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INSIDE TODAY

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Nepal Needs You Donate



■ Island scrambles to support survivors of Nepalese earthquake

By **Chutharat Plerin**

PHUKET Governor Nisit Jansomwong has called on the people of Phuket to rally together to help victims of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal last Saturday morning.

"On behalf of Phuket, I would like to call

for more donations to help the Nepalese people. They are in dire need," said Governor Nisit on Wednesday.

"When Phuket was affected by the tsunami, a lot of people from all over the world came to our aid. It is now our turn to give."

Officials scrambled to get relief efforts underway after the calamity struck last week-end. Thousands of buildings had collapsed, and the quake and subsequent aftershocks had triggered avalanches across the country, including at Mt Everest.

As of Wednesday, the earthquake had claimed more than 5,000 lives and left...

Continued on Page 6

An inside job: four arrested for spa hold up

A SPA employee as confessed to being the mastermind of an armed robbery that saw three men knock over the Imperial Spa in Phuket Town early last month. About 10 tourists were present at the time.

The men made off with about 500,000 baht that night. However, all four suspects were arrested this week.

Full Story Page 2

Notorious hill receives B25mn safety makeover

THE Phuket Highways Office have closed a 200-meter section of the outside, westbound lane over the top of the deadly Patong Hill in order to repave the road and complete safety improvements at the notorious site.

The 25-million-baht project is just the latest attempt to improve one of the most dangerous sections of road on the island.

Full Story Page 7

New speedboat regulations see AIS installed

A NEW regulation that came into effect last week, follows a string of near-misses and fatal boat accidents over the last two years.

Speedboats and other passenger vessels registered to carry 25 or more passengers must now be fitted with an AIS locator device.

Full Story Page 3

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This Week



Business

Dental Corp smiles all the way to the bank with expansion. **Page 11**



Property

Condos transform into building blocks of island market. **Page 26**



Food

Apotheke Cafe in town is just what the doctor ordered. **Page 27**



Boating

Singapore Yacht Show success targets Asia's finest. **Page 31**



Well-being

Krix Luther bares his sole over exercising barefoot. **Page 33**



Sport

Seniors serve up a sports treat at Phuket ITF Open. **Page 34**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Spa armed robbers busted for inside job

By Woranut Pechdee

FOUR suspects, including one spa employee, have been arrested for their involvement in the armed robbery of Imperial Spa early last month in Phuket Town.

Two armed men stormed into the spa on April 5, robbing the staff at gunpoint and knifepoint of 500,000 baht before riding off on a motorbike with a third accomplice. About 10 Chinese tourists were present at the time.

At a press conference Monday night, Phuket Provincial Police named 46-year-old spa staffer Anongnat Siri Wattananukul as the mastermind of the crime.

The other suspects arrested were Ms Anongnat's boyfriend Sontaya Thanawut, 33, who threatened employees with a knife; Peerapol Soomngan, 22, who brandished the gun; and Thanan Sawaengthip, 21, who drove the getaway motorbike.

"All four suspects confessed to the crime and have been charged with armed gang robbery. Ms Anongnat admitted that she had planned the robbery," explained Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit.

The four confessed criminals were arrested on April 27, after



Ms Anongnat confessed to being the mastermind in the spa robbery, which netted 500,000 baht. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

nearly a month of investigation, confirmed Maj Gen Patchara.

After confessing, Ms Anongnat told police that she had not robbed the spa out of anger, but to get enough money to buy back golden necklaces that she had pawned off.

"We divided the cash into five shares - I took two. After the rob-

bery, I told everyone at the spa that I needed to see a doctor because I was sick. This made them take pity on me, and washed away any suspicions that I might have been involved - until I was arrested."

Eun Mi Kim, the spa owner, expressed her gratitude to the police for their hard work and protection.

Big bike rider killed in crash

A BIG bike rider from Phuket was killed and his passenger seriously injured on April 24 when he lost control of his motorcycle on a wet road and crashed into a tree in Chumphon province.

Police arrived at the scene on Asia 41 Road in Lamae district to find Kathu resident Boonsong Witeewai, 52, dead on the ground and his 49-year-old passenger, Duongduen Witeewai, with a broken leg and scratches all over her body, Lt Chamnan Khongthong of the Lamae Police told the *Gazette*.

A seriously damaged Honda Goldwing motorcycle, worth more than 1 million baht, was found near a tree on the side of the road.

"The couple were travelling from Phuket to Uthai Thani to at-



The crash occurred as the driver was heading to the Goldwing Cup.

tend the Goldwing Cup Thailand," Lt Chamnan said.

"Heavy rain started to fall and the road became slippery. Mr Boonsong lost control of his motorcycle and slammed into a tree. He was killed instantly."

Ms Duongduen was taken to Lamae Hospital for treatment.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Tourist takes fatal fall from resort balcony

POLICE are investigating the death of a Chinese tourist who plunged from his fifth-floor hotel room balcony in Karon early Monday morning.

Wang Anjun, 41, died at Patong Hospital after succumbing to injuries sustained in the fall at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, said Capt Channarong Prakongkua of the Karon Police.

"Mr Wang was drinking beer with friends on the beach on Sunday night. He sat there and drank until early Monday morning. He returned to his room at about 1:30am," Capt Channarong said.

At about 3:50am, hotel security guards found Mr Wang severely injured on the ground below his balcony.



Mr Wang succumbed to his injuries.

"He was immediately taken to the hospital," Capt Channarong said.

Though police suspect there was an accident, they are continuing their investigation.

"We have yet to question all of the people who we believe may have more information about Mr Wang's death," Capt Channarong said.

"We will not close the case until we have concluded our investigation."

In a statement issued to the *Gazette* Tuesday morning, Almario Mungcal, director of online and marketing communications for the hotel, said:

"Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort is extremely saddened by what has transpired and would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased.

"The safety and security of our guests continues to be a priority at all times. Since the time of the incident, the hotel has been working closely with the local authorities to assist with any related arrangements needed for the guest's family members."

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Police, Navy teams end search for missing American

THE Royal Thai Navy and Phuket Marine Police will no longer send out dedicated search teams to find the body of missing American Joshua Devine, who disappeared from a dive boat off the coast of Phuket on April 11, officers confirmed on April 24.

"We have searched for several days and have yet to find any sign of Mr Devine. It does cost quite a lot send out these search teams, so we will no longer be doing so," Capt Puchong Rodnikorn of the Third Naval Area Command told the *Gazette*.

"However, we have regular patrol vessels out there all day every day, as well as regular aerial patrols."

Naval officers stationed in Phang Nga and farther north have also been contacted and informed of the search.

Phuket Marine Police Chief Panya Chaichana also confirmed that the search mission had been called off since April 20.

Lt Col Panya told the *Gazette* that Mr Devine's wife left Phuket to go to Pattaya on April 21.

— Chutharat Plerin



Mrs Devine joined the search, but has since returned to Pattaya. Photo: Woranut Pechdee



The motorcyclist was found alive, at the scene, but died at Thalang Hospital.

Passenger boat regulations change following accidents

By Chutharat Plerin

A NEW regulation came into effect last week that requires all passenger boats in Phuket that are registered to carry 25 or more passengers to be fitted with an AIS locator device. The move follows a string of near-misses and fatal boat accidents over the last two years.

Last October, two Korean tourists were killed after their speedboat, carrying 35 passengers, crashed into a fishing trawler. Following the tragic accident, several speedboat collisions were reported in Krabi waters, with many accidents in the region allegedly going unreported.

The change in regulations was announced at a meeting of marine officials with more than 220 Phuket boat operators at the Katina Hotel in Phuket Town on April 23.

"Also, fishing boats up to 60 gross tonnes must install Vessel Monitoring System [VMS]," said Phuket Marine Office chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut.

"All new boats must install the



Marine chief Phuriphat reviews the system with boat operators. Photo: PR

devices in order to be registered. Boats that have already been registered must have the devices installed before their annual regis-

tration can be renewed."

Boat operators caught failing to comply may face six months in jail, Mr Phuriphat confirmed.

The use of AIS receivers is a standard safety policy in many places around the world, as they advise skippers of small craft of the location, direction and speed of larger vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver, he explained.

"We are pushing the new rules to improve safety on the water," Mr Phuriphat said. "With these devices fitted, we will be able to locate boats in distress, know their speed and direction, and possibly even determine fault in the case of an accident."

Mr Phuriphat warned the Phuket fishing fleet and the passenger and tour boat community last September that their boats would soon be brought under the same AIS requirements as foreign-registered vessels.

His claim to ramp up safety on the water, and notably the hope of determining fault in the case of an accident, also follows police being unable to press any charges over a heavy collision between a dive boat and a sailboat north of Koh Mai Thon, east of Phuket, on April 11.

Broken CCTV fails to collect footage of fatal hit-and-run

THE CCTV network at the Heroines' Monument is undergoing maintenance following the failure to capture the licence plate number of a white pick-up truck that was involved in a fatal hit-and-run in Phuket on April 25.

"The entire CCTV system there was broken, so we have no clues as to where the truck went or what its licence plate number is," Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

Wichai Maobmai, 55, was crushed on his motorbike in the accident in front of Baan Manik boxing camp on Sri Soonthorn Road at about 10:30pm.

Mr Wichai, found fatally injured at the scene, was rushed to hospital, but succumbed to his injuries.

"Witnesses said that Mr Wichai was driving his motorbike in the bike lane when he tried to pass a parked vehicle," said Lt Kraisorn.

"He was struck from behind by the truck. The driver of the truck quickly fled the scene in his vehicle toward the Heroines' Monument.

"It's difficult at this point because nobody saw the truck's licence plate number and we don't have CCTV images."

— Thawit Bilabdujar



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Teens busted in Patong for serial thefts

TWO teenagers were arrested in Patong on April 22 for their involvement a series of currency-exchange booth robberies and motorbike thefts.

The two, whose names were withheld due to their age, were both caught riding stolen motorbikes following a 2am robbery of a currency-exchange booth.

Lt Col Suttichai Tianpho of the Patong Police told the *Gazette* that the arrests followed several complaints filed about robberies at a currency-exchange booth, and also several seemingly unrelated motorbike thefts.

"Both teens confessed that they had robbed the exchange booth and stolen six motorbikes," Col Suttichai said. "They told us that they had stolen a total of 80,000 baht from the exchange both, which they had robbed twice."

Police are questioning the two suspects to find out more information about three other members of their gang, as well as the four remaining stolen motorbikes.

— Woranut Pechdee

Vile canal at Nai Yang Beach not polluted with wastewater

By Woranut Pechdee

TESTS conducted by environment officers have confirmed that the foul canal water that washed onto Nai Yang Beach earlier this week is in fact not polluted with wastewater.

The tests were conducted on Tuesday after rank water from a blocked canal seeped across Nai Yang Beach and into the sea.

"Tests showed that the water is not polluted," said Thalang District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol.

"The dark color and stench were caused by leaves and sediment that built up in the canal, rotted and ultimately prevented the water from flowing properly."

Mr Veera ordered that Effective Microorganisms (EM) be added immediately to the canal to mitigate the stench.

The Thalang District Office and the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) would investigate allegations by local residents that untreated waste-



Water-quality tests conducted on the rank canal confirmed that the tributary is not polluted with wastewater.

water was being dumped into the canal, he added.

"We will find out exactly who – if anyone – is committing this offence," said Mr Veera.

The penalty for discharging untreated wastewater is a fine of

up to 2,000 baht. However, Mr Veera explained that education would be the first step taken in putting an end to the issue.

"If we find anyone discharging wastewater into the canal, we will warn and educate them,

rather than charge them right away," he said.

"But, if they fail to manage their own wastewater and continue to release it into the canal, we will have to take legal action against them."

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Mr Weerachai (right) shows police the fake note. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

Gold trader, KBank dodge counterfeit money charge

NO CHARGES are being pressed after a counterfeit note was used by a local business owner in the purchase of 180,000 baht of gold.

Weerachai Apichattakul, 36, who regularly buys a gold bar for trade, withdrew 200,000 baht from the Kasikorn bank Thepkrasattri branch Monday morning.

"I had no idea that the banknote was fake," Mr Weerachai told the *Gazette*. "I paid for the gold and went home with my daughter. Then, we received a call from the shop owner, so I went back to see what the issue was."

Police were called to the scene. However, a bank employee vouched for Mr Weerachai and apologized for the mistake.

"We recognize that this was a mistake on our part. We should have identified the counterfeit bill when it was originally deposited with us. However, clearly, mistakes do happen," said Nitnapa Klongkij, branch assistant manager.

"I have asked that all staff at

the bank be more vigilant when they are accepting and distributing bills."

Mr Weerachai explained that there was no reason for him to press charges against the bank.

"Mistakes do happen. The bank has paid me back, so I don't have a problem, and the gold shop has also been compensated, so they are not filing any charges against me," Mr Weerachai said.

To prevent being given a fake bill by anyone, it is best to know some basic security features, Ms Nitnapa said.

"The easiest feature to check for on banknotes of higher denominations is the watermark portrait of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, which can be seen when it is held against the light," she added.

The Bank of Thailand urges anyone with counterfeit banknotes to notify the police immediately, or call 02-2827409 and 02-3567987.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Island taxi cheats under fire

By Chutharat Plerin

THE chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) is appealing for cheated or abused taxi passengers to file complaints.

"Without a complaint, there is little we can do to ensure that passengers are being taken care of properly," PLTO chief Terayout Prasertphol told the *Gazette*.

The call for complaints to be filed follows the announcement by Theerapong Rodprasert, director-general of the Department of Land Transport, of new penalties for Bangkok taxi-driver cheats.

Bangkok drivers who tamper with or refuse to use their meters, and those who abandon their passengers before reaching their

destination, face a 1,000-baht fine and are required to attend an 'attitude adjustment' course.

A second offense results in a 1,000-baht fine plus a one-month suspension of their driver's license. A third offense results in a 1,000-baht fine, plus a one-year suspension.

Drivers who commit three offenses within 30 days are to have their license revoked immediately, said Mr Theerapong.

"The new penalties will not apply in Phuket or any other province, only in Bangkok," said

Mr Terayout.

Mr Terayout pointed out that Phuket led the way by introducing harsher penalties for taxi drivers in 2013, while drivers in Bangkok were charged 1,000



'Without a complaint, there is little we can do to ensure that passengers are being taken care of properly'

– PLTO chief
Terayout Prasertphol



Phuket's highly-celebrated metered taxi drivers were given a brief warning. Photo: Gazette file

baht regardless of how many times they breached the rules.

In Phuket, the fine for a first offense is 500 baht; for the second, 1,000 baht; and for the third, 2,000 baht. If drivers violate the rules four times, their license to drive a taxi is revoked immediately.

"We still have problems with taxi drivers refusing to use their meters and adding extra charges to the fare," said Mr Terayout. "We need people to file official complaints with us so that we can get rid of these cheating taxi drivers."

Mr Terayout urged victims to

call the 24 hour complaint hotline on 1584.

"All we need is the date, time, where the offense occurred, and the taxi's license plate number. If you have a ticket voucher for the ride, that would be great – and you can leave the rest with us," he said.

Booze ban on porting island boats scratched



Tour boats, dive boats and other passenger boats can continue serving alcohol for now. Photo: Gazette file

THE Phuket marine chief will not order a ban on the sale or consumption of alcohol on any passenger or tour boats operating to or from Phuket.

The decision was made at a meeting of marine officials and more than 220 Phuket boat operators at the Katina Hotel in Phuket Town on April 23.

"At this stage, we will not ban the serving and drinking of alcohol on dive boats, tour boats or any other passenger boats," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the *Gazette*.

"We only have the authority to ban alcohol in public areas, so the decision of whether or not to al-


low alcohol on private boats remains with the boat operators."

However, Mr Phuripat said he was open to revisiting the issue in the future.


"We may raise this issue again, if there is growing consensus that an alcohol ban is needed," he said.

The issue of whether or not alcohol should be allowed on tour and passenger boats in Phuket was raised after the disappearance of US citizen Joshua Michael Devine on April 11. Mr Devine disappeared from the *Chontara 1*, a dive boat en route from Phuket to the Similan islands. He was reportedly very drunk the last time he was seen (see page 3).

– Chutharat Plerin




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Tsunami drill to be held on May 7, away from tourists

A FULL-SCALE tsunami evacuation and emergency-response drill will be held on Koh Sireh on May 7.

The annual drill was originally slated to be held on Christmas Day last year, but was postponed due to sensitivities over the exercise being held one day before the 10-year anniversary of the 2004 disaster.

The move to hold the drill this year on the lightly populated isle of Sireh was to ensure that locals there were familiar with evacuation procedures in case another tsunami strikes Phuket.

"We have had many drills along the west coast already, but the people on Koh Sireh have not had a full-scale tsunami drill before," Santhawat Riwleung, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), announced at a meeting on April 23.

"Many residents live there, as well as tourists and they should all know how to evacuate the area."

About 150 locals will take part in the drill, he added.

On May 6, officers will hold a briefing session at Baan Koh Sireh school to prepare agencies and local residents taking part in the drill.

"We will make sure each office knows their areas of responsibility and how to contact others," Mr Santhawat explained.

"Officers and local residents will have the chance to practice their rescue and evacuation skills, and the tsunami warning devices will be tested as well."

— Chutharat Plerin

Long-awaited trial over deadly Tiger Disco inferno begins

THE long-awaited manslaughter trial over the deaths of four people in Patong's notorious Tiger Disco inferno began with the presentation of witness testimonies on April 23.

The lethal blaze killed four people and injured 11 others after a fire broke out in the busy nightclub on Soi Bangla in the early hours of August 17, 2012.

The flames claimed the lives of British tourist Michael Tzouvanni, 24; French tourist Emmanuel Becard, 30; and Thai nationals Duangporn Budklor, 34, and Nipaphat Sudtasorn, 36.

Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd each face a charge under Section 291 of the Thai Criminal Code: causing death through negligence. They also face charges of causing physical and mental injury and trading after hours.

The case is being led by Prosecutor Pathira Phumisutthaphol, confirmed Phuket chief public prosecutor, Pisitpol Phumsawat.

"She will now lead the trial," he said.

The next court date for the trial has yet to be set.

— Chutharat Plerin



Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai. Photo: Gazette file

Nepal Aid: It's our turn

From Page 1

...more than 10,000 people injured. Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala as of Wednesday feared that the death toll could reach 10,000, as information on damage from far-flung villages and towns had yet to come in.

Within 24 hours of the disaster, Panuphong Limbuprasertkul, president of the Phuket branch of the Thai-Nepalese Foundation, had set up a disaster-relief fund and arranged with the Governor's Office to set up a network of donation centers across Phuket.

Donations can be made at the Damrongtham Center (provincial ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall; directly at Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town; at the Phuket Red Cross Center at Saphan Hin; or any government office on the island.

By Monday, Mr Panuphong had co-ordinated with Gov Nisit and the Nepalese embassy in Bangkok to ensure that any donations made would reach those in need as quickly as possible. By that time, the fund that was set up had already received more than 100,000 baht in donations.

On Wednesday, the Kusol-



Kusoldharm Foundation President Benjawan Tamphanuwat (R) donated 500,000 baht to the fund. Photo: PR Dept

dharm Rescue Foundation donated 500,000 baht, and the Thavornbutra family, from Chalong, donated 12,000 baht, taking the total to more than 1 million baht.

The donations were made at the formal launch of the 'Phuket Together For Nepal Disaster Victims' fund, when Governor Nisit urged people to give to the cause.

The first round of donations will

be handed over to the Nepalese embassy on May 7, but donations can be made to the fund through May 30.

"The gifting of the first round of donations will be broadcast live on a Phuket local TV channel on May 7," confirmed Gov Nisit.

Mr Panuphong expressed his sorrow for those affected by the disaster, and called on the people

of Phuket to rally to their aid.

"There are about 2,500 Nepalese people living in Phuket. We have friends and family members there. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to everyone affected. We will do our best to relieve their pain," he said.

Additional reporting by Woranut Pechdee





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Hill undergoes makeover

One lane on notorious Patong Hill closes for five days while 200-meter section repaved

By Thanaphon Phromthong

THE Phuket Highways Office will close a 200-meter section of the outside westbound lane over the top of Patong Hill in order to repave the road and complete safety improvements at the notorious site.

The lane will be closed until Sunday, confirmed Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office.

"Warning signs have been installed to inform motorists that the lane ahead is closed," he told the *Gazette*.

"It will not affect a large area, only 200 meters of the road. Cars

and motorbikes will still be able to pass [the site] safely, though I suggest that tour buses access Patong via Kamala."

The lane closure will allow workers to complete the retaining wall that has been installed to prevent landslides during the annual rainy season, which is expected to arrive within the coming few weeks.

"We will also repair the cracked road

'This will cause some traffic delays, but it's for safety. The road will reopen to normal traffic in a few days'

– Samak Luedwonghad
Phuket Highways Office

surface," Mr Samak said. "This will cause some traffic delays, but it's for safety. The road will reopen to normal traffic in a few days."

The entire project was funded



One lane on Patong Hill is closed for repairs until Sunday. Photo: Phuket Highways Office

by a budget of 25 million baht, he added.

Heavy rains during the northeast monsoon over Phuket in 2011 caused a landslide that

brought down power poles at the section of road that is under repair this week.

One year later, another landslide brought down power poles on the

west side of the top of the hill, and left motorists to navigate a gaping hole half a lane wide that risked vehicles plunging down the steep slope to the bottom of the hill.

Roadside vendors ordered off of Nai Thon beachfront

VENDORS with stalls along the beachfront road at Nai Thon have been given two weeks to leave, or face legal action.

The move follows Tah Chat Chai Police officers delivering verbal warnings on April 27.

Surachuai Sannoo, operations chief of Sirinath National Park, said that the written eviction notices would be delivered soon, but did not confirm a specific date.

"Once they receive the order, they will have just 15 days to leave, or we will have them charged for encroaching on national park land," he said.

The move affects about 30 vendors, and has been a long time



The vendors will have to move.

coming, Chief Surachuai noted.

Lt Col Charun Busophab of the Tah Chat Chai Police supported the decision to move the vendors.

"The road is quite narrow, and tourists buying their products have to stand on the road. This is dangerous and can cause difficulty for drivers passing by – and may cause accidents," he said.

– Woranut Pechdee

Online 90-day immigration check-in now ready to use

AN ONLINE option for 90-day immigration check-ins is now available in all provinces throughout Thailand.

"We tested the system for two months before officially launching it on April 1," Phuket Immigration Office Chief Sunchai Chokkajaykij explained to the *Gazette* late last month.

"However, it is only compatible with the Internet Explorer browser."

The same rules apply for checking in after the seven-day grace period following the permit-to-stay expiry date, Col Sunchai noted.

"Failure to report within seven days after the 90-day permit-to-stay expires will result in the usual

fine of 2,000 baht, and the offending foreigner will be suspended from using the online check-in system until he or she reports to the immigration office in person," he said.


To register and report online, and for further information about how to use the new system, click here.

"We have yet to receive any complaints about the new service," said Col Sunchai.

"We hope that this will help reduce the number of people who have to come into the office for such procedures."

"Anyone who does wish to file a complaint can see me at my office."

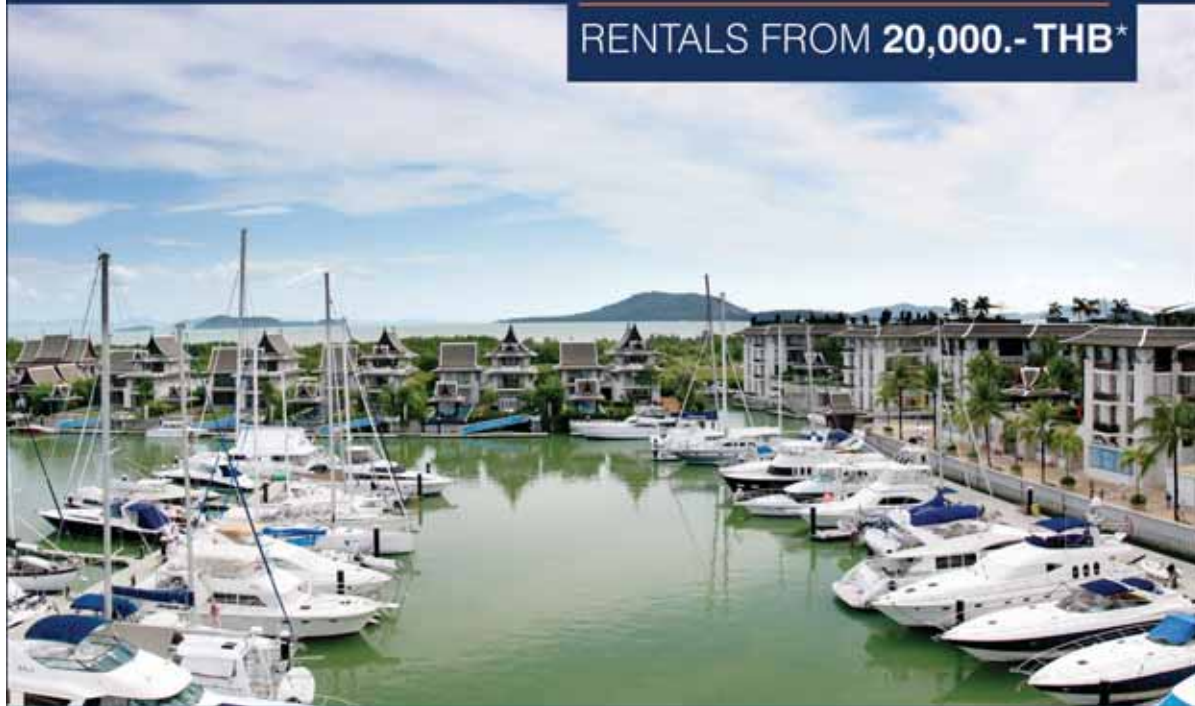
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AROUND THE nation

Port construction threatens entire Andaman marine ecosystem, warns expert biologist

CONSTRUCTION of a deep-water port at Pak Bara in Satun would lead to a domino-like collapse of the marine ecosystem in the entire South Andaman Sea, and destroy scores of people's livelihoods and way of life, an environmental expert has warned.

National Reform Council member and leading marine biologist Thon Thamrong-nawasawat said that if the port is built on 4,000 rai of the Petra Marine National Park, the marine ecosystem in the area, as well as those from Phang Nga Bay to Lipe Island, would be destroyed, reported *The Nation*.

"Pak Bara's sea is the same sea as the whole Andaman Sea. If the Pak Bara seaport is constructed, the connected ecosystem of the South Andaman shallow sea will be cut – the rich biodiversity will vanish forever," Mr Thon told a forum at the Pak Bara Paradiso fair at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre on April 24.

The Pak Bara seaport would be just the beginning of industrial development in the South, Mr Thon said.

"After building this seaport, the petrochemical industry and power plants will come. The people in the South will suffer the same fate as the people in Rayong's Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate," he warned.

Providing a tourism perspective, Kaiwut Chusakul of the Lipe Ferries and Speed Boats Company said that if the underwater environment was destroyed, the tourism industry would surely suffer – as would local fishermen.

Temple keeps tigers, banned from profiting on tourism

THE controversial 'Tiger Temple' has been banned from charging tourists to visit dozens of big cats in their care, the parks department has said, following a dispute between monks and officials over the welfare of the animals.

Wat Pa Luang Ta Bua in Kanchanaburi province has long proved a hit among visitors who flock there to visit the monks and be photographed next to their huge feline pets.

But the temple has long had a controversial reputation among animal rights groups and Thai wildlife officials who say it is breaking the law by keeping the cats, reported *The Nation*.

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said the temple had been keeping the animals without the proper paperwork and had vowed to seize them, sparking standoffs in recent weeks between officials and monks blocking their way.

DNP officials conducted a headcount on April 24, discovering 147 tigers in the monks' care. Officials had earlier indicated they would take the animals, despite concerns that the department might not have adequate facilities to look after so many cats.

The DNP released a statement



The temple is also banned from breeding the tigers. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

last Saturday saying that it had reached a deal with the monks, allowing them to continue keeping the tigers under certain conditions, but including a ban on any further breeding or profiting from the cats.

"The temple should not gain commercial benefit from the tigers without permission from [the] department, such as [by] selling

tourists admission fees or charging them money to take photos," the statement said.

The DNP said the temple had also agreed that the tigers were officially 'confiscated state assets and under the responsibility' of the parks department, but added that the monks were still responsible for the costs of looking after the cats.

Any breach of the deal, the statement added, would result in the DNP seizing the animals.

The temple could not be reached for comment, but the deal raises doubts over whether or not the sanctuary can continue as a tourist attraction.

The recent 'tiger headcount' was sparked by allegations by a former temple vet last week who complained to police that three tigers had recently disappeared from the sanctuary, sparking fears they may have been sold.

"We still don't know yet where the missing tigers are or what happened to them," Edwin Wiek, of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, told AFP. The foundation has campaigned to have the tigers removed.

Mr Wiek said he was skeptical the temple would close as a tourist attraction or a breeding center because previous deals struck with the authorities had failed.

"I don't see that happening. The temple never kept their promises on previous deals, why would it be different this time?"

The monks have previously insisted they are a genuine conservation project providing a home for tigers that cannot be returned to the wild.

Six police probed for kidnap, ransom

SIX police officers accused of kidnapping two Laotians last weekend and demanding 2 million baht in ransom have been dismissed from their duties and face a probe.

National police chief Somyot Poompanmoung said that any police officer found taking bribes would be arrested and investigated by a special team from the central authority, reported *The Nation*.

The six officers, who were stationed at Udon Thani City Police, allegedly joined three civilians in detaining a 50-year-old Laotian woman and her 14-year-old son on a bogus drug charge to demand the 2mn-baht ransom.

The victim's Laotian husband filed a

complaint with the Nong Khai Police, who then held a sting operation to arrest the officers in Nong Khai on Sunday.

Gen Somyot said that members of the public had complained for some time about the allegedly inappropriate behavior of the six officers in arresting drug suspects to gain assets in exchange for their release.

Gen Somyot instructed the Provincial Police Region 4 to keep an eye on the officers until they had solid evidence to arrest them. As the six officers were initially dismissed from service, the investigation would extend to their supervisors, who would be punished if they were found to be involved, the police chief said.



National police chief Somyot Poompanmoung is taking a hard line on corruption. Photo: The Nation

Politicians fight draft charter 'because they fear scrutiny'

POLITICIANS have been criticizing the draft charter because they fear scrutiny by the new independent bodies the document will set up, Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) chairman Borwornsak Uwanno said on Tuesday.

"What politicians actually worry about are the Citizen's Assembly and the National Ethics Assembly, along with the whole reform chapter, because this chapter will force politicians to obey the reform articles, which is in discord with what politicians intend to do," he said.

Mr Borwornsak pointed out



Mr Borwornsak. Photo: The Nation

that under the new charter political parties will have to compete with political-interest groups for seats in Parliament, and this prospect makes the parties unhappy.

As for the open-list party-list system, it gives the electorate the right to select such candidates themselves, something political parties used to have the sole power to do, reported *The Nation*.

The previous system permitted parties to put their favored candidates on top while those they disliked would be at the bottom of the list, Mr Borwornsak said.

"Politicians have claimed that this constitution will weaken political parties, but in fact this charter is strengthening the people's power," he insisted.

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Fill legal loopholes with strong morals

FIRST PERSON

MUCH too often businessmen bypass local residents and authorities and use upper-level government bodies to help them achieve their self-serving goals. If they have something approved by these higher-ups, the local authorities have no power to refuse.

If a businessperson can persuade upper-level government officials to grant him or her permission to do something, he or she does not have to care about what the locals think.

In Article 87 of the 2007 Constitution, it was written that every government body must involve locals in decisions that could affect them. However, this is no longer the case.

While Thailand's government drafts a new constitution, the current laws are unclear. Businessmen know this; they are clever. They are taking advantage of legal loopholes to benefit themselves.

Meanwhile, the higher authorities are being used as a tool and they ignore it. Why? Because some of them can benefit from these arrangements with businessmen. They can work together, as a team. This is an embarrassment for Thailand.

To make the system appear as if it is transparent, municipalities set up local committees, but actual local residents are rarely invited to join the meetings.

I think a lack of knowledge, morals and law enforcement, plus improper power distribution among our leaders, are the main causes of this and many other



Winai Chidchiew, 42, is the Subdistrict chief (Kamnan) of Karon. Phuket-born Mr Winai has a political science master's degree specializing in local development and a bachelor's degree in law, both earned from Ramkhamhaeng University. He also has a bachelor's degree in community development from Rajabhat University.

Here, he talks about the importance of involving local authorities in decisions made for any community.

problems in Thailand.

For example, 13 companies were recently granted permission by the Governor's Office and Department of Groundwater Resources to dig new wells in Kata-Karon. These wells affect the quality of local residents' well water, and can also cause the water to run out.

/ We must never think that if something does not affect us directly that it is none of our business. Everything we all do affects everyone else. If we deny this truth, Thailand will never move forward. /

When we have no water to use, we have to buy it. Who will pay for us? Who will be held responsible for this?

Before the Asian Beach Games, about 10 rai of sea morning glory was destroyed on Karon Beach to make room for the games. The municipality approved it without asking how the locals felt. Sea morning glory is part of Karon's identity. This will affect the beach and the locals forever.

I understand that the law cannot prevent everything and protect everyone. However, those who practice it and use it should be well aware of its failings, and use morals as their guide in filling those gaps. This does not just go for

lawyers, but also for our leaders and law enforcers.

Evidence of when this is not done is when local villagers form mobs and stage protests, calling for the higher levels of government to help them.

Thailand is my country. I cannot stand still and watch people destroy their own country to benefit themselves. We must help each other and work together to change the world.

We should write our new laws using local knowledge. Use this knowledge and learn from local people's way of life. Ask them what they need and make a point to cater to these needs with the law.

Local people in each area do things a little bit differently. We must bring together all of this knowledge in creating our laws. It is not fair to use a constitution created by one group of people to control every single person throughout the country.

We must never think that if something does not affect us directly that it is none of our business. Everything we do affects everyone else. If we deny this, Thailand will never move forward.

We must act in a way that benefits all of mankind, not just ourselves.



Have a heart for overworked government workers. Photo: Gazette file

Phuket immigration: For better or for worse

Island View

By Alexander Maycock

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

THERE is one annual Phuket event that I do not look forward to: my marriage visa extension application at the Phuket Immigration Office.

I have read all the complaints and accusations levelled at Phuket's Immigration officers, but, at the time I applied for my extension, there were well over 100 foreigners acting like headless chickens packed into that little office, with only three officers available to deal with it all, and no volunteers on duty.

You would have to be extraordinarily cold-hearted not to feel just a wee bit sorry for those underpaid, overwhelmed officers.

Despite the general air of mayhem and the need for the officers to check even more paperwork than ever before, my application was accepted for approval relatively quickly.

A month later, I returned to the office as requested. "Come back next week," said the officer.

And so began an almost Kafkaesque series of visits; returning each week to hear the officer's mantra of "Come back next week" all the way up to and beyond the Songkran holidays.

Almost two months after my original application, an expat volunteer explained what was causing the delay. A new system requires that all marriage visa extensions go to Haad Yai for processing, business visas go to Bangkok and only retirement visas are dealt with by the Phuket office.

Moving the processing to Haad Yai may have reduced the

backroom workload, but it has created additional work for both the applicants and the few Phuket officers available to staff the front desks.

As some central government departments seem to have gotten the message about Phuket's growing importance to the nation's financial health, I can only hope that Immigration headquarters in Bangkok will also realize that this isn't some rinky-dinky backwater place anymore, and give Phuket the manpower and facilities it needs to do the job properly.

In Phuket, my application had been handled as efficiently as the resources available would allow. It was after it left the island that things began to drag. Once it came back to Phuket, my passport was back in my hands, stamped and approved, in a flash.

And not once did anyone ask me for tea money.

"That's it?" I asked the officer, a little bemused that my two-month ordeal was so abruptly at an end.

"Okay," he said. "You can wait here one hour, if you want."

It took me all of three seconds to realize he was joking, and another two seconds to *wai* my goodbyes and get the heck out of there.

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

Blind leading the blind

WE HAVE a very sharp, blind corner on our street.

It also happens to be very narrow, so vehicles cannot pass each other.

Who do we contact about getting a mirror installed on the corner so that we can see oncoming vehicles and avoid any accidents?

Greg Sclater,
Nai Harn

Aroon Solos, mayor of Rawai, replies:

Please come to the Rawai Municipality office located on the Rawai beachfront road and

file your request with our officers.

You will need to give the precise location of the dangerous corner so that our engineering division can find and inspect the site and then determine what will be required in order to install the mirror.

Please try to keep in mind that whether or not we can install a mirror quickly depends on the budget we have available, but at the very least we can add this to our list of projects to be done.

For more information call us at 076-613801 or send an email to info@rawai.go.th

Can company directors have social security?

I HAVE lived and worked in Thailand for 13 years. I recently learned that my accountant scrapped me from social security in 2009. She says that because I am the director of the company I am not entitled to social security anymore.

What I don't understand is that quite a few friends of mine are directors. They pay social security and do have valid social security cards. Please explain.

OS,
Kathu

Narida Bahe, a legal affairs officer at the Phuket Social Security Office, replies:

It depends on whether or not as 'company director' you are listed as a working shareholder or a non-working shareholder, and whether or not you are drawing a salary from the company.

If you are a non-working shareholder, which means you are not receiving a salary paid by the company, then you are not entitled to join the social security fund.

However, if you are a working shareholder and receiving a regular salary paid by the company, then you are entitled to join the social security fund.

If you are not sure about your exact position, we advise that you come to our office to confirm whether or not you qualify for social security.

The Social Security Office Phuket is located at 15/4 Amphur Road, Phuket Town.

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

Protecting Nepali victims in exodus

ISLAND residents must come together to fully support local efforts by the Red Cross Society and private-sector groups to provide disaster relief to the suffering people of Kathmandu and other parts of central Nepal that have been devastated by the massive earthquake that struck there last Saturday morning.

As this edition went to print, the reported death toll had surpassed 4,000 and was continuing to rise steadily as emergency relief and medical aid teams from around the globe began to reach the remote, mountainous region.

Images of dust-covered survivors lying in makeshift tents – or even out in the open across the ancient city's crumbled remains – highlight the costly damage of the quake, as well as the terrorizing effect of the aftershocks that continued for days after.

As with the Haiti and Fukushima Japan earthquake disasters in 2010 and 2011, respectively, the Thai government has correctly joined the international community by taking quick action to help in what will surely be a long and difficult relief and rebuilding effort.

By Monday, over 350 Thai doctors had reportedly volunteered their services through an online campaign organized by the Medical Council of Thailand, while the Thai military quickly arranged air transport for the five-hour flight from Bangkok to Kathmandu for a wide variety of relief measures by the Thai ministries of commerce and public health, as well as other agencies.

Much like the days following the 2004 tsunami disaster, a feeling of dread hangs in the air as the effects of the 7.9 Richter quake on more remote, mountainous communities have yet to be reported.

Many ethnic Nepali residents here in Phuket have yet to know the effects of the disaster of their relatives back home. Unbeknownst to many residents of Phuket, ethnic Nepalis comprise a large segment of the island's foreign workforce, especially in the tourist areas along the west coast.

Even as relief workers continue to pour into the impoverished country of some 28 million, many survivors who can afford to are flying out in what has already been described as a mass exodus.

The Thai Immigration Bureau, Foreign Ministry and other related agencies should work together to develop comprehensive and humane policies for what could be a large influx of Nepalis, given Thailand's relative proximity and well-established social and cultural links.

Even more importantly, they should be ready to pounce on any human-trafficking miscreants who might try to derive personal profit from this latest terrible disaster.



Sewage should be taken seriously

Re: Gazette online, Rank canal water overflows onto Phuket beach, April 27

I was on this beach a few weeks ago enjoying a picnic with friends.

We took a walk along this beautiful beach and, as we came to the northern part of the it, we came upon a block of apartments and there we noticed black sewage in the sand and local employees digging a trench to let the black sewage into the sea.

A 2,000-baht fine is not a deterrent; it's a disgrace.

*Harry
Gazette forum*

No concern at all – not even for human cargo

Re: Gazette online, Migrant workers injured as pick-up truck flips in Phuket, April 27

Wow, only 10 workers. A light load by Phuket standards, unless he had already dropped off 23 of the crew.

This practice is unbelievably dangerous and reckless and is just part of the daily poor treatment of Myanmar workers, with their lives in the hands of some jerk driver that makes no changes in his driving habits even while transporting human cargo.

That clown should have to cover all the expenses.

*Shocking... not!
Gazette forum*

A sledgehammer to crack walnuts

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials contemplate Article 44 to clear Surin beach clubs, April 26

Why would District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol want to use Article 44 for something as puerile as clearing beach clubs from pub-

Letters to the Editor

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

lic land at Surin?

Surely the standard procedure, namely the courts, would suffice. Only if the beach business owners steadfastly refused to budge after a court ordered them to move would be enough to call in military support – but not an airstrike.

Even Uncle Prayut would back me on this.

I have to admit that this news stunned me. I remember Chief Veera doing outstanding work during his posting as Kathu District Chief a few years back. But this is 'no-go territory'.

On reading this story, I found myself supporting – of all people! – Chong Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) President Ma-ann Samran

Now that I did not see coming...

*Tilde Chimbote
Phuket*

These electric cars have got me buzzing

Re: Neighborhood electric vehicle market thrives on luxury resort island, April 21

You couldn't believe how much this story cheered me up. For years I've been waiting cars to be banned from central Phuket Town and Patong – to be replaced with electric cars that anyone can use if they have a government issued smartcard topped up with credit.

Your could jump into any car parked in the area, but you would not be able to drive it 'beyond city limits' as it the car would automatically shut down.

This would work exactly as the local council bicycle rental

schemes in cities in the Netherlands. As long people park the vehicles in the regulated parking spaces set aside for only these vehicles, then anyone can use them.

So called taxi drivers and motorcycle taxi divers would no longer be needed. In fact, they could be provided the same vehicles and passengers could swipe their smartcards to be charged a token fee as they jump on board. Perfect for drunk tourists to get safely back to their hotel rooms.

Web cams could easily be fitted to the cars to answer safety concerns.

Come on! It's a no-brainer – and about bloody time this became a reality.

*Ged Tuit,
Phuket*

Patong hill makeover: Too little, too late

Re: Phuket's notorious Patong Hill road gets B25mn safety makeover, April 28

I'm sorry, but seriously, what is the point of this makeover?

There is none, not if officials don't finally do something to prevent the big tour buses and heavy construction vehicles from constantly traversing the hill at all hours of the day and night.

I'm nervous for them to shut a section of the road down. I have learned in my years here that even more dangerous than the average, everyday Phuket driver is the Phuket driver that is in a big rush.

Every time I go over the Patong Hill it feels like a rat race – whoever gets over the hill fastest wins a big prize.

It's no wonder the road falls away so often with all of the traffic. Since they are definitely doing this, I hope that the road has time to set before the next big rain hits.

*Polly Bolsillo
Patong*

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Dental tourism on the rise

One company has taken a bite out of this emerging tourism market

By Mauri Grant

MEDICAL tourism and the hordes of foreign customers it brings to Thailand and Phuket's shores is on a steady rise, with the Tourism Authority of Thailand reporting more than 2.5 million international patients travelling to the Kingdom for treatments in 2012 and predicting an increase of 13% per annum.

One dental clinic conglomerate, Dental Corporation Co Ltd, started filling the market cavities years ago, and its business-savvy CEO recently sat down with the *Gazette* to talk about the changing tides of medical tourism and what his company has in store for Thailand and Phuket's tourists and local residents.

Dr Pornsak Tantapakul, DDS, who graduated with an orthodontic certificate degree from New York University before moving on to earn a degree in lingual orthodontic technique from Eastman Dental Institute at the University College in London, told the *Gazette* he saw a significant increase in the number of overseas patients visit his clinic soon after his return to Thailand.

"I started with a humble one shophouse dental clinic along Phahonyothin Road [in Bangkok] about 12 years ago," Dr Pornsak says.

"Perhaps because I had trained abroad and applied those techniques, standards and technological innovations to my work here, my clinic saw a significant number of overseas patients.

"Looking at the opportunities at that time and with the incoming medical tourism market, I knew I



Dr Pornsak is preparing to open up a brand new clinic with a second-floor view of Patong Beach.

needed a larger dental center that could effectively provide a one-stop dental service center to both the international community and local residents near the city center of Bangkok."

Thus, in 2005, the Bangkok International Dental Center (BIDC) was established. BIDC is the company's seven-storey flagship dental center, with more than 30 treatment rooms providing professional hospital-grade treat-

ments and standards. The one-stop shop has on-site 3D CT scans, digitalized x-ray machines, an on-site lab and a mini boutique hotel.

In 2012, BIDC became the first outpatient dental care center in Thailand to achieve the American quality and patient safety Joint Commission International (JCI) certification.

But the company didn't stop there. With quality and customer

service in mind, says Dr Pornsak, more dental clinics were established following the same principles and standards of professionalism.

The company now has two premium Dental Signature clinics, one at Siam Paragon shopping mall in Bangkok and the other in Patong next to Jungceylon shopping mall, as well as a chain of Smile Signature clinics, with five locations scattered around Bangkok.

"We even have three more confirmed locations expected to be opened by the end of 2015, which includes one on the beachfront road in Patong. Dental Corporation Co Ltd will have an expected 11 total clinics in Thailand by the fourth quarter of this year," Dr Pornsak notes.

Dr Pornsak credits the expansions in part to a rising number of dental tourists visiting Thailand – even in spite of recent political turmoil.

"Though there has not been a reported benchmark by which to measure Thailand's dental tourism industry growth, our dental group has seen an increased overall number and an annual increase in foreign patients at BIDC and in Phuket over the past few years, despite the domestic political issues and economic downturn in some of our main patients' countries," he said.

Dr Pornsak noted that these foreign patients make up about 97% of customers that walk through the doors at Phuket Dental Signature in Patong, compared with the 60% foreign customer base seen at BIDC.

"With the natural, beautiful islands and beaches on and surrounding Phuket, this percentage rate comes as no surprise to me. Tourists are combining medical and dental treatments with their holidays," Dr Pornsak says.

"With Phuket's vast potential, the dental group has plans for a second clinic in Patong by mid-year which will be situated in front of the beach.

"Visitors can relax and enjoy the beach view from the second floor of the clinic."

Outsourcing: Imagine hiring an expert from 150 baht



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

I REMEMBER when I started in this industry just how much there was to learn and how many different things I needed to do to get started: build websites, get a domain, hosting, design a logo, create an exciting intro logo, set up social media accounts, start promoting – the list goes on and on!

I understand the challenges many people face with the internet as there is so much to know, and it can be very technical. This, for many, leads to fear and feeling overwhelmed, which can then lead to procrastination and, in the end, nothing happens. Also, from a time-efficiency perspective, we are much better off having an expert doing the work for us, as the results should be better and it will save us time. However, the cost is normally prohibitive.

If you don't do it, though, you get left behind. But now, there is a



Fiverr freelancers can work from home. Photo: StartupStockPhotos

solution to this conundrum.

Welcome to Fiverr.

Fiverr was the 2009 brain child of Micha Kaufman and Shai Wininger. It is a site where people can buy or sell a variety of internet services offered by freelance contractors. Today, it is estimated to be worth about US\$250 million.

Simply, Fiverr is the joining of product matter experts (or freelancers) with people who need a specific skill or product. Examples of common services include logo and webpage design, graphic design, videos, voiceovers

– pretty much anything that relates to online marketing, sales and promotion.

People get a rating for the work that they have performed or ordered, which means that quality gets rewarded. That way, you get high-quality work done at a competitive price.

For those who need specific work done but do not have the time or the skills to do it, they can outsource to a proven performer without having to do a lot of searching, due diligence or negotiating of price. Also, the pricing

is fantastic as the competition keeps it real, and people from third-world countries with good skills will do it for a cheaper price.

For those who have a skill and want to make some extra income, Fiverr is ideal. They can easily be connected with clients without having to market themselves, payment is guaranteed for work completed to a satisfactory level and the better they perform, the more they will be rewarded.

So, the next time you need a task done that has been holding you up, think about outsourcing and think Fiverr. This is great news for the freelancers, as they truly can make a full-time living from the comfort of their lounge.

Simon Wetherell is a social media expert, best-selling author and speaker. He resides in Phuket, where he trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the use of social media. For more information, visit PhuketOnlineMarketing.com or call 095-085 3355.



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Exchange rate rigmarole

Finding the ideal balance of how much cash to keep in which currency

Finance

By David Mayes

AN ISSUE most Phuket expats deal with in one form or another is exposure to some risk of fluctuations in currency exchange rates. Many earn money outside of the country and then need to convert that to baht for spending purposes.

Offshore oil workers are a good example of this, and how best to deal with this situation can only ever be determined after the fact. That said, the best way to approach most things is to reduce the risk as much as possible.

During the past decade, the Thai baht has behaved exactly as one would have expected: unpredictable and volatile. This makes planning much more important than for example, a US expat living in Canada, where the rate doesn't move enough to seriously alter your standard of living or totally trash your budget.

The great news for most expats in Phuket is that it is still relatively cheap to live here when compared with the places most of us have come from.

Unfortunately, many retirees have moved here to stretch their smaller retirement pots, so every time the baht advances, they feel the pain.

Having a fixed income from another country leaves expats and retirees fairly helpless in terms of having tools to deal with the risk. It is not practical for most retirees to use derivatives on exchange rates to hedge their future pension payments.

The fact that there are cheaper alternatives in the world means that going home isn't always the only 'Plan B' if the baht strengthens to levels that, when combined

with local inflation, makes it too expensive to stay here. Isarn is still cheap, and if living near the ocean is important, the Philippines still has some rock-bottom-priced areas.

However, those earning enough to not worry about those sorts of issues, the question becomes how much cash to keep in which currencies? The ideal mix is to balance the risk of the baht strengthening and the cost of living increasing, against the risk that the baht weakens and costs money upon repatriating the money when leaving the country.

Obviously, long-term plans make an enormous difference in the way any particular person should approach handling this risk.

The ideal mix is to balance the risk of the baht strengthening and the cost of living increasing, against the risk that the baht weakens and costs money upon repatriating the money when leaving the country.

If an expat intends to stay in Thailand permanently, a good way to balance out the risk is a pure 50:50 hedge. It might seem to make sense to bring the whole pot of funds into the country

if the expat intends to retire here, but remember that if the baht tanks, then local inflation would eat away purchasing power.

The cost of living in Thailand over the long run in baht terms would increase if the currency collapsed, so keeping half of total amount of funds available abroad would help maintain purchasing power in that event.

If an expat intends to stay here only temporarily, it is best to bring in only enough funds to cover living expenses for six months to a year at any one time.

If the expat is not sure where in the world he or she will end up, keeping their funds spread across the major currencies makes sense, but if they know that they will return home sooner or later, they should keep the bulk of their savings in their home currency – unless that currency is unstable.

For people earning baht and



The question is: How much cash should one keep in which currencies? Photo: Reuters

saving, and intending to repatriate these funds at some point, the timing of when to do it becomes a little more tricky and in the end luck will play a big role.

Transferring savings out once every six months will give some

sort of an averaging effect and minimize luck somewhat, but not entirely.

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

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

Uber taxi service calls for more driver partners in celebration of anniversary

UBER is calling for more driver partners to join the company, as it celebrated the first anniversary of its service in Thailand.

In the past year, it has received requests for more than 1.5 million rides, the taxi service provider said in a press release.

To welcome drivers, Uber is looking to the rider community for help. It offers Uber riders 1,000-baht credits for referring a friend to become an Uber driver. Every



Uber wants more drivers to join its Thailand fleet. Photo: Fabio Achilli

friend who qualifies and drives with Uber for 10 trips or more within the first two weeks of the partnership will receive 1,000 baht while the referer or rider will receive

1,000 baht in credits. The statement also said that some drivers earn more than 100,000 baht per month.

– The Nation



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

Siam
International

❖ Legal consultation Contact: K. Joy
❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
❖ Notarial Fax: 076 346 150
 certifications Email:
❖ Contracts siamint@loxinfo.co.th
❖ Work permits
❖ Bookkeeping
❖ Visa service
❖ Translations

WHAT'S ON

in Phuket

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

May 23-24. Social Media Mastery, 2-Day Event To Transform Your Business or Income
Imagine being the #1 business in your industry or niche for social media marketing. This two-day course will show you what you need to be a dominant force in your industry, to massively increase customer awareness, sales and profits. Presented by Simon Wetherell, as seen in the Business Buzz column in the *Phuket Gazette*. Book your tickets for this limited space event before they are all gone. Don't miss out and let your competition take your place.

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 laps around a short but technical circuit along a remarkable view on the shorefront. Each lap is 2km: 12 laps for men and 5 for women, a VIP race and 15 laps for the men's elite race.



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

Savor the ultimate DJ experience, exclusively played by local artists. For more information and to register, please visit www.bangkokcriterium.com

May 30. Stand up Comedy
Tom Rhodes hails from Philadelphia and is a world-travelling comedian touring Los Angeles, China, Malaysia, Bangkok, Phuket, Las Vegas and on. *The New York Times* describes him as 'A mostly natural intellect with a knack for reporting the harsh realities of life with

a dark and absurdly optimistic cynicism.' 'Brash, abrasive, but exceptionally funny! He's not to be missed' – Edinburgh Festival. 'Highly recommended, if you want a fast thinking razor sharp and above all, irreverently funny show' – *Evening News*, The Edinburgh Paper. May 30 @ SpiceBox, Boat Avenue, near Laguna. 09-13260276

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 the Lord Buddha.
July 15-19. Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek
Now in its 12th year, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek offers exceptional sailing on the east coast of Phuket and quality accommodation at our host spon-

sors. Four nights of extravagant event parties that have become infamous around the Asian yachting scene make this one of the best 'Asian Summer' sailing regattas. Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2015 has a comprehensive Commercial Sponsorship and Partnership Program that enables corporate Asia to get involved with the world of sailing. The growing popularity of sailing in Asia makes it the ideal platform for companies to increase their brand awareness.

Now on

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BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

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

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

LOCAL COVERAGE

PC

Phuket Cable

Coverage: All of Phuket

Channel: 1

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

Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm

RC

Rawai Cable

Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon

Channel: 1

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

KDTV

KDTV

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

Channel: 10

Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm

NATIONAL COVERAGE

MCOT World

Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm

Wednesday: 6.10pm

Thursday: 1.10am

Friday: 1.10am

Saturday: 1.10am

Sunday: 6.10am

Truevisions

Channel: 79

PSI

Channel: 223, 320

Dynasat

Channel: 106

Thaisat

Channel: 185

Infosat

Channel: 185

Sunbox

Channel: 81

GMMZ

Channel: 103

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YOUR Phuket

World class mixologist mixes it up in Phuket

Royal Phuket Marina and Speakeasy Restaurant welcomed world-class mixologist Pattanawanee Chotwisitkul to Phuket on April 21.



MAKE IT A DOUBLE: Mixologist Pattanawanee Chotwisitkul

Thanyapura PIA swim team dives into SEA Games training

The Thanyapura PIA swim team joined an intensive training session with Thai national swimmers over the weekend in Bangkok. Four members of the Thanyapura PIA swim team have qualified for the 28th SEA Games Singapore 2015, which will be held from June 5-16.



SWIM INTO SEA: Kornkanjana Sapianchai, Thanyapura PIA swimmer; Pattarawadee Kittiya, Thanyapura PIA swimmer; Thanavit Thosakul, secretary-general of the Thailand Swimming Association; Thanon Sangnark, vice president of the Thailand Swimming Association; Miguel Lopez, Thanyapura head swim coach; Tanakrit Kittiya, Thanyapura PIA swimmer; Peerapat Loessathapornasuk, Thanyapura PIA swimmer; and Sakchai Suriyawongse, director of the Thailand Swimming Association.



GET HIGH: (L) Anton Makhrovat; Atthawut Kumpitak, GSA Manager, HK Express Thailand; Pacharawat Wasikarn from Earth Media Planner; Salinee Prab from the Phuket Post (Thai Edition); Punnaporn Eamso Guinault from the Guide Phuket Magazine; Oranee Hildebrand from Phuket Gazette; and Apichart Apiwanthanakorn from the Phuket Andaman News visited the Sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck on the 100th floor of the ICC, the tallest building in Hong Kong. Photos: Pacharawat Wasikarn

Hello, Hong Kong!

HK Express invited members of Phuket's media to enjoy Hong Kong's newest tourist attraction places and some of the best restaurants the vibrant island has to offer.



WELCOME TO HK: Kayley So, PR & Communications Office, HK Express Hong Kong; and Atthawut Kumpitak, GSA Manager, HK Express Thailand.



Pacharawat Wasikarn with two big geoducks at a seafood market.



FEELIN' CRABBY: Salinee Prab with an Alaskan king crab



A BEAUTIFUL VIEW: Punnaporn Eamso Guinault at Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel



Media members at The Hong Kong Observation Wheel. Photo: Phuket Andaman News

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PROPERTY FOR SALE
of the week



OCEAN VIEW LAND
IN KAMALA

See page 16

PROPERTY FOR RENT
of the week



LUXURY POOL VILLA

See page 18

JOB of the week

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIEDS
ADMIN

See page 19

BOAT & MARINE
of the week



See page 21

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Properties For Sale

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 Chalong. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchin ner@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. Aircon. Kitchen. Tel: 098-331 6449.

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

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

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 Chalong. Sale: 1.95 million baht, rent: 12,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-922 2800. Email: simonchin ner@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.

ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

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

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW LAND



For sale 5.5 rai. Ao Ma-Kham. Chanote title. 12 million baht / rai. For more information, please call 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

KARON BEACH CONDO

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

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.

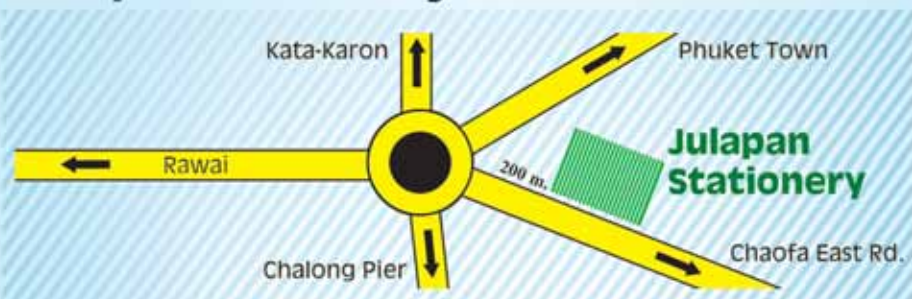
STUDIO FOR SALE

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

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

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Properties For Rent

HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE

Loch Palm. Small 2-bedroom/bathroom house for long-term rent. No pool. Great views. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiesamui.com

PHUKET TOWN CONDO FOR RENT

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

CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Chalong, new, 140sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, pool, aircons, security cameras, electric gate, high fences. Long-term rent: 50,000 baht/month. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: nina.phuket@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY 1-BEDROOM CONDO

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

2-BEDROOM BEACH HOLIDAY APARTMENT

Apartment or pool penthouse, Karon Beach / town for 5-minute walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

New ocean view condo. Low season special promotion. Now - October 31. 23,000 baht / month. Tel: 087-282 3724 (English).

Accommodation Available**PATONG LUXURY APT.**

Paradise Hotel Complex. 150m to beach. Large bedroom, kitchen, light. Contact Airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

SURIN GATE APARTMENT

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

NAITHON BEACH PALACE

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

BEACH HOUSE AT KAMALA

Available now. Minimum 6-month lease. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Decks on 2 levels looking out over Kamala Bay. Furnished. Aircons and ceiling fans. European kitchen, open plan living areas. Furnished home office. Fiber-optic internet available. 45,000 baht / month. Contact Sean. Tel: 081-086 7003. Email: beach_house_at_kamala@yahoo.com

CHALONG AREA HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms. Quiet area. Fully furnished. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

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

PATONG 1 & 2 BED LONG TERM

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

NEW MAI KHAO BEACH HOUSE

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

POOL VILLA RAWAI

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

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished, WiFi, Mae Luan Road. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com Please see our website at http://BoutiqueRoomPhuket.com

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, start from 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311, http://panwa.green.weebly.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. For more information, please call 076-613 860. Email: info@thewindmillphuket.com, www.thewindmillphuket.com

FAMILY HOUSE + POOL

Kathu - near schools, shops. Located at Baan Suan Loch Palm. This modern home has 3 bedrooms + maid room. Secure and safe in a patrolled gated community, major schools including BIS are only minutes away. Major shopping centers such as Central and Tesco Lotus are an easy 10-minute drive. House features an excellent all-weather outdoor area, swimming pool, nice gardens. Longer term rental preferred. Fully furnished. Contact Bea: 087-352 4114 (Thai), Justin: 083-551 1633 (English).

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

Accommodation Wanted**LOOK FOR RENTAL**

3-bedroom house. Near Central / Kathu or NW Phuket Town, for 1 year. Maximum 20,000 baht / month. For more information, please call 081-797 1497.

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals**HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE**

Loch Palm. Small 2-bedroom/bathroom house for long-term rent. No pool. Great views. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiesamui.com

2-BED POOL PENTHOUSE KARON

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

BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND

Approximately 2 rai, Chalong Bay. For lease. For more information, please call 081-826 93 90.

TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL

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

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**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

**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, 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

COOKS AND MAIDS

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

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

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



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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

GUEST RELATIONS

Luxury villa in Nai Thon looking for an experienced Guest Relations Manager. Must have education, be reliable and flexible. Salary 20,000+ baht. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 080-440 0772. Email: richard@ivanhoe.net

**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, www.phuketfit.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

**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. For more information, please call 086-004 30 08. Email: andreaangius@icloud.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

**SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**

Good communication skills and ready to work with business clients. Thai female or male. Good salary. Please call 089-515 5288 (English). Email: timo.saarinen@swuid.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

**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: rrv@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).

Phuket Gazette

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

Advertising Sales

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

**VIDEOGRAPHER
NEEDED**

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

**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. Email: paul@livephuket.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Business Opportunities

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. Tel: 089-646 7176.

PARTNER FOR BAR

Working partner + manager with capital for new bar in Patong. Male or female who is trustworthy and honest. Small investment required: 800,000 baht. 50-50 partner, 70-30 profit split year way. Tel: 092-821 8160. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.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

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

FAMILY BAR / GRILL NAI HAN

Bar / grill area with separate kitchen, seating, play area, separate 2-bed living quarters, 4 months rent free. Good long-term rental agreement. Offers about 900,000 baht. For more information, please call 080-648 1987 (English), 085-575 3027 (Thai) Email: farrman1@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

OTOP Markets, top location, 3 years old, complete trading figures showing profit increase every year. Tel: 084-185 8719 (English). Email: charlie@paddymalones.com.au

GUESTHOUSE / CAFE KARON

Busy, well-known guesthouse. Top 10 of Trip Advisor. 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

Household Items

CONTENTS LUXURY PENTHOUSE

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

Business Products & Services



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

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 (English & Thai), 081-255 7003 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-283549. Email: 2homeresort@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).

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

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

Cameras & Equipment

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

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

Pets

GUARD DOG WANTED

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

Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

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

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. Please call 081-970 4228 (English).

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

PCC MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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 & Motors

Saloon Cars

FORD EVEREST

Looks and drives great. For sale: 500,000 baht. Please contact Pete. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), Oi. Tel: 081-895 7908 (Thai) or contact by rungtiwap@asianwind.biz

HONDA CITY

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

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

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

HONDA ACCORD 1987

Black, 1.8L, auto, aircon. CD player. Good condition. Reliable car. 95,000 baht. Tel: 084-844 0554 (Eng. & Thai). E-mail: gregory.sclater@yahoo.com

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.

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

BMW 5 SERIES

2 years old. 28,000km, free maintenance at BMW Phuket for another 3 years (all warranties intact), insurance paid until November 2015. 2.7 million baht o.n.o. For more information, please send email to ursaeabi@gmx.net

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

BIG BIKE FOR SALE

2013 Kawasaki Z250, 5,300km, black-gold color. For sale: 120,000 baht. Contact Prim. Tel: 091-424 5564.

HONDA CLICK 17,000 BAHT

For sale, 8 years, red-black, always maintained, very good condition, Green book. Tel: 094-081 0355 (Eng. & Thai). E-mail: somthawin_pw@hotmail.com

HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY

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

Pick-ups

SUZUKI CARRY JULY 2012

Suzuki Carry. Modified roof and seats. July 2012, only 21,000km, perfect condition with serviced book. Price: 250,000 baht. Tel: 085-787 5187. E-mail: dechamps.isa@gmail.com

PICK-UP WANTED

Hilux, Ford Ranger or Isuzu. 2006 or later. Email: mark_313@hotmail.com

Rentals

RENT MOTORBIKE 2,000 BAHT/MONTH

For rent. Honda Dream 2,000 baht, Honda Wave 2,500 baht, automatic start at 2,900 baht, deliver service. Please call 086-683 7162 (English & Thai). E-mail: yosompetch@hotmail.com

CAR FOR RENT WITH INSURANCE

Jazz, City, Vios for long-term rent at 15,000-17,000 baht per month. Free delivery. Please call 076-383488, 081-537 7137 (English & Thai). Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

CARS FOR RENT

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

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.

THAILANDS LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



Riviera 48

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

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

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JIM POULSEN
+66 81 891 3237
jim@leemarine.com

MARCUS OVERMAN
+66 81 891 7057
marcus@leemarine.com

SEA RAY 330
SUNDANCER SPORT

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

KANTER 54 PILOT
HOUSE (1993)

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

BENETEAU
EVASION 34
FOR SALE

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

21M CLASSIC YACHT
FOR SALE

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

A STEAL FOR
A QUICK SALE

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

HOBIE CAT 16

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

BOTNIA TARGA
32 (2013)

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

TENDER / PWC

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

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)

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

DEAN 440
CATAMARAN (2002)

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

SR MARINE BOAT
MANUFACTURER

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

STOCK CLEARANCE:
YACHTSMAN

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

WOODEN TEAK
JUNK BOAT

45ft HK teak junk, excellent family day boat. Extensive refit, single engine. Caterpillar, full galley and bathroom. US\$ 105,000. Tel: 852-9238 9114 (Hong Kong). Email: blanny2000@yahoo.com

3.1M YACHT
TENDER DINGHY

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

POWER CATAMARAN

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

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

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

NAJAD 360
SLOOP (1989)

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

THE SOLUTION TO
THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword



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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across:

9. COURTIER: *truceori* 10. TWO: *tow* 11. LESION: *losein* 12. EGRESS: e.g.-Re.-SS 13. WHITLOW: *whowilt* 14. I.R.A.-N 15. REDCURRANT: red-cur-rant 17. CURRENCY: prevalence 18. GARNISH: gar-N-ish 19. ARAI: a-R-A.1. 21. HOBART: *hotbar* 24. EVERYONCEINAWHILE: *ieonlywhenevercia* 27. APPEAL: App.-ea.-L 29. EAST: ea.-St. 30. CONCEPT: C-once-P.T. 33. MOTOROIL: *tolimoor* 35. PROVIDENCE: *ofdiceproven* 36. COST: Co.'s-T 37. NIPPIER: quicker 38. UNREAL: *rule* 40. CAVIES: *caveis* 41. ROT: R-to[rev] 42. ALLIANCE: all-*anice*

Down:

1. CONGREGATE: C-*gonegreat* 2. URGE: desire 3. FISSURE: if[up]-SS.-sure 4. CROWBAR: crow-ban 5. COLLECTIONS: Col.-L-section 6. FLOWERSHOW: F-*whoslower* 7. ASPIRE: *praise* 8. ROMANCER: romance-R 10. TAINT: 't'ain't 16. CONVENE: con-even 20. REEDS: S-deer[up] 22. BRIOCHE: *berich(0)* 23. INTERLOPERS: *reportlines* 25. YELLOWNESS: characteristic 26. EXPECTANCY: *taxpenceye* 28. PROPOSAL: *poorpals* 31. ODIOUSLY: *isoldyou* 35. POINT: *topin* 38. ROAD: R-O-A.D.

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

**Built: 1976**

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



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

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

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

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

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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

YOUR HELICOPTER

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

TECNAM P-92

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

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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

Unique development - 124 Rai

If you would like to:

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- Buy or hanger a plane, or
- Build or rent a hangar

Call Robert: 081-810 4510 (Eng. Ger.)

Обучение и полеты вокруг Пхукета: +66 94 386 2294, по-русски.



General Aviation

- Aircraft for Sale
- Aircraft Sharing
- Aircraft Wanted
- Aircraft Charter

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

	(heading)

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

See Phuket from above Book a trial!



Book now: 0935 92 7558

Keep calm, love turtles

Nai Yang Beach Resort and Spa enjoyed a smashing success through its 'Run for Turtle Run for Charity 2015' event, held on April 26. The day was full of fun activities, such as a sprint triathlon and a mini marathon, as well as a fun run. Funds raised through the event were donated to the Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center and Phang Nga Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center.



Surin Yotharak, vice president of Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization, helped a turtle find its way back to the sea.



TAKING HOME THE SILVER: (L) Veera Kerdsoimongkol, Thalang district chief, hands an award to Wariya Chattay, who won second place in the female sprint duathlon.



Wairote Kanphai, owner of Phuket Probiker



THUMBS UP: (L) Tanes Petchkul; Anucha Jittanupong (3rd place in male sprint triathlon); Ponsak Sangiamkul, assistant sales manager for Keehin Trading Co Ltd; Waiyawit Aelpu; and Sarawut Thuarob, event staff.

LOS ANGELES CHINA SINGAPORE MALAYSIA BANGKOK PHUKET LAS VEGAS

EVENTS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
A PHUKET GAZETTE HEADLINE EVENT

stand up comedy night!

TOM RHODES
30th MAY
8:00 PM @ SpiceBox
Boat Avenue, Laguna

Tickets 700B, at
SpiceBox, Cherg Talay
Les Diables, Boat Lagoon
Villa Market, Chalong
0913-260-276

"Undoubtedly an hour of expertly written comedy from someone who knows what he's doing. you will find yourself still involuntarily hanging on to his every word"

"Superb, cutting humor delivered with tremendous rhythm and charm. A joy to see a master of craft at work. This is how you do it!"

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Words from the wise

“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says ‘I’m possible’!”

– Audrey Hepburn

Medium

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

Hard

		1				6		
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4	5						8	3
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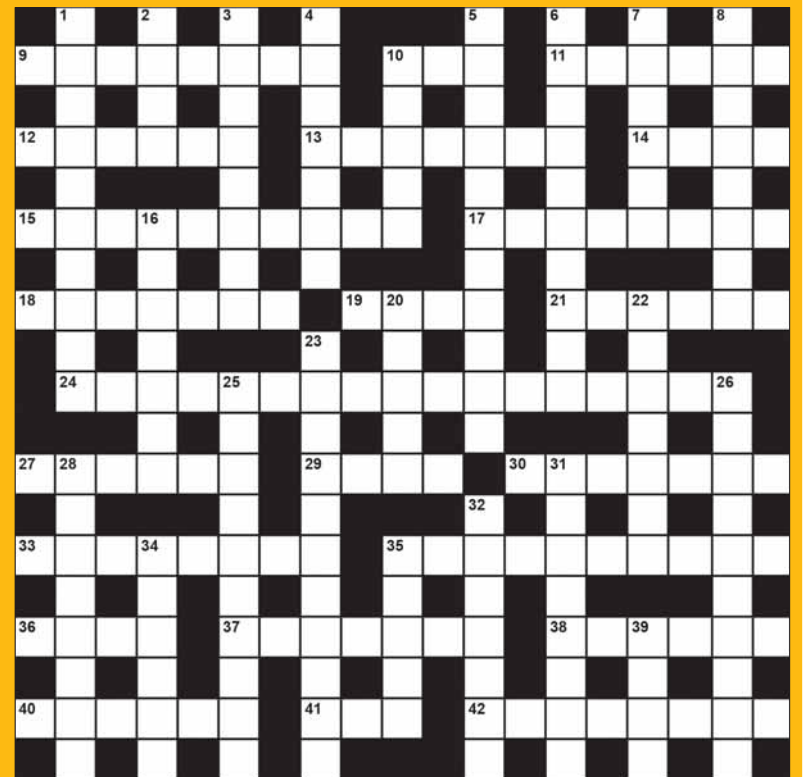
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Truce, or I upset royal attendant (8)
 10. Tow out the pair (3)
 11. Lose in bad injury (6)
 12. Way out, for example concerning saints (6)
 13. Who wilt, upset by digital abscess (7)
 14. Irish Republican Army Nationalist in middle-Eastern country (4)
 15. Communist dog, go on about small fruit (10)
 17. Prevalence of money (8)
 18. New in garish embellishment (7)
 19. What in Thailand for a Romeo, the best! (4)
 21. Hot bar dancing in Aussie city! (6)
 24. Occasionally, i.e., whenever C.I.A. get confused (5,4,2,1,5)
 27. Application each left for retrial (6)
 29. Each street in the Orient (4)
 30. Caught once physical training, the idea! (7)
 33. Engine lubricant to limo, or changed (8)
 35. Predetermination of dice proven perhaps (10)
 36. Fee for small Company's time (4)
 37. Quicker moving, more like a crab! (7)
 38. Make-believe rule an adaptation (6)
 40. Cave is disturbed by rodents (6)
 41. Right-back to go off (3)



42. Everyone different, a nice partnership (8)

Down

1. Almost gone, great move to get together (10)
 2. Desire and encourage (4)
 3. Go up if Saints arranged sure openings (8)
 4. Boast ban thing to force things open (7)
 5. Colonel left odd section as groups belonging together (11)
 6. French, who slower, arranging floral exhibition (6,4)
 7. Hope for praise, perhaps (6)
 8. Medieval tale: Romeo, a fantastic liar (8)
 10. Colloquially, it is not a hint of corruption (5)
 16. Against even moving to

- assemble (7)
 20. Sierra deer turn up in the grasses (5)
 22. Sweet roll be rich cooked with nothing inside (7)
 23. Insurgents report lines breached (11)
 25. Characteristic of buttercups and cowards! (10)
 26. Anticipation of tax pence ye disburse! (10)
 28. Putting forward poor pal's arrangement (8)
 31. I sold you badly, disgustingly (8)
 32. Knock out dicky heart in islet off Phuket (7)
 34. Get nothing, ban it perhaps (6)
 35. Tip-top in movement (5)
 39. Way to run round nowadays (4)

Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



The Scorpio full moon can spotlight emotions associated with a key relationship, but it's best not to overreact. Instead, wait until Wednesday before you make a move. Even so, there's a chance to make good progress over the days ahead, with relationships in particular benefiting from a compassionate and intuitive approach.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)



Tread with care on Monday to avoid making more of an incident than it truly warrants. This week you'll also be open to ideas that show up out of the blue. New information sparkles with promise, so keep a note of anything important for future use. Meanwhile, your canny ability to pick out a bargain could save you a lot of money.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)



A romance can move to a new level of intensity early on. Be sure you're doing the right thing though, so you don't regret your actions later on.

Remember too, your intuition could play a part in helping you make wise choices. Later on Friday, as Venus sashays into your sign, it's time to expand your social options and look to enjoying life.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



A stirring Monday could help clear the air regarding a key matter. However, an event during the week encourages more goal-orientated plans, enticing you to liaise with family members for best results. Meanwhile, Venus in Cancer from Friday hints that a potential and rather sultry romance could soon tempt. Be sure it's worth your while to get involved, though!

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



Temper your feelings with a little fact-finding, particularly if you're feeling annoyed with someone and their take on an important matter. Midweek, collaborating on a project could mean success happens faster than you thought. Also this week, you're encouraged to expand your social reach and bring new friends into your fold.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



Try not to let spending get out of hand this week, especially if you are feeling overwhelmed by pressures. Why not opt for one or two small luxuries instead? Even so, midweek can see you making a wise investment of time and energy into a project that could turn out to be very productive. From Friday onward, liaising with the right person could pave the way to success.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



Monday's full moon can leave you feeling rather emotional, so opt for a reduced schedule if at all possible. However, this can also be an opportunity to let go of what is no longer working and to embrace new options instead. From Friday, a romantic opportunity shows promise – if you're willing to move out of your comfort zone and be bold.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)



Go easy during the early part of the week, particularly if a tricky issue seems to be getting the better of you. Knowing where you stand might help you make better decisions. Meanwhile, other people's encouragement could cause you to focus on activities that make a difference, particularly where lifestyle issues are concerned.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



Monday can be great for a get-together, even though another person's problems could be the reason a drama erupts. A new romance may also require a decision that needs careful thought. However, relationships in general might become warmer and sweeter as Venus sashays into Cancer, potentially enlivening your bonds with all sorts of people.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



Feelings can intensify on Monday, especially around a career concern or ambition. Even so, it's probably best not to rush decisions – wait until you have

the full facts. You may need to work on your life balance too, especially if you're looking for greater satisfaction. Despite this, temptations may lure you away from good habits, so beware.

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



A potent full moon can help you to let go of certain stale activities or involvements so that you can embrace something new. And a determination to enhance job prospects or to rework your diet or exercise routine might require you to stride out of your comfort zone. Later, romantic sparkles could enhance your weekend.

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



Monday's full moon might intensify emotions, so consider a reduced schedule to counteract this. Avoid leaving important matters unattended to, especially around midweek. If you need to make a decision, it will be best to just get on with it. Later in the week, experimenting with new recipes and crafts can make for some pleasure-filled hours ahead.

Post-purchase pitfalls



Property Watch

Desmond Hughes

THERE has always been a lot of talk about the safest way to invest in property in Thailand. We know there is a lot of very nice property out there. A less-talked-about issue is that of what happens after you make an investment – what are the common issues property owners face on our beautiful island? What can you do to plan for dealing with those issues?

SECURITY

As the island becomes busier and as families relocate to take advantage of the increasing scope of educational options in Phuket, parents and property owners are mindful of security.

If you invest in a gated estate community, then ensure that you fill the gaps if there are any deficiencies in security. You can install a wireless monitor linked to a CCTV system with multiple infrared-capable cameras very cheaply in Phuket and this includes a recording system. This is of course a deterrent against crime – so you should make your cameras safe from sabotage – but easily identifiable.

ODD-JOBS

Phuket has a high demand for skilled contractor labor. This means the skilled professional labor is generally attracted to and recruited for the higher paid jobs – the airport expansions; the high end villa developments; the further-work generating bypass and underpass jobs and so on.



There is lots of talk about what to do when investing in property in Thailand, but what pitfalls and issues should you be aware of after you have your 'dream home'. Photo: Paul Arps

The stand-alone villa owner, or the owner of townhomes in 'Moo Baans' are left with small handymen who perhaps don't have the qualifications or financial launch pad to carry out the larger work.

On this basis, you won't be able to do much 'due diligence' on handymen and you will often be relying on word of mouth. It isn't easy to find odd-jobbers in Phuket and often you will wait weeks for an emergency issue to be fixed un-

less it relates to a warranty issue for a product like an air-con unit.

ELECTRICITY

When it comes to electrical works – be careful, and monitor what is being done in terms of safety.

Are your shower boxes wired up properly and earthed to the ground?

Do you have extra surge breakers in your fuse box?

Is the wiring under your jacuzzi safe and not comprised of black

sticky tape connections?

Is your swimming pool room safety box, really safe?

Take your time and get a good odd job man to work through your house and correct any deficiencies. They may be busy on other jobs, but it is worth waiting sometimes for the right person to get the job done.

PEST CONTROL

Phuket has a lovely climate for

anyone who dislikes colder weather. It must also be accepted by those that benefit from tropical heat and warm rain that this has an effect on properties and can propagate pests.

There are many pest-control companies to choose from – and you will find the lowest price companies may use very toxic chemicals and adopt a very aggressive in and out approach to spraying in and around your house.

The price differences between companies is not that great – try to use a healthy and environmentally friendly company for your pest-control works.

RENOVATIONS

One of my favorite topics for Phuket and for world affairs is trying our best to have good neighborly relations wherever and if possible.

Even if we are different from each other, we should try to get along and accept those differences or move away from anything we find unacceptable.

When you plan to expand your property and dream about the new two-floor extension you want, think about whether this is going to negatively impact those around you, and make absolutely sure that your renovation plan is legal and is covered by your construction permit, or you may have to obtain a new permit.

Make sure you don't disturb neighboring land or structures through excavation; put in place the appropriate retaining walls. Be considerate.

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

New building materials surface at Bangkok's 'Architect 2015'

CONSTRUCTION-MATERIAL and architecture firms are showcasing a range of innovative products in Bangkok at 'Architect 2015', which runs until May 3.

Siam Woodland is introducing new interior-design products made from wood, acrylic, stone and other materials, while Siam Cement Group (SCG) is showcasing its environment-friendly products at the event. TOA Paint is also putting some innovative products to display.

Siam Woodland Director Siri Siriwongwattana said that the company is introducing many innovative products under the theme 'A La Art'. Made from several different materials, they are designed to match all types of interior-decorations styles.

The company targets sales of at 350 million baht this year, he noted.



Color provided by TAO Paint. Photo: Architect 2015

Meanwhile, SCG aims to inspire visitors at the event by decorating three rooms under the themes 'Resort', 'Cafe Loft' and 'Homey' with its construction materials.

Architect 2015 also has an in-

ternational zone for 300 foreign firms to display their construction materials. Those firms are from China, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, Australia, the United States, Russia, a number of European countries and Asean member countries.

The event is showcasing 100 selected projects designed by Thai architects, such as the highest building in Asean – Super Tower – by A49; The Factory 14 Hotel by Vin Varavarn Architects; and FYI by Somdul Architecture.

"We hope this event will show Thai architects' projects that also show Thailand's potential to be a design hub in this region when the Asean Economic Community becomes effective in December," said Chana Sumpalung, managing director of Architects 49 (Phuket) and chairman of Architect 2015.

– *The Nation*



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Condo market surges



By The Book

Kevin Hodges

PHUKET'S property market has changed dramatically over the past decade. One particular segment which has seen huge changes is the condominium market.

More than 10 years ago, there were very few condo developments in Phuket, as the majority of new expansions were large villa developments. This was because land was much cheaper than it is now, as were labor and building materials. The baht was also much weaker against most major currencies, meaning that foreign buyers demanded larger villas that were easily within their budget.

Due to changes in the foreign freehold ownership laws, condominiums began to increase in popularity with foreign buyers, and developers started building more condo projects. When condos initially started coming online in Phuket, they were generally high-end and luxury developments: many were large, spacious two, three and four-bedroom units.

Since 2008, however, the market has changed. Buyer's budgets decreased due to the world's economy, Phuket's land prices and building costs increased and major Thai developers targeting their products at the domestic market moved into Phuket in a big way.

The effect of this was a move away from large condo units, which had become more expensive than buyers' budgets, toward smaller, lower-priced units.

New launches in the condo market are now dominated by studios and one-bedroom units of about 30-45sqm, catering to buy-



Phuket's mid to higher-end condo market is showing signs of recovery. Photo: Siam Real Estate

ers' reduced budgets.

During the final quarter of 2014, seven new projects were launched with a total of 700 units. One-bedroom units made up half of this new supply.

The number one location for new condo developments in Phuket remains the west coast. However, since Sansiri began its dCondo developments in Kathu, more and more condos are being constructed in the central area of Phuket, primarily aimed at the entry level buyers of the domestic

market for 2-3 million baht apiece for 30-40sqm units.

Condo prices per square meter in Phuket now range from 30,000 baht/sqm for an older re-sale property, up to over 200,000 baht/sqm for the latest luxury condo developments. As mentioned in previous articles, re-sale market prices are lower than new developments and properties on Phuket's west coast generally command the highest prices on the island.

Figures taken from the Global Property Guide show Thailand's

property market has fantastic value on a cost-per-square-meter basis when compared with regional and global alternatives.

With average capital appreciation standing at 30% for buyers who purchase during the pre-construction phase of a condo development, many property speculators look to buy early.

An additional benefit is that these buyers have the choice of the most attractive units.

However, with these benefits comes additional risk for the buyer.

When buying at the pre-construction phase, it is advised that buyers conduct a thorough due diligence review of the developer: checking the developer's history; whether or not the developer has the correct permits to build the condominium; how the development is being financed and so on.

There are many experienced property developers in Phuket, both large Thai PCLs and local developers. Buying at the pre-construction phase offers buyers a great opportunity to make an attractive capital gain.

What does the future hold for Phuket's condo market? It is expected that new launches of entry-level condos will be scaled back in the near future.

Phuket's mid to higher-level condo market looks more promising: the market is showing signs of recovery and is much detached from the entry-level segment of the market.

Thailand's currency is predicted to weaken against the US dollar this year, with interest rates in the US expected to increase, while Thailand has been reducing rates.

This should give further help to the mid to high-end segments of the market as properties will become more affordable to foreign buyers with earnings or savings in US dollars.

For more information about this article contact Mr Hodges, the North Branch and Investments Manager for Siam Real Estate in Phuket and author of SRE's Phuket Residential Market Research Report. He has more than six years' experience in Phuket's real estate market. Tel: 076-324042 E-mail: kevin@siamrealestate.com; www.siamrealestate.com

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They say: 'A pizza a day'

By Sylvia Joy

AT A mere seven months old, OSOT Apotheke Cafe and Pizzeria on Phuket Road in town has already begun to stand out as one of the best places to grab a coffee, all-day breakfast and, yes, even a pizza.

If you live in Phuket Town, you may have noticed a lack of pizza going around. But with fresh ingredients, homemade food and a very cool atmosphere, OSOT has locals and expats excited and full of great food.

A local supplier provides the restaurant with organic breads, vegetables and desserts, and the rest is homemade by owner and cook extraordinaire Khun Tal.

Growing up, Khun Tal always had a passion for food, which was intensified while taking a culinary class for his hospitality degree. With a combined treasure find of his wife's grandfather's supply of old (we're talking 1930s and older) medical supplies, the Apotheke Cafe and Pizzeria was born.

I had the privilege of holding old arsenic and chloroform bottles, and viewing old ampules and tablet packages, some producers of which don't even exist anymore. All of these make up the intriguing decor of this cozy hidden gem and, if you are curious, just ask. Khun Tal is more than happy to explain the history and uses of these magical trophies.

When you are finished looking around and petting the cafe's beagle mascot, Milo, take a look at the extensive menu. It is full of wonderful finds and regular favorites, sometimes with a twist.

One such item is the tuna panino. By all accounts it is your traditional tuna melt, ingeniously made on a baguette and snuggled in a panini press until perfectly crispy. However, if you were not paying attention, you will be pleasantly surprised by the enormous amount of

flavor coming from such a compressed sandwich.

This is because Khun Tal has added capers and artichoke hearts in the mix and topped it all with a lovely amount of melted cheddar.

If tuna is not your favorite choice, they also have available mozzarella

paninos, salami and cheddar and even a Caesar panino.

In addition, they have your traditional sandwiches, such as ham and cheese, B.L.T. and a bacon and egg croissant.

The all-day breakfast includes organic yogurt with fresh fruit and muesli and even your go-to eggs, hashbrowns, bacon or sausage, toast and juice.

The salads are organic, plentiful and beautiful, and the appetizers include chicken wings with OSOT BBQ sauce, bruschetta and even baked spinach with cheese.

Pastas are the perfect amount



The parma ham pizza with fresh rocket is more than enough reason to keep going back.

of food and equally full of flavor, ranging from traditional carbonara, penne alla quattro foraggi (four cheese), to lasagne verdi alla bolognese (fresh spinach lasagna with pork ragu). Pair it with some of their fresh garlic bread and you will be one happy patron.

Now, let's get to the pizza.

Cooked to perfection on homemade crust, topped with the exact amount of cheese you could ever hope for and adorned with fresh ingredients, these pizzas are what you have been looking for in town.

They have your favorites, such as the Hawaiian, margherita and pepperoni pizzas and then they have your new, soon to be favorites such as BBQ chicken, quattro stagioni pizza (tomato, ham, mushroom, artichoke, black olive and oregano) and the menu's jewel, the parma ham.


I have yet to enter OSOT without ordering this amazing pizza. Each slice is full of that salty, wonderful goodness that can only be known as parma ham. It melds perfectly with the fresh mozzarella and oregano. But what makes this already delightful pizza to die for

is the bundle of fresh, organic rocket piled on top of it. The crisp, bright bite that it gives to the warm, flavorful base is nothing short of brilliant. It is certainly one to come back for time and time again.

So if you are in the neighborhood and crave fresh, organic ingredients, a fun atmosphere and some seriously excellent pizza, stop into OSOT Apotheke Cafe and Pizzeria, where there is an abundance of wonderful food, great people and that handsome beagle named Milo. Open 10am to 10pm, Thursday through Tuesday.



The apotheker-themed cafe and pizzeria is full of antique medical supplies.



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Elephants' role in Thailand

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

ELEPHANTS have always held an important place in Thai history and culture. In an age that predated bulldozers and cranes, Siamese builders and loggers tamed mighty elephants and used their incredible strength to clear forests, transport heavy loads and even build cities.

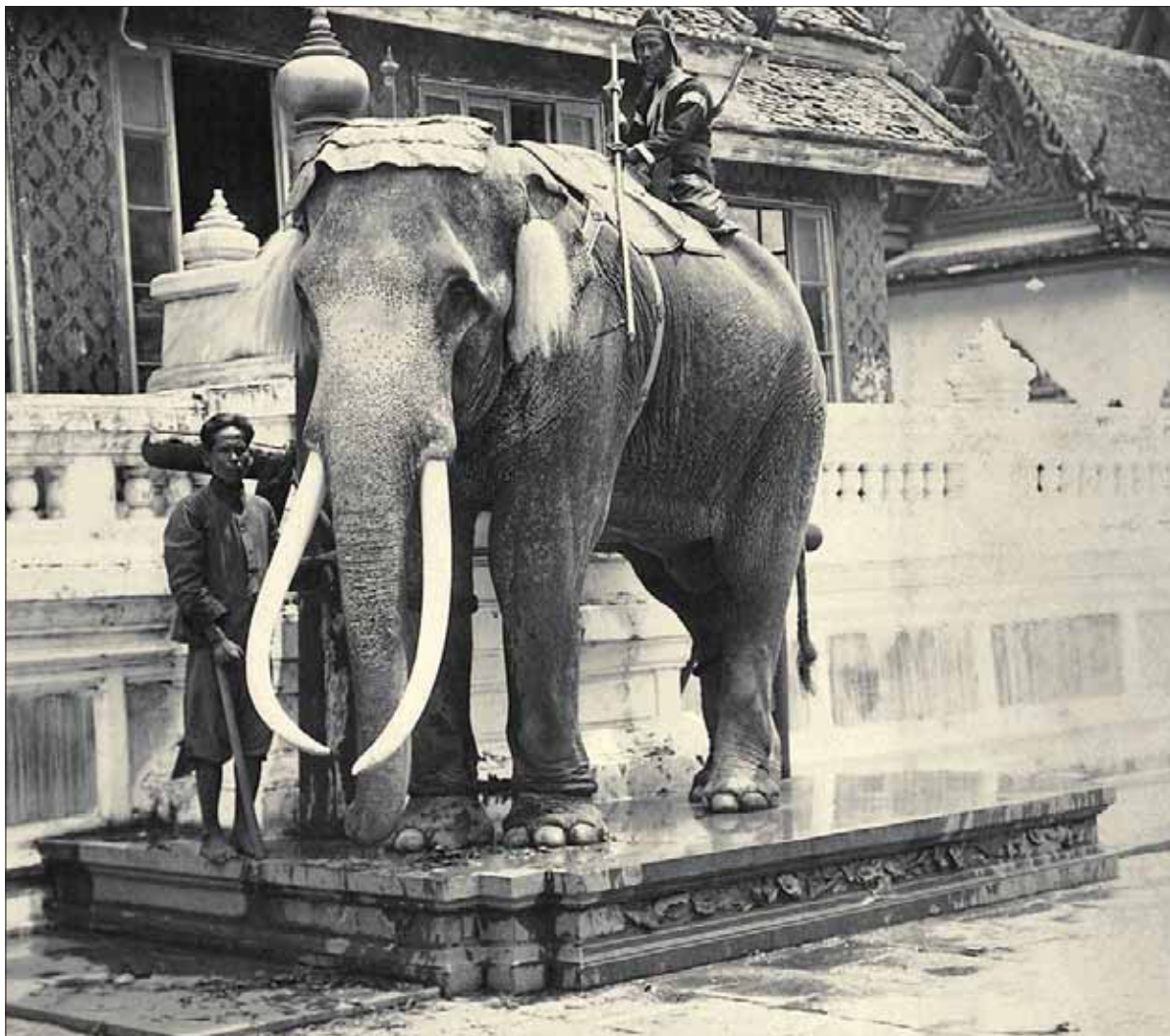
In war, Siamese kings and generals rode elephants into battle. Sitting atop elephants not only gave Siamese lords a formidable pose, it also offered them a position of safety, high above the carnage of battle.

For all of these reasons, Thais revere the common elephant even to this day. However, there is a class of elephants, commonly referred to as *chang phueak*, or white elephants, which are exceptionally rare and have been highly sought after by monarchs of Burma, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia for centuries, in the belief that they are sacred animals.

White elephants are sometimes confused with being albinos, but they are not. In fact, they are not white at all. They look very much like normal gray elephants, however, patches of their skin are dotted with a pinkish-white tone.

Elephants were regarded as celestial creatures. When a monarch ascends the throne, the spotting of a white elephant could provide legitimacy to his new reign. If a white elephant was found with the physical characteristics that are considered auspicious, it had to be brought to the palace with pomp and ceremonial rejoicing.

Physical characteristics that qualified an elephant as 'white' included light pink spots on the skin, large eyes rimmed with white, jet-black irises, two pronounced bumps on the forehead,



A Royal white elephant at the Grand Palace. Photo: Phra Maha Montien (2011), Bureau of the Royal Household

a tail that hangs straight away from the body and a long trunk.

Besides these physical characteristics, a white elephant must also possess a superior personality to the common elephant. Traditionally, specialists from the elephant division of the royal court will assess the animal's personality. An intelligent elephant, for example, will run ahead of its pack at bathing time, getting into the water before the rest of the herd can follow and churning the mud from the river bed. An intelligent elephant will also learn to swish food it catches with its trunk in order to get rid of insects before eating.

The reason Thais revere the

white elephant is also because of the story of Lord Buddha's birth. It is believed that on the eve of the Buddha's birth, his mother, Queen Maya, dreamt that she was presented with a lotus flower by a large white elephant with six tusks.

The lotus flower is a symbol of purity and knowledge. The white elephant is also a symbol of fertility and success. It was believed that if a king kept several white elephants in his stables, he would have a long and prosperous reign. These elephants were treated like royalty. They were not used for heavy labor, war or any kind of work. They had to be

cared for by a royal veterinarian and fed only the best food. The death of a white elephant was a dire omen and signaled disaster for the kingdom.

The English dictionary, however, found a new meaning to the term 'white elephant', which was less 'sacred' and more 'burdensome'. Early Europeans reported that white elephants were costly to maintain, despite the fact that they could not be put to any use. The term 'white elephant' even entered the English language in the year 1607 to figuratively describe a burdensome or costly possession, which presented little or no value to the owner.

Perhaps the term is derived from the practice of earlier kings of Siam to give rare, auspicious elephants to ambitious or boastful courtiers. In the old days, this was perceived to be such a great honor that the courtiers would have no choice but to look after the animal. It had to be given the best food, and a lot of it, despite the fact that it could not be put to work. In the end, many unwilling owners were often ruined by the enormous cost of looking after a white elephant.

Several European visitors to Siam during the 17th century mentioned white elephants in their writings. Of these, Jeremias Van Vliet, a Dutch merchant who wrote one of the most detailed accounts of 17th century Siam, mentioned that the white elephant was regarded as the 'prince of the elephants'.

The Dutch merchant wrote that the king's white elephants lived in royal quarters, had their own retinue of attendants and were fed on plates of gold. Van Vliet also suggested that the elephants were not only valued for their color, but also because of their superior intelligence and sensitivity.

According to Van Vliet, there were between 400 to 500 elephants around the capital city of Ayutthaya during the reign of King Prasat Thong, during the 17th century.

During his stay in Ayutthaya, Van Vliet mentioned a short account of the death of a white elephant. In the year 1633, a young white elephant was caught and brought to the palace. It died shortly afterwards.

King Prasat Thong was so upset that all the slaves who had guarded and assisted the animal were executed. Later, the king himself paid homage to the dead elephant and gave it a splendid cremation. All remains that had not been consumed by the fire were collected in a box and buried at a royal temple.

Looking back in time: How the 20th century sat

THEIR names might not be known widely across Thailand, but many Thais, especially the well-travelled ones, have more than likely rested in one of their chairs.

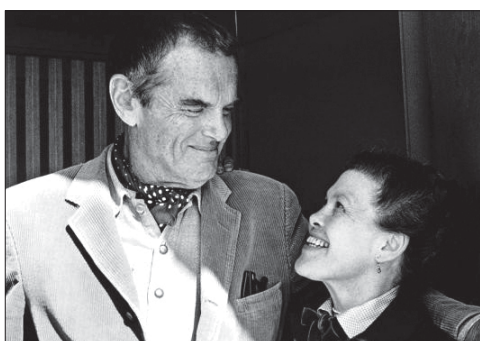
Charles and Ray Eames revolutionized modern furniture design during the 1950s, bringing to the modern home a look that was playful and functional as well as sleek and sophisticated, yet beautifully simple. Particularly remembered are the Eames Lounge and Ottoman, the famous moulded plastic chair, and their Lounge Wood Chair, which was lauded by *Time* magazine as the 'greatest design of the 20th century'.

Creators, designers and the general public has the chance to explore the inspirational stories of the husband-and-wife design team and reflect on their identity, philosophy and design spirit in 'Essential Eames: Icons of 20th Century Design', an exhibition co-hosted by Herman Miller and Chanintr Living at the Thailand Creative and Design

Centre.

Architect Charles Eames (1907-1978) and abstract artist Ray (Kaiser) Eames (1912-1988) met at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan in 1940, while Charles was head of the industrial design department and Ray was a new design student. A fateful encounter set them off on a lifelong journey as partners in both life and design. With a grand sense of adventure, Charles and Ray turned their curiosity and enthusiasm into creations that established them as a great design team. Their unique synergy led to a new look in furniture.

"I realized that people are familiar with the furniture, having seen it photographs



Charles and Ray Eames. Photo: The Nation

and films, but don't know the Eames name," says Eames Demetrios, the couple's grandson and author of *An Eames Primer*.

"As beautiful as their furniture is, it is their ideas that I'd like to share with others. An exhibition is a great way

to communicate those ideas to viewers around the world. We've designed it to be flexible for travelling and Bangkok is the sixth city it has been to.

"Their philosophy was that in the world of design, you had to be a 'good host' and anticipate the needs of your guests.

"That's a beautiful idea in so many ways. First of all, it underlines that the human

being is the center of the design process. The 'good host' standpoint is to make it affordable, comfortable, valuable and long lasting. It can be many different things and is not limited to one particular factor; in fact it encourages you to think about being a good host as much as possible... The interesting thing about the guest-host relationship is that being a good host is very universal. I don't think there is any culture in the world that does not have the sense of responsibility of host to guest. Thailand certainly has a strong tradition of being a good host to show off the best of its country."

Through June 28, visitors have the chance to see rare images, sketches and collector's pieces from Herman Miller's own archive, including a chair designed for Pope John Paul II, a vintage fiberglass Eames shell chair and more designs by Charles and Ray Eames.

— *The Nation*

Second foray into peas



WHEN I was a boy, my mother always reminded me before I left home to 'mind my Ps and Qs'. The meaning was clear enough: Literally, it meant 'look after the detail', but the general sense as I understood it was 'mind your manners', or more positively, 'be on your best behavior'.

But why Ps and Qs? The likeliest explanation was that it was phonetic shorthand for 'pleases' and 'thank yous'. There is, however, a more seductive interpretation – namely that in 18th century pubs in England both customers and bartenders kept a tally sheet of Ps (for pints) and Qs (for quarts) so they could keep count of how much ale had been consumed.

Whatever the truth of the matter, it clearly had nothing to do with peas. Ah well, at least it takes us, by a roundabout route, to our second foray into the subject of beans and – yes – peas.

There are many ways of classifying edible legumes, but perhaps the most useful way is to divide them into those eaten green and whole, often raw or merely blanched, and those varieties in which the actual pea or bean, either fresh or dried, is cooked.

Winged and long beans are in the first category, but Phuket's peas, unlike the European green or garden pea, are eaten raw or lightly cooked.

Oddly, the green pea, so familiar a presence in temperate climates, is rarely seen here. Instead, it gives way to two other broadly similar varieties: the snow pea, also known as *pisum*



Gardeners in Phuket should have no problem finding okra, as it thrives in Southeast Asia. Photo: Aravind Sivaraj

sativum, which has small immature peas inside flattish pods, and the sugar or snap pea, a more familiar looking legume, which has three to five larger peas in its pod.

Both forms, however, are normally cooked when young, and eaten whole. Allowed to ripen in the fierce heat of Thailand, the peas become hard and lose the succulence of their cool climate cousins. So the Thai way to eat *thua lantao* is to de-string them

where necessary and consume the tender pod in its entirety, either raw, stir-fried or par-boiled.

The European equivalent is the French *mange-tout*, which is the same species, but with a descriptive name meaning 'eat it all'.

What differentiates these peas from the temperate equivalent is the fact that the pod is not tough and fibrous; hence the practice of eating it whole.

Incidentally, the shoots of both varieties are highly esteemed and

considered a luxury, especially in Chinese cuisine. Mind you, you would need to cultivate lots of plants in order to harvest an adequate supply of leguminous greens.

If you want to grow these peas, the usual principles apply. Plant them about an inch-and-a-half deep in soil, initially water well, and provide support in the form of a wooden structure. Ideally, the soil should be slightly acidic with a pH of about 6.

Though we get more than enough sun, both these *mange-tout* varieties ideally require cooler conditions than those provided by Phuket. I have seen them growing here on wooden supports in the wet season, but mostly they are imported from China or Northern Thailand.

Finally, back to the bean-like pod, which is now actually classified as a member of the *hibiscus* genre. More familiar in Indian cuisine and known there as *bendi*, we know it as okra or, in deference to its shape, lady's finger. A visible presence in most Thai fresh markets, it also belongs to the 'eat it all' category.

The conical, tapered pods have fine, downy hairs and contain small whitish seeds. When eaten, they exude a slightly sticky, mucilaginous substance, but this can be reduced by cutting off the tops of the stalks and frying rather than boiling them.

As with all legumes, lady's fingers need to be picked when young, since the pods quickly become fibrous and woody. Older samples, which bend rather than snap at the tips, should be discarded.

The good news is that okra, or *kra ciap*, thrives everywhere in Southeast Asia, so gardeners should have no trouble in cultivating this climbing plant. It is particularly resistant to drought, so it is a good choice for your Phuket kitchen garden.

Seeds, which are available in packets, should be soaked overnight before planting.

For the nutritionally minded, okra are rich in potassium, folates, antioxidants and in Vitamin A and C. Good news all around.

Tip of the week

Technical terms

GARDENING books and horticulturalists often resort to technical language to describe plants and the processes associated with them.

While some people may object, these terms serve a very real purpose, since they offer a precise and concise description of floral characteristics.

Take the phrase 'terminal raceme'.

To put it into everyday language you would have to say something along the lines of 'a hanging cluster of small flowers attached by their stalks to a central stem, blooming at the end of branches'.

While writers try to explain such terms, or include them in a glossary, there is not always space to do so.

Simple leaves, often ovate (oval), have one blade. Compound leaves have blades divided into three or more leaflets, usually arranged on either side of a stem.

Examples help: *cannas*, *crotons*, *dracaenas* or *heliconias* have simple leaves, while all *cassias* have compound leaves.



Dracaenas have simple leaves. Photo: Serenity



You can eat this entire pea in one bite if you like. Photo: Jacinta Iluch Valero

Four of five ain't bad

Books

By James Eckardt

I HAVE long wanted to read the five Patrick Melrose novels by Edward St Aubyn.

Many critics have compared him to the early Evelyn Waugh, which is nonsense.

While Waugh and St Aubyn share a common public school, Oxford University background and a fascination with landed gentry, their literary styles are quite different.

Waugh was a terse and detached satirist, while St Aubyn is much more fond of simile and metaphor, with an ornate prose style that delves deeply into the minds of outlandish characters: a pederast, a heroin addict, a five-year-old child.

Though separated by style and by many years – Waugh died six years after St Aubyn's birth in 1960 – their common focus is on the vile and ghastly British upper class.

The first four of the novels' five have been published in a single volume, *The Patrick Melrose Novels* (Picador, London, 2012, 680pp). These are: *Never Mind* (1992), *Bad News* (1992), *Some Hope* (1994) and *Mother's Milk* (2005).

NEVER MIND

St Nazaire is a chateau in the south of France, a former convent where the Melrose family spends every August.

Here, the first novel opens when Patrick Melrose is five years old. His parents are monsters. His rich American mother is a submissive drunk, dominated by her brilliant, snobbish, sadistic English husband.

The whole series is largely about the horrible effects David and Eleanor Melrose have had upon their son.

In *Never Mind's* most shock-

ing scene, David spans Patrick and then ejaculates upon his bare buttocks.

BAD NEWS

In the second novel, *Bad News*, Patrick is a 22-year-old heroin-and-cocaine addict when he is summoned to New York upon the death of his father. No one has ever written more vividly about drugs.

Here he is injecting cocaine in his pusher's flat on the Lower East Side:

"Before he felt its effects he smelled the heartbreaking fragrance of the cocaine, and then a few seconds afterward, in a time-lapse frenzy, its cold geometric flowers broke out everywhere and carpeted the surface of his inner vision. Nothing could ever be as pleasurable as this."

In a bravura scene, Patrick is alone in a hotel room, going mad on uppers and downers, assailed by the voices of Dr Death, Attila the Hun, Cleopatra, Honest John, Vicar's Severed Head, Gift o' the Gab O'Connor, Mrs Mop, Captain Languid and Mocking Echoes. The novel ends with a stoned Patrick bearing his father's ashes on a plane back to London.

SOME HOPE

In *Some Hope*, Patrick is off drugs, 30 years old and miserable.

"His money, eroded by extravagance and medical bills, kept him from poverty without enabling him to buy his way out of boredom... He was therefore studying to become a barrister, in the hope that he would find some pleasure in keeping as many criminals as possible at large."

The set in this novel is a lavish party at a country estate. Princess Margaret is thoroughly eviscerated as the honored guest.

A whole host of titled and useless idiots is introduced and gleefully flogged, but Patrick has



Patrick Melrose is summoned to New York City upon the death of his father. Photo: Gryffindor

a rare moment of epiphany watching swans settle on a lake in a snowfall, leaving the estate grounds "with a strange feeling of elation".

MOTHER'S MILK

Patrick's precocious five-year-old son, Robert, opens the fourth novel, *Mother's Milk*.

The year is 2000, the place St Nazaire. The novel is told through the perspectives of Robert, his newborn brother Thomas, and his mother Mary.

Patrick is put through the agony of dealing with his infirm mother, Eleanor, who is both blindly selfish and devoted to her New Age foundation and its leader, a charlatan male nurse

named Seamus, who is scheming to wrest ownership of St Nazaire away from the family.

As Eleanor declines in a nursing home, the central question devolves into whether or not Patrick will arrange an assisted suicide.

Though sometimes over the top, this is the best work of fiction I've read in a long, long time.

Elements come together in Thai national artist's works for Venice Biennale

ONE of the world's top art exhibitions, the Venice Biennale, returns next month, and the 56th edition will feature more than 136 artists from 53 countries, with 89 of the artists exhibiting for the first time.

Among them is National Artist Dr Kamol Tassananchalee, who will represent Thailand in its seventh participation at the Biennale.

The theme this year is 'All the World's Futures' and Dr Kamol is confident that his conceptual series 'Earth, Air, Fire and Water' meets the requirements of this project, which is devoted to a fresh appraisal of the relationship of art and artists to the current state of things.

Kamol, 71, will bring 20 of his creations to the Thai Pavilion, which will be located at Paradiso Gallerie in the Giardini. His curator is Richard David Garst.

"It's rather like the Olympic Games,"

says Dr Kamol, who was named a National Artist in 1997. "The Venice Biennale has been going on for 120 years with the participation of such big countries as America, Russia, Japan, South Korea and Canada, all of which now have permanent venues because they rent them year after year. In the future, I think Thailand should have a permanent venue too. That would surely be better than having to move venues all the time. It is a pity that we can't do anything about the building. Because of this, we don't have the freedom to produce our



Dr Kamol Tassananchalee. Photo: The Nation

works of art as we would like to.

"Fortunately, my concept of 'Earth, Air, Fire and Water' fits well with the theme. These four elements have always been part of life and in my interpretation become Buddhist philosophy and internationalism. My series is composed of perforated and moveable stainless-steel sheets that I have adjusted to fit the space we have been given. Because we do not have a permanent venue, I've had to carefully study the height and the width of the building."

Dr Kamol adds that his 8x5-meter sculp-

ture will be installed at the exterior of the pavilion. Although it is intended to be laid on the ground, for the show it will be placed on a base. Inside the pavilion, visitors will see a perforated sculpture with neon lights shining through, symbolizing wind, waves and fire.

Dr Kamol believes that his concept will reach out to foreign visitors.

"It is symbolic, not realistic, and it has to be sensed through our emotions. Light shines through the perforated symbols of wind, sea waves and fire in the stainless steel and that should make it understandable to all," he says.

Dr Kamol has spent more than 1 million baht to create the works of art as well as to print 7,000 catalogs and pamphlets, which will be handed out over the six months of the show.

– The Nation

Rainmakers berth

Singapore Yacht Show draws high-net-worth individuals

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE wet weather in Singapore shouldn't have damped the spirits of Phuket's leading brokerages and charter companies who joined the Singapore Yacht Show (SYS) last week.

Many leading marine-industry operators in Phuket attended the show in hopes of tapping into the lucrative Chinese and Southeast Asian markets.

"The presence and enthusiasm of serious buyers and HNWI's [high net worth individuals] was felt strongly at this year's show, with most exhibitors already committing to return next year with a bigger and better presence," said Andy Treadwell, managing director of the show's organizer, Singapore Yacht Events.

"Obviously, the heavy rain every day was very disappointing, but we are happy to hear that this has clearly not impacted the caliber of the visitors or the overall satisfaction of our exhibitors."

Though it is too early to have specific figures on how well Phuket exhibitors did, Andy was confident that the connections created with qualified clients from mainland China and the wider Southeast Asian region would yield results.

"There could be weeks or months before they sign contracts. The important thing is that every single exhibitor we spoke to during the week said that it was the best year yet for them; good quality, qualified clients came to the show, and they had serious interest in their products and services," he said.

At the show, Simpson Marine had concrete results, as they achieved record sales and several signed contracts, including an Azimut 80 and two Lagoon 630s.

"Despite terrible weather, the serious buyers were not deterred and came out in full force. We



Superyacht Anastasia, 75.5m, is the largest boat to have participated in the Yacht Show. Photo: SYS

could not have asked for better results and we continue to see year-on-year growth at the show," said Mike Simpson, group managing director of Simpson Marine, based in Hong Kong.

"The buyers came from across the region, including Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand, clearly demonstrating the show's importance and reach in Asia."

The show continues to be hailed

as the most important boat show in the region, and will continue to support the industry in the entire region.

"By increasing support for the show from the world's biggest brands in yachting, we give visitors from within Singapore, as well as the wider region, more reason to come and learn about leisure marine pursuits," Andy explained.

"Increased awareness and uptake in yachting and boating will lead to a greater number of vessels cruising in popular destinations, such as Phuket.

"This increased popularity in cruising could result in a very real financial benefit through charter of yachts in countries such as Thailand. We are working hard with our partners to communicate the enormous fiscal opportunity

that simply must be taken by reducing regulations in Thailand and other countries to allow foreign-flagged vessels to charter freely in the region."

As first reported by the *Gazette*, the call for changes in chartering regulations for foreign-flagged superyachts was spearheaded by a group of key players in the local industry, including the SYS organizers who are planning to stage a major international superyacht charter show in Phuket, and taken up by Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul.

The push for change not only affects those directly involved in the boating industry, but also the wider supply chain in the local economy – and, importantly, caters to HNWI tourists, who are becoming increasingly targeted by Phuket as the island shies away from the troubles that come with mass-market tourism.

In step with such goals, the SYS hosted the live Lucanna Luxuria Auction, which saw several modern and contemporary art, jewelry, investment-grade gemstones and watches put on the block by Lucanna – Singapore's first local boutique auction house.

"The Singapore Yacht Show is a landmark event and I have been attending it for the last two or three years," said bidder Philippe Wimmer.

"I love the maritime flavor the show brings. I am here [at the auction] as all the pieces are amazing, but specifically I came for the watches. People who love yachts generally love watches and in particular the Patek Philippe Nautilus 3700, which is outstanding."

Also targeting HNWI – and many a dreamer – the event included the Supercar Rendezvous, where colorful convoys of Lamborghinis and Ferraris were displayed at the Esplanade, as well as a Classic Car Concours d'Elegance.



A number of supercars were on display to attract HNWI's to the event.



The Yacht Show also hosted a live auction of art, watches, gems and jewellery.



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Bared soles for fitness

Tropical island training with sand between your toes



Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther

IT'S hard to complain about life when you're sweating it out with the sand between your toes, the tropical sun on your back and the stunning blue of the Andaman ahead of you, making it a good thing that barefoot training is becoming more and more popular with trainers and coaches.

Many people are aware that barefoot running has been gaining in popularity. However, there are many other sports and activities that are prime for barefoot training, including: yoga, gymnastics, dance, muaythai, other martial arts and, my favorite, Clean The Beach Boot Camps.

Being barefoot is natural. Most of us learned to walk barefoot and spent lots of our childhood running around shoeless. Though we quickly become accustomed to shoes, it is an extremely liberating feeling to be without them. Once we get use to it – again – we all naturally love the feeling of being unconfined by shoes. But more importantly, training – and even walking – barefoot is something simple that we can do to improve the health of our feet, as well as the rest of our bodies.

What's strange though is that we have developed a mentality, which is finally being rolled back, that wearing shoes is 'natural' and that feet are not designed to support us properly and are fragile. This, of course, isn't the case – and a fairly silly assumption when you think about it. Of all the footed, pawed and hooved species of the world, why would *homo sapiens* need shoes? Lest we forget that an enormous number of people all over the world spend their whole lives without having



Kick off your trainers and join the Clean The Beach Boot Camp for some sole training. Photo: Mauri Grant

ever worn shoes. Many wander savannas and rain forests without the protection or support of shoes – the reward: strong, healthy feet.

In fact people who have never worn shoes before have very few foot problems!

Think about it:

1) The foot contains the most proprioceptors (sensors) in the body, so why would we want to deafen the messages to the nervous system by minimizing the amount of information received through our feet?

2) The foot contains 26 bones and 25 joints, which means there is a lot of coordination necessary to have your foot working at optimal efficiency. The foot has to move in all three planes, as it deals with gravity, multiplanar move-

ment, proprioception and dynamic stability. This all becomes hard when we have a barrier between its sensors and the world, such as orthotics, heel lifts and so on.

3) The body recognizes movements, not muscles, so the more we can take the foot to the end of its range of function without pain or discomfort, the better it will react, and the more likely it will allow us to activate our abs – even when we are simply walking.

4) Another advantage is simply that without a shoe on it's easier to diagnose issues starting with the feet that are leading to other physical issues, such as knee pain, hip dysfunction or sacroiliac joint (SIJ) pain.

It's best liken wearing shoes to how grains and dairy have become

incorporated in our diets – these are things recently introduced into our lives (as a species) and have many potential pitfalls, including, but not limited to: arch pain, arthritis of the foot, bunions, calluses, heel pain and overlapping toes.

On top of this, there are a slew of indirect issues associated with wearing shoes, especially ones that don't fit properly. These issues can develop in your ankles, knees or hips. They can also develop in your back.

Fashion has seduced many women into cramming their feet into narrow shoes and staggeringly tall stilettos – take a peek at what women are wearing as they trudge along Soi Bangla. The damage from these shoes is very real. I am constantly reminding my fe-

male clients about the dangers of high heels. Yes ladies, they might look good, but they are a sure fire way to fan the flames of future health issues due to progressively shortening and tightening the calf muscles, which sets in motion a chain of events that will effect other parts of your body, such as your back.

Okay, so even though shoes might be a certain kind of evil, you don't want to just kick them off and start running the streets without a care in the world, there are several things to consider.

Firstly, take in your environment. Outside of the obvious – avoid glass walking – be aware that most gyms won't let you slip out of your trainers. However, they will allow you to train in barefoot shoes, such as Vibram Five Fingers.

Secondly, don't forget where you're coming from. If you have engaged in barefoot practices, such as muaythai, in the past, you will probably adapt to other forms of shoeless training faster than someone who has worn shoes their whole life. Bottom line, listen to your body and take your time adjusting to either barefoot shoes or the real deal.

Basically, use common sense. Phuket can be hot – to put it modestly – so avoid freshly baked pavement and shoot for some grass or for the tide line on the beach.

If you're not sure that barefoot training is for you, at least kick off your shoes and give it a go with the Clean The Beach Boot Camp – there is no better introduction in a more beautiful place.

Krix Luther is a fully qualified personal trainer with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength and conditioning. For more information about Krix and his services, visit krixluther.com.

Hot days bringing on rising risk of heat stroke

LAST week saw some of the hottest temperatures that Thailand has ever seen and while the rain that followed served to cool things down, the hot season is far from over.

Of course, this being a tropical country, few places are ever really cool, but in the summer, with the sun at its zenith, the risk of hot-weather-related diseases such as heat stroke are ever present.

And with global warming almost certain to bring increasingly higher temperatures, it is important that we learn to recognize the symptoms, as well as what to do, whether the weather knocks us out or not.

Heat stroke occurs when the body cannot cope with the sudden increase of heat. The temperature control center in the brain cannot work fast enough to order other systems to release heat.

Normally, this temperature control center in this brain will keep body temperature

at a steady 37 degrees Celsius.

The center is sensitive to the temperature of blood passing through, and when the blood temperature rises, the center will send a signal through nerve fibers throughout the body. Blood vessels will then expand to allow heat to be released from the body.

The metabolic system is reduced in order to lower heat production. If the temperature-control system center is overheated and fails to perform normally, you will experience what is called a heat stroke.

The more a person is dehydrated, the higher the risk of heat stroke. Heavy exercise over a prolonged period makes the body less tolerant to dehydration. When there is insufficient blood to feed the skin and inner organs, such as the brain and liver, the body reacts by feeding blood to the internal organs and muscles, at a cost to the skin. As a result, body temperature rises uncontrollably.



When it gets hot – everybody and every animal – needs to hydrate. Photo: Alexander Witt

Symptoms of heat stroke include the following:

- Thirst, dry mouth and throat
- High temperature, rapid and shallow breathing

- Dizziness, blurred vision
- Uncontrolled movements
- Nausea and vomiting
- Loss of consciousness

– *The Neurology Centre / The Nation*

CRICKET

Thalang surge to vie for place in semi-finals

THALANG (TCT) claimed an outright victory by an innings and 93 runs over a heavily depleted Village Cricket Team at the Alan Cooke Ground last Sunday.

The result has catapulted TCT up the table and all but guaranteed them a place in the Phuket Cricket League semi-finals.

TCT won the toss and elected to field. Neil Culpan delivered a wayward first over, but also found the edge of the bat and the wicket of opener Mike Khan (4 runs).

The wickets continued to fall for short tallies, but Andrew McMillan and MM Ghadge put up a good contest until Bill Stahmer broke through with two wickets to end the Village innings on 8/74.

TCT got off to a cautious run chase with the high-run rate coming largely from the 27 sundries in the first 10 overs.

Just before drinks, TCT had taken first-innings points, and after 24 overs and 216 runs, Stahmer (48* off 35 balls) declared TCT's innings with a lead of 142 runs.

After sending the Village back in to bat, TCT's Sylar picked up a remarkable 4 wickets for 2 runs from four overs as TCT claimed an outright win in just 15.4 overs.

Laguna will play ICC this Sunday from 10am in the final match of the regular season in what is shaping to be a knockout match.

— Andrew McMillan



Seniors swing at ITF Open

By Chris Husted

MORE than 80 international players from 24 countries competed in the Phuket ITF Seniors Open 2015 contested at Thanyapura last week.

Timothy Alcos of the Philippines took top honors in V35 Men's Singles after dispatching Arjun Varma of Singapore in straight sets (6-1 6-1) in the final last Saturday.

Right-handed Daniel Rajskey of the Czech Republic, playing with his double-handed backhand, had a slightly tougher time in claiming his victory in the V40 final, but eventually dismissed Bram Lomans of the Netherlands 6-4 6-2.

The victory left Rajskey ranked 39 in the world in ITF Seniors Pro circuit.

Thais played well in the tourney, with Chatree Mahattadul winning the V45 Men's Singles competition and Wichai Treethin taking top honors in the V60 division.

In the remaining men's singles, Rashid Ahmad Malik of Pakistan won his V50 final against Sanjai Kumar of India (6-1 6-1), and Frank Lapre of the Netherlands outclassed Jiri Cermak of the Czech Republic 6-4 6-3 in the V55 final.

In the women's singles, Tzvelelina Havren of Bulgaria was too strong for Hiroko Friend of Japan (6-1 6-0) in the V40 final, while Gaby Los Santos of Malaysia out-stroked Marcia Yanagi of Brazil (6-4 6-3) in the V45 final.

Havren went on to pair up with Alec Arho Havren of Finland to



Right-handed Daniel Rajskey of the Czech Republic struggled to claim victory in the V40 final. Photo: Thanyapura

win the V35 Mixed Doubles, defeating Thai duo Bongkoch Boratisa and Kittipong Chantara 6-4 6-4.

Virapol Cholvibul, Thanyapura's director of sports events, praised the event a success, despite the heat the players had to endure on court.

"This was the second time Thanyapura hosted the Phuket ITF Seniors Open," he noted.

"Our aim was to encourage people to play tennis and to help players develop their skills to a higher level. At the same time, we wanted to attract more international tourists to Phuket, which is one of the world's best island destinations."

Mr Virapol said he had received positive feedback from the players and spectators at last

week's event.

"We have world-class tennis courts and other facilities that players and fans could enjoy through this event," he said.

"I hope they all return to Thanyapura in the near future. We intend to host this tournament as an annual event, and we look forward to holding it again on April 25-30 next year."

Phuket FC bounce on back on double

PHUKET FC completed their home double last week by securing all six points in two matches, which elevated the team to fifth position in the league.

After defeating Samut Songkram 2-1 last Wednesday, the Ronins brought their swords crashing down on visiting Chiang Mai FC at Surakul Stadium last Saturday.

The northerners had a dream start to the match. After just four minutes, Jaroonsak Somkong headed the ball into the net from a left corner kick delivered by Chanatpol Sikhamonthon.

But their joy was short lived: The Ronins replied with an equalizer only two minutes later. Vasan Samarnsin broke into the penalty area and chipped the ball over Chiang Mai FC goalkeeper Kritsada Nonchai to score.

Phuket FC continued creating scoring opportunities, and missed a gifted chance to take the lead in the 19th minute, when Moussa Sylla nabbed the ball from a poor clearance by the Chiang Mai defense.

Sylla fired a shot from 20 yards out, but his shot was beautifully saved by Chiang Mai keeper Kritsada.

Phuket FC maintained the pressure – and control of the game – throughout the sec-



The two big Phuket FC wins follow a devastating loss earlier this month. Photo: Phuket FC

ond half, and missed another chance to take the lead in the 52nd minute.

Ronins midfielder Alef Pochi passed a brilliant ball through the Chiang Mai FC backline to Berlin Nlome Ndebi, who had only the keeper to beat – but his low shot was too light and easily saved by keeper Kritsada.

Chiang Mai's chances of retaliation suffered a blow after defender Asawa Singthong was sent off on receiving his second yellow card in the 60th minute for a nasty challenge on Phuket FC's Andre Luiz Lopes.

With Chiang Mai reduced to 10 men, Phuket FC finally broke down their defense

and scored again just seven minutes later.

A long ball crossed from the right by Lopes was improperly cleared by keeper Kritsada. The ball spilled to Phuket FC's top scorer Berlin, who headed it home to take the score to 2-1.

Berlin was later named Man of the Match for his outstanding efforts on the field.

The win took Phuket FC to the fifth place overall on the 2015 Yamaha League 1 table. The Phuket side is in equal third place on points, but fifth on goal difference.

Phuket FC was to travel to Prachuap Khiri Khan on Wednesday to take on Prachuap FC, who are eighth in the league, just three points behind the Ronins.

"We are all very happy with the result tonight, but we will focus more on the upcoming away game," said Phuket FC president Pramukpisit Achariyachai after the match on Saturday.

"Our defense is not very good when we play outside Phuket."

Phuket FC will return to Surakul Stadium this Saturday for their home match against bayside rivals Krabi FC. Kickoff is at 7pm.

— Saroj Kueprasertkij

Mayweather vs Pacquiao

Fight of the century live, 10am Phuket time this Sunday

From Page 36

...The current PPV record is 2.5mn buys for a 2007 fight between Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya, but Saturday's bout should obliterate that mark with at least 3mn boxing fans expected to tune in.

"A lot of people over the last half dozen years have been saying, 'Well MMA or UFC is taking over,'" famed ring announcer Michael Buffer said. "MMA, UFC, no doubt about it, are very successful and have a hard core and loyal group of fans... but they don't have the scope or the worldwide appeal that boxing does.

"Boxing is huge in Russia and the eastern European countries. Asia, of course, with Pacquiao. Chinese fighters now have started to step up.

"When you have a billion people, if you just get 10 per cent of the population to watch a fight on television, you do the math."

And the numbers are eye-popping. While sport fans have grown numb to multi-million soccer transfer fees and routine US\$100mn player contracts, the



Pacquiao (right) of the Philippines and Mayweather of the US will step into the ring this weekend. Photo: Reuters

figures surrounding Saturday's fight have provided a jolt.

With Showtime and HBO pre-

dicting unprecedented pay-per-view numbers, ticket brokers have also been startled at the staggering prices on the re-sale market with some ringside seats on StubHub

commanding \$109,000.

The MGM Grand Garden Arena, which has a capacity of 16,800, will be packed with high

rollers, A-listers, entertainment moguls and business tycoons, tickets out of reach for all but the rich and famous with only 500 offered for sale to the general public. Those 500 tickets were sold in less than 30 seconds after their release Thursday last week.

As usual, casinos up and down the Las Vegas Strip will flash the names of big-name headliners on their glitzy marquees, but for this weekend the hottest ticket in town once again belongs to boxing.

"The Mayweather-Pacquiao fight is an event that transcends not just boxing but sport in general," said Peter Nelson, vice president of programming for HBO Sports.

"The quality of competition is what attracts fans. People want to see athletes at the top level of their sport in the toughest test imaginable.

"Greatness is more than talent, it's seeking out moments of adversity and moments of reckoning and showing people what you can do in those moments."

— Reuters

The fight will be broadcast live in Thailand from 10am on Channel 7.

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PAYDAY

‘Fight of the Century’ to break records, in the ring and at the box office

By Steve Keating

EVEN in Las Vegas, where fortunes are won and lost on the roll of the dice, Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao have Sin City abuzz over the megafight this weekend that will generate millions and reshape the sport business landscape.

From US\$100,000 ringside seats to \$150 million paydays, Saturday's long-awaited showdown (10am Sunday, Phuket time) between the greatest fighters of a generation is expected to be the richest fight of all-time and smash records in knockout fashion.

"It is precedent setting and it breaks every financial model known to man," said Rick Horrow, sports lecturer at Harvard Law School. "The pay-per-view is \$100, the tickets are almost unaffordable for even the millionaire fight fan."

"The numbers are almost unrealistic

yet we have said that about a lot of things in global sports: television rights, \$2 billion franchises, billion-dollar stadiums.

"So nothing surprises me anymore, but this in many ways is a watershed event for boxing and maybe the business of sport."

Mayweather and Pacquiao will bank a ransom after the fight. Their night's work is likely to land both men at the top of Forbes' 2015 highest-paid athletes list.

The undefeated Mayweather (47-0) is guaranteed \$120mn and Filipino Pacquiao (57-5-2) is assured \$80mn, but could top those figures depending on pay-per-view (PPV) sales.

Showtime and HBO will jointly broadcast the bout, which is one of the most eagerly anticipated in boxing since the 1975 'Thrilla in Manila' between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier...

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