They were also excited about the idea of the reverse garbage program, which was managed by the partnership between Lifeline and Toowoomba Regional Council.

"Overall, the exposure to a variety of ideas about how the community can take part in monitoring and solving environmental problems in creative ways has definitely inspired students to want to do something about the problem in their home.



Of the 50 students who took part in the three-day project, five were selected to go to Australia.

"In their final presentation, students showed their peers about the importance of everyone doing their bit for the environment and being the change they want to see in the future."

Though the countries are vastly different in size, population, his-

tory and culture, the students returned to Phuket with the realization that protecting the environment and creating a sustainable island – be it a big one or small one – starts with us.

Similar to the Friends of the Escarpment Parks, which works

with the local government agencies, the PSU initiative to develop environmental leaders will work with the local Phuket government, as well as other organizations, such as Asia-Pacific Environmental Network, SEEK Phuket, Rotary Club of Patong Beach and UQ.

## Tension surrounds temple tiger transfer in Thailand

THE Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) has asked Wat Pa Luang Ta Bua Foundation – the body overseeing the 'Tiger Temple' in Kanchanaburi – to hand over 146 tigers to authorities this week.

A special working group has been set up by the department to deal with the transfer of the tigers.

Department director-general Nipon Chotibal said that park officials had sent a request to the foundation to seek cooperation in transferring the tigers so they can be nurtured in proper facilities.

Mr Nipon said the tigers would be checked with the DNP database, their health checked and then moved to Khao Son and Khao Pratabchang wildlife breeding centers.

"There will be an inspection of microchips – [information from] which the temple's veterinarian



Officials say the temple doesn't have proper cages. Photo: The Nation

handed to the department – to check whether three tigers are missing [as reported recently]. If the three tigers are really missing, someone will be punished. The department has already informed the police," he revealed.

Mr Nipon admitted that he was concerned about the tiger transfer, which was slated for April 24, following a protest by monks and volunteers at the temple earlier this month, when bears were found and removed by officials.

A special working group has been set up to counter any incorrect accusations being made against the department, or any misunderstanding about the six bears that were relocated on April 3.

The Wildlife Conservation Office has said Wat Pa Luang Ta Bua does not have a proper licence to care for wild animals, as the temple is not a public zoo.

"As Wat Pa Luang Ta Bua does not have proper cages and clear animal nurturing facilities, we can see that the temple has no intention to open as a public zoo," Wildlife Conservation Office director Tuanjai Nujdamrong said.

"Therefore, they did not receive a reply when they sought a licence extension from the department and their [former] licence is no longer valid."

– The Nation

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# Struggling with IBS

## Irritable gut feelings and those that have to deal with them

By Dr Gerard Lalande

A COMMON disorder of the gut that comes and goes, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is uncomfortable, distressing and sometimes even disabling, though hardly ever serious – at least in the physical sense.

Causing lasting abdominal pain and abnormal bowel movements that unavoidably impair quality of life over the long-term, the condition tends to wane over time and does not lead to serious diseases of the colon or reduce the lifespan of the sufferer.

Affecting up to 20 per cent of people in western countries, IBS can occur at any age, but is more common in adults below 45 years of age and usually affects women more than men. The cause is not known, though it is believed that an excessive or insufficient activity of either the muscles and/or the nerves found within the inner lining of the colon is the underlying abnormality.

The frequency and severity of the illness vary greatly from person to person. The main symptoms include persistent abdominal pain and spasms with bloating and excessive production of gas that occur at least three days per month and for at least three months. Modifications of bowel movements consist of recurrent and/or alternating episodes of diarrhea and/or constipation, often associated with the need to

urgently pass the stool. Discomfort in the abdomen is usually relieved after defecation. Stools may contain mucus but not blood.

The condition is often triggered by some foods or beverages (especially spices, alcohol, soda and chocolate), a food intolerance (lactose, gluten), a bacterial or parasitic infection of the gut, some hormonal changes (in women, IBS is more common around menstruation) and stress.

There is no specific test to confirm IBS, so it is usually diagnosed on recognized symptoms once other chronic and more severe illnesses of the colon, such as inflammatory disease (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis) or colon cancer have been ruled out. These are suspected if other symptoms or signs such as weight loss, fatigue, anaemia (low haemoglobin and red blood cells level) and blood in the stool are also present.

Where there is any doubt, blood and stool tests, imaging investigations and exam of the colon internal lining (colonoscopy) may be needed. People with chronic abdominal pain suggestive of IBS should consult a gastroenterologist (an internal medicine specialist who treats disorders of the gastrointestinal tract) for thorough evaluation and treatment of the condition.

Left untreated, IBS frequently affects the patient's quality of life



IBS affects up to 20 per cent of people in western countries. Photo: Christy McKenna

and may subsequently lead to mental disorders, such as depression. Despite the long-term evolution of the syndrome, the severity and duration of the recurrences often diminish over time, and with proper management the overall condition can significantly be improved.

While there is no cure for IBS, various therapeutic approaches are effective in alleviating most of the symptoms of flare-ups. These include:

– Lifestyle changes: eating an appropriate diet that eliminates potential food or beverage triggers (in particular alcohol, soda, caffeinated drinks and intolerant nutrients);

regular exercise; the absorption of at least two liters of water per day; and controlling any stressors prone to negatively affect colon function.

– Medicines to minimize either diarrhea (loperamide) or constipation episodes (mild laxatives), to reduce abdominal spasms (antispasmodics) or bloating (peppermint oil), to treat a colon infection (antibiotics or antiparasitics), and sometimes to modulate and improve the intestine movements with psychotropic medications (anxiolytics or antidepressants). There are two medicines indicated for IBS, but they are used only in women and under certain conditions.

– Alternative therapies could also be proposed with probiotics (nutritional supplements containing good bacteria for the colon), meditation and, when previous approaches have been ineffective, psychological support with an experienced therapist, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), hypnotherapy and counselling.

– *The Nation*

*Dr Gerard Lalande is managing director of CEO-Health, which provides medical referrals for expatriates and customized executive medical checkups in Thailand. He can be contacted at gerard.lalande@ceo-health.com*

## Kids fighting tuberculosis on streets of Bangkok

NAME, 13, and his younger brother, 8-year-old Note, might be young, but they are already well known to the other residents of the small community in Lat Phrao Soi 48. Neighbors regularly come to visit their home, a habit that is viewed with suspicion in this tightly packed settlement where drugs and crime are rife. However, while the boys do indeed handle drugs, these are medications that save lives rather than endanger them.

The boys are playing an active role in the fight to stop the spread of tuberculosis (TB) in their community. They are learning their 'trade' from one of World Vision Foun-

dation of Thailand (WVFT)'s TB Direct Observation Treatment (DOT) health volunteers close to home.

That volunteer is their grandmother, Mrs Phitsamai, and she is arming the boys with crucial information to transform their community into a healthier place.

The role of a DOT watcher is to ensure that TB patients under the program take the prescribed medications regularly. The watchers give a combination of TB medicines and a glass of water to a patient and check that the pills have been swallowed every day. This taxing daily routine goes on for six months, until a patient completes

the entire course of medication and is rid of the disease.

"It looks easy but it's not," says Mrs Phitsamai. "Patients like to tuck the medicines at the back of their tongue then spit them out as soon as they are not being watched. They also need continuous follow-up to change their attitudes towards taking medication on top of their regular check up at health centers or hospitals."

Patients failing to complete the treatment face even larger problems, among them developing resistance to the currently available TB medication.

Mrs Phitsamai is grooming Name and

Note to become her assistants. "Right now, all they do is hand over the medicine packet I prepare and watch to see that the patient swallows the pills. It's a big help."

Overcrowded areas such as Lat Phrao 48 are especially vulnerable to communicable diseases. Since 2011, WVFT and its partners have referred 18,408 people suspected of having TB in 11 provinces for treatment and 1,175 Thais and migrants have been diagnosed with various variations of this highly infectious disease. The majority, 725, have pulmonary TB, the most widespread and contagious variation.

– *The Nation*



# High from Smokin' Fish

By Sylvia Joy

THERE has been a lot of buzz lately about new and upcoming restaurants popping up all over Phuket Town, but there is one restaurant that made its mark long ago and has locals and expats alike lined up at the door.

Smokin' Fish on Phang Nga Road is a sight for sore eyes and a haven for the hungry. The decor is modern and clean and the music selection is excellent.

There are different places to sit to suit your mood, but I recommend sitting right at the counter where you can watch Chef Playim work his magic.

The extensive menu has everything that you could crave and has superb options for vegan and vegetarian diners, while using as much local and market fresh ingredients as possible.

To start with a drink, the most refreshing on the menu between the excellent selection of beer, wine and Italian sodas, is their roselle soda. It is not too sweet, as other places tend to make it, and the crushed ice keeps it at the optimal drinking temperature.

The appetizer options range from fried cheese, chili cheese fries and, my personal favorite, garlic bread. Toasted to perfection on the grill, fresh rolls are stuffed with melted butter, minced garlic, sprinkled with Parmesan cheese and served on a beautiful blue ceramic dish. If you look around, you are guaranteed to see them on at least one or two other tables.

If it's a salad you are looking for, whether for a starter or a meal, you definitely came to the right place. They are so beautiful it is almost a shame to eat them... almost. A mixture of fresh lettuce, carrots, corn,



Grilled prawn the size of your hand, topped with plenty of tobiko, all served on garlic chili pasta, is certainly something to admire before eating.

tomatoes and snap peas form the base of most of the selections, which include deep fried, grilled or even raw toppers. Some of the most notable salads are the tofu salad with Japanese dressing, bacon salad, spicy prawn salad with lime dressing and the pick of the night, grilled salmon salad with balsamic dressing.

The salmon was grilled to perfection and was still flaky and tender. It sat upon all of those yummy, crisp vegetables. I also recommend the tofu salad, as the tofu is grilled beautifully and the Japanese dressing is to die for.

Each dressing is homemade and served on the side in a lovely sil-

ver serving dish, and the salad itself is served in a huge chilled bowl in which you could probably fit an entire watermelon.

As if choosing from the huge selection of salads isn't hard enough, the mains menu consists of pastas with homemade sauce, including grilled pork chop and rosemary pasta in cream sauce, cheesy chili pasta, vegan cherry tomato and basil and, my go to dish, chicken and bacon ranch pasta.

There is also a steak and grilled section, which includes the vegan oringi steak, sea bass steak and grilled mix sausages; amazing burgers the size of baseballs (I recommend the Smokin' big boy

burger with double cheese, smoked bacon, BBQ ketchup and crispy onions, or the burning farm with jalapeno cheese sauce); and last but not least, wraps that are literally the length from my finger tips to elbow, stuffed with your choice of beef, pork or chicken and covered in BBQ sauce.

With this many choices, it's best to go with a group of friends so that you can sample and share as many dishes as possible.

For this visit, we chose three different entrees; the beloved chicken and bacon ranch pasta, the grilled beef steak and the grilled prawn with tobiko served on chili and garlic pasta.

For the most part, expats know and miss the dearly beloved condiment that is ranch dressing. The chicken and bacon ranch pasta gives you that taste of home in the most elegant way. If you are sitting at the counter, you will be able to watch Chef Playim whip up the ranch cream sauce with crisp bacon in front of your eyes on the right, while on the left grill the chicken to perfection, and then suddenly, with one quick chop and flip of the pan, your meal is ready to be devoured. The pasta is always cooked perfectly and the ranch cream sauce is not too strong but just the right balance for the fresh bacon and grilled chicken.

The grilled beef was supremely tender, full of flavor and cooked medium, but you can ask for it

however you desire, and was served on freshly cooked broccoli, cauliflower and carrots. On the side was a beautiful, flavorful, savory and thick gravy that, to be quite frank, I wanted to pour on everything I ate thereafter.

The grilled prawn topped with tobiko was something to look at. The prawn themselves were the size of my hand and the tobiko was plentiful. The pasta had just the right amount of heat and the perfect amount of garlic and the flavors melded together wonderfully.

With these very fresh ingredients, homecooked taste, beautiful decor and amazing details down to the serving dishes, you would think that it would all come at a very expensive price. However, the prices here are more than fair, ranging from 50 baht for garlic bread,

120 baht for a giant tofu salad and 260 baht for that amazing, larger-than-life Smokin' big boy burger.

Also, make sure you check out the restaurant's Facebook page for specials, which in the past few weeks have included lobster, pork lasagna and meatloaf wrapped in bacon.

Wherever you are located on the island, please give yourself the pleasure of going into town and having dinner at Smokin' Fish. Open Monday through Saturday, 5pm-10pm. It will fast become a weekly, affordable indulgence.



The salads with homemade dressing are so fresh and beautiful, it is almost a shame to eat them.



When driving down Phang Nga Road, look for the happy yellow whale.



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

**Phuket Gazette**



# Splashing out on plants



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

SOME time ago I encountered a stranger in a bar – as one does in Phuket – who was engaged in a project crafting massive, textured, handmade ceramic pots in his Chiang Mai atelier.

Encouraged by his enthusiasm, I responded by writing two pieces about suitable big plants for big pots. One, about aquatic plants, featured water lilies (*nymphaeas*) and lotuses, and made the point – relevant to our friend and his potential customers – that these related plants actually need very different artificial environments in order to thrive.

*Nymphaeas*, as owners of fish ponds will know, possess floating pads which spread quickly across any watery surface, so they need a wide, dish-shaped, relatively shallow container.

Lotuses (*nelumbo nucifera*), however are a different story with their huge parasol-like leaves and dramatic flowers held high above the confines of the pot's rim. Ideally, they look best in slender vases or in water jars with narrow necks. Since they grow naturally in shallow and murky waters, they appreciate a good layer of slimy mud which they can explore with their extensive root systems. In fact one of the reasons why they are so revered (they are the national flower of India) is because of their obvious symbolism: they signify how beauty and purity can spring from the most unpromising origins. They are central to Buddhist iconography.

In botanical terms, the lotus is an herbaceous perennial which can live for several years in a container, so it is an excellent choice for a terrace, balcony or patio.



*Cyperus papyrus* has feathery drooping foliage and does better in a pond. Photo: Pjt56

Provided it gets full sun and an occasional feed with a tablet or two, it will display these wondrous blooms in red, pink or white. Beginning life as huge, heart-shaped buds, these fragrant, peony-like flowers open in the morning before losing their petals in the late afternoon. Beauty is sometimes ephemeral.

The easiest way to own a lotus is by buying one in a plastic pot from a nursery, preferably with a bud or two, and transferring it, complete with an extra bag of mud

– available at the same venue – to a larger container. It will take time to acclimatize, but should adapt to its new environment without difficulty.

You can also grow a new lotus from a piece of tuber. Place the tuber in a bowl of water, out of direct sunlight. Once it sprouts, plant it horizontally just beneath the muddy surface in a larger bowl and after a few days, immerse this in your chosen container. New lotuses can even be grown from seeds placed in a glass of water.

They should sink and sprout after a week or two. Once the seedlings are six inches tall, transfer them gently to a plastic pot half filled with dense soil or mud and press them into the mixture. Then lower them into your vase.

If water lilies and lotuses are the exotics of the aquatic kingdom, there are plenty of other species you can add to your patio collection. Indeed, such an assortment has one inestimable advantage: in these dog days of unrelenting sun, they will continue to thrive; the

occasional watery top-up their sole requirement. Even if the water becomes tepid, they will not complain.

Let's add two more plants to this growing collection. One, *thalia geniculata* or water canna, will provide a dramatic contrast to our lilies by virtue of its distinctive ovate, pale green leaves and long, woody stems which rise up to six feet above the water. Purple flowers appear in dangling clusters at the end of these stalks. It is also low maintenance, does well in a relatively slender container and seems to go on forever and ever. It will only look unsightly if you fail to cut back yellow or dead stems and leaves.

A good specimen to round out our quartet is *cyperus*, an ornamental plant which will again provide plenty of height and textural variety. It grows about a meter tall with its stalks topped by attractive circular clusters of bright green, grassy leaves. A larger variety, *cyperus papyrus*, which hails from the Nile, has feathery drooping foliage, is more vigorous and is thus better in a pond or at the margins of an expanse of water – as the parents of Moses knew.

All these are sound choices for the pot-bound gardener with a sunny balcony: all are readily propagated by root division and all are easily maintained with minimum fuss. Choose some of those attractive pots and Bob's your uncle... a balcony garden with a difference.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, send an e-mail to Patrick at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be viewed at: [patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com](http://patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com)

## Tip of the Week

### Small-scale veggies

GROWING your own plants in pots gives you the benefit of eating ultra-fresh vegetables untainted by contact with pesticides. Herbs such as basil, Chinese chives, spring onions and mint are always a good option, but you can also try more substantial vegetables, such as Chinese kale (*kai-lang*), and the local loose-leaf lettuce (*phak kat horm*). Even aubergine or okra would work. *Sayur manis*, a tough leaf vegetable that grows wild, should also be fine.

Use a potting mix that is not just commercial compost. This bagged stuff has little nutritional value and should be supple-



Trying growing a vegetable like okra in your garden. Photo: Earth100

mented by decent top soil. Plant your veggies in containers with drainage holes and platens, and remember to water regularly, if not excessively. If you are growing

from seed, you can find packets in supermarkets or, even better, at the shop that specializes in fertilizer on Thepkasattri Road south of the old SuperCheap.



The lotus is an herbaceous perennial. Photo: Tanaka Juuyoh



## Gran Fondo road race attracts cyclists from around the world

MORE than 220 cyclists from around the globe joined the Thanyapura Gran Fondo road race last weekend.

Cyclists completing the 120km course started in Phuket and completed a lap through Phang Nga before heading back to the finish line at Thanyapura.

Riders were individually chip timed and had the right of way at all intersections. The event also included a less-gruelling 40km 'Mini Fondo' cycled entirely in Phuket.

The Gran Fondo was headed by Tour de France green jersey winner Baden Cooke, who retired in 2013 as a veteran of six Tour de France campaigns and as an athlete at the 2004 Olympics.

Cooke also headed 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 April 11, concluded last Sunday.

"I'm proud of the way this first bike event was presented, and I was very happy to see so many Thai people being involved," said Gates.

"I have learnt a lot from this event and look forward to start planning for our next race in November. The course was demanding and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day." — *Phuket Gazette*



More than 150 cyclists joined the Thanyapura Gran Fondo 120km road race last Sunday.

## Oilfield Classic drives the fair way for charity

THE 7<sup>th</sup> annual Phuket Oilfield Classic 2015, played at two Phuket golf courses earlier this month, brought more than 120 golfers to the island, together raising more than 2 million baht for charity.



A golfer at the Oilfield Classic jumps for joy.

The Team Hellespont squad, comprising Andy Lidgard, Candice Lidgard, Rod Nicolson and James Bissett, took top honors in the traditional Texas Scramble at Red Mountain Golf Course on April 10 by compiling a score of 54 points.

The following day at Loch Palm, Team Arnco's Chris Watson, Paul Henderson, Richard Holt and James Stevenson — last year's winner of the singles' event — secured victory in the Pairs Betterball Stableford competition with 46 points.

This year's event raised more than 2.2mn baht for the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation by combining funds raised from the Classic with sponsorships gained in supporting The Longest Drive World Record set by event organizer Mark Cameron and Graham Haslam, who drove a golf cart 1,339km from Pattaya to Phuket.

— *Phuket Gazette*

# Ronin redemption

## Phuket FC set sights on full points from Surakul double

By Saroj Kueprasertkij

A DISAPPOINTING 0-2 defeat to AIS Division 2 team Lampang FC bundled Phuket FC out of the 2015 Toyota League Cup last weekend.

Lampang striker Jennarong Wongnoi opened the scoring in the 7<sup>th</sup> minute, and midfielder team-mate Surapong Thongbua sealed the match with a goal just two minutes before the final whistle.

The Ronins' loss, however, is being used to motivate the squad to gain maximum points from a heavy line-up of upcoming fixtures in the 2015 Yamaha League One campaign.

Phuket FC will play a double-header this week at Surakul Stadium. On Wednesday, the Ronins will take on Samut Songkram, and on Sunday will play northerners Chiang Mai FC.

Both teams are still struggling in the relegation zone, languishing 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> on the league table, respectively.

"We have two good chances to take points and climb farther up the league table this week," Phuket FC Head Coach Songyot 'Dang' Klinsrisuk told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

Coach Dang, who rested many key players for the match in



Phuket FC midfielder Narakorn Visetthanakarn (left) challenges a Lampang player for the ball in the Ronins 0-2 defeat that saw them bundled out of the Toyota Cup. Photo: Phuket FC

Lampang, vowed to return his team to full strength on the pitch in the two home matches this week.

Key midfielder Yusuke Sato and spearhead striker Berlin Nlome Ndebi both will be recalled to the starting line-up, Coach Dang noted.

"We gave our young players a chance to have top-level experience in the Lampang match, as some of them have never played at this level before," he said.

"But we can focus purely on our league campaign. This is a very important opportunity to take all six points on home turf."

Kickoff at Surakul stadium on Sunday is at 7pm.

Phuket FC's heavy schedule continues on April 29, when they play away to Prachuap FC.

The squad will return to Phuket for their May 2 derby against bayside rivals Krabi FC. Kickoff is at 7pm.

## Patong book place in cricket league final

A DOMINANT victory over Village CC by an innings and 257 runs at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang last Sunday secured Patong CC the minor premiership and a place in the league final, to be played on May 17.

The Village's S 'Paan' Sriwang opened the bowling by sending Patong opening batsman Seemant Raju back to the pavilion for a golden duck. At the other end, the T 'Pao' Suttiprapha had Arif Mushtaq caught and bowled for just four runs at the end of the next over.

But a strong performance by the remainder of the Patong team ensured a defendable total of 350/8 after 40 overs — the highest first-innings score by any team this season.

After the break, Tony Donovan and Mike Khan

opened the batting for Village. Donovan was bowled twice by Mustaq. The first off a no ball, then out in the same over for 12.

Khan was the next to go in a steady procession of wickets for 7, caught by Tyson Barrington off his brother Mitchell's bowling. Pao was caught for 5 off the bowling of Tyson. Village captain Mudassir Rehman made a quick 12 before being caught out.

Paan and Andy Ghadge made a 46-run partnership, though Village eventually collapsed for a total 6/93 off 20.2 overs.

Next in the league Thalang play Village CC at the ACG on April 26, and Island CC play Laguna in the final round of the season on May 3.

— *Owen Pringle*

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# Sport

## Red Bull up with bang in Bahrain firework finish

By Alan Baldwin

THE night sky lit up as Lewis Hamilton crossed the finish line to win the Bahrain Grand Prix for Mercedes last Sunday – and moments later Daniel Ricciardo's Renault engine joined the pyrotechnics.

"All the fireworks went off and the engine felt like it needed to join in," Red Bull principal Christian Horner commented wryly.

"A fairly spectacular finish, it failed 200 meters before the line, but we had enough momentum to cross the line. I think that engine will be a coffee table in the future."

The Australian driver finished sixth, a better result than the former champions might have expected after multiple Renault engine failures at the previous race in China and earlier in the season.

After four races, Ricciardo has now gone through three of his allocation of four engines for the season – which means he is sure to face a grid penalty later in the year even if the allowance is extended to five next month.

The situation is embarrassing for Renault, who powered Red Bull to four successive drivers' and constructors' championships with the old V8s before the introduction of the new V6 turbo hybrid power units last year.

Horner said that he had flown



Red Bull blew its third of four allocated engines for the F1 season during the Bahrain race. Photo: Reuters

back to Paris from China before Bahrain to discuss the situation with Renault Sport chairman Jerome Stoll.

"They don't want to be in this position. They want to be in F1 to compete and they want to win, they don't want to be in the situation that they are, so of course that is not going to come for free," he said.

"He recognizes that and Renault seem committed to find-

ing a solution.

"We have had problems in every race so far, but it has to turn... Renault can't afford for this situation to continue and they are acutely aware of that."

Despite the ongoing problems, Horner was otherwise relatively upbeat.

"We are definitely making progress with the car. This is probably our most competitive weekend," said the Briton.

"The problem is we are running the car in such a compromised state that we are not in an optimum window with the car. Our top speeds are down, then you end up trimming [the] wing to try and get somewhere sensible."

"Then that hampers things like tyre warm-up and downforce. We are not in a window with the car where we want to be, but made quite significant progress."

– Reuters

## Segway polo knocks on in Rugby, UK

AT A college in the English town of Rugby, a somewhat unusual polo match is taking place. Instead of galloping horses and riders, the players hit the ball with a mallet – from a Segway.

Described as a cross between polo and hockey on a motorized scooter with oversized wheels, Segway Polo is a modern take on the usually fast-paced sport long embraced by the elite.

Britain hosted its first international Segway Polo tournament last weekend. The event drew teams from countries including Germany, Finland, Barbados and Britain.

Amid cheers from the crowd, players spun around on their two-wheelers and zapped down the sports fields of Rugby College at a maximum speed of 20.12km/h to try for goals.

"To be a great player you've got to be relaxed, it's all about being smooth, relaxed, a good eye for the ball and take your time," Mark Weller, a player and organizer, said.

"It's a very friendly sport generally, but there are a few teams when they meet again for their fifth, sixth time, tempers can flare a little bit."

Each team played seven games with the top two going through to an all-German final in which 'Balver Mammuts' beat 'The Funky Move Turtles' 2-1.

Segway scooters have grown increasingly popular and the sport has a growing fan base.

– Reuters

## Canada scrambles to keep doping regulation agency

CANADA will act to keep the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) in Montreal after European nations pushed for it to be moved, saying the body could not adequately protect athletes' data, a government source said on Monday.

Wada, which has been based in Montreal since 2002, collects, uses and discloses the personal information of elite athletes as it coordinates the fight against doping in sport.

The source said some European nations wanted Wada to be relocated to Europe on the grounds that Canada's personal privacy laws did not cover the agency, which could therefore not guarantee the safety of athletes' data.

The Canadian government is due to unveil its annual budget on Tuesday and the document will contain a clause specifically extending the privacy laws to Wada, said the source.

"This would eliminate any argument to relocate Wada's headquarters over privacy con-



Canada is not ready to let Wada leave the country. Photo: Partha Sahana

cerns, and help secure the presence of this respected international organization in Canada," said the source, who requested anonymity.

A Wada spokesman declined to comment.

Montreal is the biggest city in the populous province of Quebec, where Canada's ruling Conserva-

tives are hoping to pick up support in an election this October.

In 2013, the Canadian government launched a successful campaign against a bid by Qatar to move the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization from Montreal to Doha.

– Reuters

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## SPORT

## For Sail

Racing champion to lead free dinghy training on ACYC Open Day

By Chris Husted

SAILING gets back to its roots this weekend as Alfie Rowson of the reigning national champion Platu crew on *Kingdom Property* is set to lead free dinghy sailing lessons for kids and adults at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Open Day on April 25.

Rowson, along with fellow Phuket-based sailor Scott Duncanson and *Kingdom Property* crewmates Trent Pedersen and Tony Harman, won the 2014 Platu sailboat championship by placing third in the Platu Open and scoring three consecutive first places in the Coronation Cup, National Championship and Platu Cup last year.

"The ACYC open day is a great way for people to dip their toes into the world

of sailing," Rowson quipped. "No experience is necessary. Adults and kids aged 7 and up are most welcome."

The free lessons will be offered in Byte and Mirror dinghies sailing right in front of the ACYC clubhouse, in 30-minute sessions, from 11am to 4pm.

"We will have a safety boat on hand at all times and instructors will be briefing people before they even launch, and life vests will be provided," said Rowson.

A qualified Royal Yachting Association (RYA) senior instructor for dinghies and cruising yachting instructor, and a graduate of water sports management from Southampton in the UK, Rowson already provides sailing lessons at the ACYC seven days a week.

"From complete beginner up to instructor level, and even to national rac-

ing standard," he explained. "We can progress from that even up to cruising yachting."

Sailors looking to graduate to the bigger boats can look to join the ACYC race series, to be raced on Chalong Bay on April 26, Rowson added.

"It is a great way to get sailing, racing and enjoy the sailing experience in Phuket," he said.

Rowson noted how few people in Phuket enjoy regular sailing in Phuket's world-renowned waters.

"Just look at the beach, and there are beautiful islands everywhere," he said.

"It is hard to believe. People come from around the world to enjoy this, but people living here in Phuket have it right on their doorstep and don't take advan-

tage of it."

The open day also offers people thinking about joining Phuket's boating community the chance to speak with ACYC members about what it takes to own a boat in Phuket, and the benefits.

"Food and drinks will be available in the shade of the clubhouse," Rowson noted.

"It is a good friendly environment, fun for the whole family. You can go sailing or relax on shore."



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