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Phuket Gazette

No worries
Island quakes
nothing to be
concerned about,
says Gov Nisit

INSIDE TODAY

May 9 - 15, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with [The Nation](http://TheNation.com)

20 Baht

‘THE LAND HAS YET TO BE RETURNED TO THE STATE’ Tainted past

Land slated for park entangled in property scandal

By **Chutharat Plerin**

A PLAN by Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup to transform an area of 69 rai of long-contested land near Tri Trang Beach into a public park received special attention last weekend.

Maj Gen Intarat Yodbangtoey, adviser to Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya, inspected the site on May 2.

Gen Intarat explained to the accompanying members of the press that the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry and the Interior Ministry were working on ‘returning the land to Patong locals’, after years of its ownership being contested in the courts.

“However, as of today, the land has yet to be returned to the state because of a recent claim to its ownership,” he confessed. “We want to take back the land, but we will wait until after the Supreme Court has made its final decision.”

DARK HISTORY

Ms Chalermluck told the *Gazette* on Monday that she had no idea that the ownership of the property was still being contested in the courts.



Maj Gen Intarat Yodbangtoey (center), adviser to Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya, inspected the site on May 2. Photo: Phuket PR

The Supreme Court had ordered that the land titles be revoked for 3,000 rai of land in Phuket; the titles for the 69 rai of land in question being among those deemed to be illegally issued under the notorious *SorPorKor* 4-01 Phuket land-grab scandal more than 10 years ago.

The *SorPorKor* program in Phuket began in November 1994, when then-Agriculture Minister Suthep Thaugsuban ceded title deeds to 592 plots, including land near the Kata Viewpoint, Kamala and other parts...

Continued on Page 6

Banned jet-skis return to Surin, danger prevails

MARINE officials are investigating reports that jet-ski operators have returned to Surin Beach, where the wave-riding machines are banned.

The investigation follows recent reports of jet-ski tots bringing the machines onto Surin Beach, as well as allowing them to be driven dangerously close to swimmers.

Full Story Page 3

Illegal pangolin sellers killed in double-homicide

POLICE in Krabi are searching for at least three suspects in connection with a double-homicide of a couple who were engaged in illegally trading pangolins.

The bodies of the married couple were found with nylon ropes tied around their necks in a rubber plantation on Monday.

Full Story Page 7

Yacht industry garners support for law changes

THE Phuket Marine Office will table the idea of creating temporary chartering licences for foreign-flagged superyachts, as Thailand pushes for the province to become a maritime hub for Southeast Asia.

A public meeting will be held on May 11 to discuss the topic, along with other issues retarding growth in the industry in Thailand.

Full Story Page 6

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This Week



Business

A look into who actually owns content posted on social media. **Page 11**



Property

Find a place to hide away in the center of Phuket. **Page 25**



Explore

The tale of our final night dive of the season off Kata. **Page 28**



In Focus

Hang out to get fit at an aerial yoga class in Chalong. **Page 29**



Food

Spice Box whips up home-style Indian food. **Page 30**



Sport

BISP youngsters win gold at football tourney in Bangkok. **Page 34**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Phuket foundations ramp up efforts to help Nepalese

By Chutharat Plerin and Wayne Wraith

THE Thai-Nepalese Foundation is now accepting donations of relief supplies to aid the victims of the disastrous earthquake in Nepal, the foundation's president confirmed on May 1.

Supplies being collected by the foundation include clothing, medicine, tents (family size), gloves and sanitary napkins.

"If you have a lot of supplies and are unable to transport them to the foundation, please call us. We will arrange to collect the items," said Panuphong Limbuprasertkul, president of the foundation.

Items can be dropped off in Patong at the foundation, officially called the Shree Bhagawat Dhaam Sanatan Mandir Foundation, located in Soi Kuan Yang off of Phra Baramee Road.

Monetary donations to the 'Phuket Together For Nepal Disaster Victims' fund can be made at the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall; directly at the Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town; at the Phuket Red Cross Center at Saphan Hin; or any government office on the island.

Donations can also be made directly into either of the following accounts: Krung Thai Bank, bank



Relief items are now being accepted. Photo: Thai-Nepalese Foundation

account number 8050669254 or Kasikornbank [KBank], account number 5322397730.

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach is also collecting monetary donations for the victims.

All money collected will be sent through Rotary Club channels to Rotary Clubs in the disaster areas.

"This relates back to how many people helped us during our time in need during the 2004 tsunami," said Brad Kenny, president of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. "The Rotary Club of Patong Beach had more than US\$1 million

donated from people around the world for our work in Thailand.

"This is our way to acknowledge how the world opened their hearts to us and to give back on behalf of all Phuketians.

Those wishing to donate money for the Nepal disaster fund should visit rotarypatong.org and click on 'Bank Account Details' for directions. All donations must be followed up with an email to president@rotarypatong.org or phone call to Mr Kenny at 081-633 4279 detailing the amount that is earmarked for the fund.

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Trial for alleged baby rapist set back by delay in autopsy results

A DELAY in autopsy results has resulted in police having to defer bringing to trial the alleged rapist and killer of a 1-year-old baby boy.

Somsak Yakob turned himself in to police on April 6, but denied the allegations.

Mr Somsak was arrested and taken to Phuket Provincial Court on April 8, but was bailed out by relatives on the same day, Lt Ronnaphum Permpoon of the Phuket City Police said.

Mr Somsak has been formally charged with aggravated assault causing death. Additional charges for the suspected rape are pending until police receive the autopsy results, Lt Ronnaphum explained.

The autopsy results and forensic tests conducted by the Region 8 Police headquarters have been sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Police General Hospital in Bangkok for further verification, said Lt Ronnaphum.

"It will take about a month for the results to come back to Surat Thani from Bangkok, and before we receive them ourselves," he said. "We could plainly see bruising on the body, but we cannot verify whether or not the baby was raped until we receive the results."

— **Thanaphon Phromthong**

Flames rip through shops on Koh Phi Phi, causing estimated B1mn damage



Police believe the fire was sparked by an electrical short circuit inside one of the 10 shops consumed by the fire.

POLICE believe that an electrical short circuit caused the fire that consumed 10 shops on Phi Phi Don on May 1.

The fire broke out in the tourist-dense area of Ton Sai, gutting restaurants, rental rooms, clothing stores and a tour company storefront.

Nobody was injured in the blaze.

"A house next to the group of connected buildings was burnt too. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident," said Lt Col Danai

Niyomdech of the Krabi City Police.

Firefighters spent more than one hour dousing the flames, with help from residents and tourists.

"We believe the cause of the fire was a short circuit in one of the units. However, we are waiting for experts to examine the site and confirm the cause," said Col Danai.

"At this stage, we believe the damage is about 1 million baht."

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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Jet-skis return to Surin

By Chutharat Plerin

MARINE officials are investigating reports that jet-ski operators have returned to Surin Beach, where the wave-riding machines are banned.

The investigation, led by Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut, follows recent reports and photographs of jet-ski touts bringing the machines onto Surin Beach, as well as allowing them to be driven dangerously close to swimmers.

"I will have my officers check whether or not these guys are operators, or if they are just tourists that have ridden the jet-skis over from another beach," Mr Phuriphat told the *Gazette* on Monday.

"If they are jet-ski operators, we will find out which club they belong to. If they are not members, I will take legal action against them."

Regarding jet-skis being ridden to Surin from nearby beaches, Mr Phuriphat told the *Gazette* that he has not taken any serious measures to stop the wrongdoing, as to the best of his knowledge it is being done by unknowing tourists.

"Jet-skis are banned from Surin Beach, but some tourists drive them there from beaches nearby. At this stage, we do not have any measures in place to prevent this from happening," Mr Phuriphat said.



Pictures have surfaced of jet-ski touts on Surin Beach.

"I do not know what to do. I have ordered jet-ski operators to inform tourists about the ban at Surin Beach, but many tourists do not abide by the rules."

"It would not be fair of us to fine the jet-ski operators over something that their customers are doing."

Mr Phuriphat added that he would call the jet-ski operators together again to discuss the issue further.

However, a date has not yet been set for this meeting.

This is not the first time complaints have been made about dangerous jet-ski antics at

Surin Beach.

Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) witnessed the practice himself while inspecting the beach in January.

During his inspection, he watched a rented jet-ski from Laem Singh being driven to Surin Beach, where the rider repeatedly came dangerously close to swimmers at high speed.

Asked about the ongoing jet-ski dilemma on Surin Beach, Mr Ma-ann told the *Gazette* that it was up to Mr Phuriphat to find a solution.

"It is beyond my authority to enforce jet-ski regulations. Mr Phuriphat has taken full responsibility for the issuance of permits and enforcement of the rules," he said.

"I have already talked to Mr Phuriphat about ways to ensure people's safety at Surin Beach. One idea we had was to rope off the area to prevent jet-skis from coming near swimmers."

"However, after discussing the idea with *OrBorTor* councilors, we agreed not to rope off or install buoys in the water, as jet-skis are already banned. We also do not feel it is sensible to pay more money to enforce a rule that is already set."

"I personally am against installing ropes and buoys, as it would surely affect the beach's natural beauty."



A 5-year-old boy died when the motorbike he was on crashed into a parked car on the bridge.

Boy, 5, killed in crash with parked car on island bridge

A 5-YEAR-OLD boy was killed after his 16-year-old relative crashed into the back of a car parked illegally on side of the Srisoonthorn Bridge, which leads from Phuket to Phang Nga, on Tuesday afternoon.



The boys' motorbike slammed into the back of the car.

"The boy died instantly. However, his relative Chohnakorn Cheylangsad, 16, was still alive when we arrived," Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police told the *Gazette*.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers rushed the unconscious Mr Chohnakorn to Thalang Hospital.

Inside the illegally parked car in the northbound lane was 42-year-old Ismael Manreh.

"I parked on the left-side of the road to take in the view. Suddenly, I heard someone crash into the back of my car," said Mr Ismael.

"I got out and saw the dead boy and the seriously injured man."

Mr Ismael was charged with parking in a prohibited area, confirmed Maj Santi.

"We have yet to decide whether or not to press charges over the boy's death," he added.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Motorcyclists to face law for using underpass

OFFICIALS have set a deadline of May 15 for local authorities to start charging drivers of motorbikes for using the recently completed Darasamuth Underpass.

"The underpass has been open for a month, and in that time we have noticed many motorbikes, including some with sidecars, driving through it," said Deputy Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith during an inspection of the Samkong Underpass on May 2.

"This is dangerous. There is no dedicated motorcycle lane through the underpass. After May 15, local officers will arrest and charge drivers, and they will make sure new signs and lights are installed to make sure all drivers understand the rules."

The charge will be 'breaking traffic regulations', as indicated by traffic signs, for which the penalty is a fine of up to 1,000

baht, Mr Arkhom noted.

The practice of driving across the double solid lines south of the underpass in order to access or exit the street to Wichit Police Station will stop, he added.

"This is also very dangerous, and local officers will take steps to make sure this no longer happens," he said.

The charge of 'breaking traffic regulations' will also apply to this, Mr Arkhom confirmed.

The move to ramp up safety measures at the Darasamuth Underpass follows the tunnel's first accident last month, when the driver of a motorcycle with a sidecar escaped with his life after his three-wheeler was clipped by a passing truck.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin and Thanaphon Phromthong



The first accident in the new underpass involved a motorbike with a sidecar. Photo: Phuket Highways Office

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Solider nabbed for late night bag snatch

AN ARMY private and his friend were arrested in Thalang on Monday night for bag-snatching.

"We were able to identify the suspects from a description given to us by the victim," Cherng Talay Police Superintendant Serm Kwannimit said on Tuesday.

"The two suspects grabbed the victim's bag and sped off together on a motorbike."

Private Chonlatea Krolek, 23, who entered the military in April and is based at the Phaya Intira Military camp in Pattani, and Kittameth Jampada, also 23, who had just completed his two-year military service on May 1, were arrested at a self-service petrol machine in Thalang.

The two men were caught with 540 baht, a mobile phone and the victim's backpack. Police also seized a walkie-talkie and the motorbike used in the robbery.

Both men were charged with committing theft at night using a motor vehicle.

"They both confessed to the crime," said Col Serm.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Phuket gifted B1.3bn for roads

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DEPUTY Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith announced on May 2 that Phuket will receive funding of more than 1.3 billion baht to build underpasses at Bang Khu on the bypass road and at Chalong Circle.

Included in the funds is 200 million baht to build a flyover at the Koh Kaew Intersection on Thepkrasattri Road and another one at the main airport turnoff on Thepkrasattri Road in Mai Khao.

Mr Arkhom delivered the news after inspecting the progress made on the Samkong Underpass in front of the Tesco shopping center on the bypass road.

"Despite the project being nine per cent behind schedule, it is still on target for completion by the end of this year," Mr Arkhom said.

Work began on the 850mn-baht underpass in September 2013 under a concession granting 720 days for completion.

However, progress suffered delays last year when workers were forced to move power cables and water mains pipes, making the June 25, 2015 deadline impossible to achieve.



Mr Arkhom said the Samkong underpass is on track to open this year.

During his visit, Mr Arkhom confirmed that the Highways Department had been approved to allocate 600mn baht to build the Bang Khu Underpass, where Thepkrasattri Road joins the

bypass road.

The Phuket Highways Office had also been granted a further 570mn baht to build an underpass at Chalong Circle, he added.

"We are now in the process of

looking for contractors for both projects," Mr Arkhom said. "We expect to confirm who the contractors are by the middle of June, and construction of both projects will start before the end of the year."

New projects, aimed at alleviating Phuket's ever-worsening traffic jams, revealed by Mr Arkhom today included a 200mn baht flyover at the Koh Kaew Intersection, long known for its daily, mile-long tailbacks.

The Department of Highways first publicly recognized the Koh Kaew Intersection as a 'tailback blackspot' in 2012. The move to build a flyover at the busy junction bypasses previous concerns with expanding the number of lanes there further. The junction already has six lanes; three each way.

The plan to build a flyover at the Mu Dok Khao Intersection on Thepkrasattri Road in Mai Khao, where most of the traffic turns off to reach Phuket International Airport, aims to reduce the volume of traffic there.

Additional reporting by
Chutharat Plerin

Chalong Marina given B172mn budget top-up

THE Transport Ministry has granted the Phuket Marine Office a total of 172 million baht in order to complete the seawall and marina in Chalong Bay.

Transport Deputy Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith on May 2 revealed the news during his inspection of the facilities, which are currently under construction.

"The Marine Department has approved 98mn baht to complete the final phase of the seawall, which is slated to be finished by November," Mr Arkhom said.

"Another 74mn baht has been granted to complete the final phase of the actual marina, which is now expected to be finished by September next year."

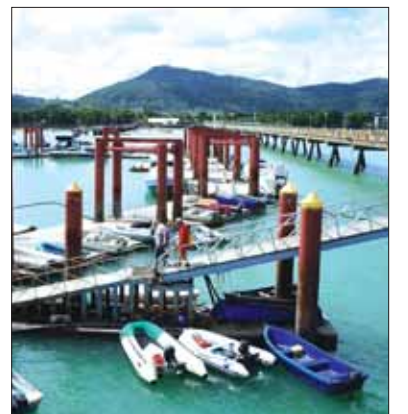
The Chalong Marina has taken more than eight years to complete.

The latest allocated funds bring the price tag for the facility up to 477mn baht.

"After construction is complete, we will have a much better marina and a strong seawall, which will support yachts and superyachts," Mr Arkhom said.

Ongoing repairs to the marina have been needed for years, as the deteriorating facility slowly became a safety hazard for tourists boarding or disembarking boats there.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut in October last year prohibited boats from mooring within 200 meters of the still-incomplete marina for an entire year while renovations and construction to the seawall were carried out.



The Chalong Marina project is expected to be functional by next year. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Just months earlier, the marina was falling apart, with officials posting a line of small red and white flags to mark a large metal pillar that lurked beneath the water's surface near the pier, posing a hazard to passing boats.

"After the project is complete, we will have a facility that can accommodate about 45 yachts," Mr Phuripat told the *Gazette* on Monday.

The push to complete the long-awaited marina follows Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul pledging her support for changes in visa and chartering legislation to secure the island's position as the top yachting destination in the region.

A public hearing, with an English-language translator, to discuss the legal measures needed to support the push for regional supremacy will be held on May 11.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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Officials play down fears of possible quake disaster

By Chutharat Plerin

OFFICIALS have played down fears that the 4.6 magnitude earthquake off Phuket on Wednesday signaled potentially more destructive temblors from the same fault line in the future.

The quake struck at 4:18am, with an epicenter about 20 kilometers off Phuket's east coast, Governor Nisit Jansomwong told the press following the first quake on Wednesday morning. Following the governor's announcement, a second, lighter earthquake struck in the same area.

"The quake failed to trigger a tsunami warning," Governor Nisit said. "After the earthquake, all local officials and village leaders throughout Phuket were ordered to inspect their areas and file damage reports. There were none filed."

Gov Nisit assured that the earthquake provided no cause for alarm. He said that the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) and other relevant government agencies were monitoring the situation.

"They will update the public as necessary," he noted.

Santhawat Riwleung, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office, concurred.

"The quake struck at a depth of 4km, but measured only 4.6 in magnitude," Mr Santhawat told



Governor Nisit happily told the press that there was no need to worry over the two quakes. Photo: PR Dept

the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"For an earthquake to cause a tsunami, it would need to be at least 6.5 Richters, depending on where the earthquake strikes."

Mr Santhawat added that the fault line along which this morning's quake shuddered – officially called the Klong Marui fault – was unlikely to unleash

earth-shattering devastation.

"Earthquakes along this fault should not register more than 5 Richters, so please do not panic," he assured.

"However, I will ask the Department of Mineral Resources to confirm my understanding about how serious the earthquakes along this fault can be."

The Klong Marui fault is regarded by the Department of Mineral Resources as a 'basin-binding fault', rather than a 'major strike-slip fault'.

The Klong Marui fault is also responsible for many of the hot springs on the mainland that have become major tourist attractions, the department notes.

Mysterious Brit burglar still at large



Mr Machin is still at large. Photo: Karon Police

KARON Police are still trying to track down a British thief, known only by his alias 'Charlie Machin', who is wanted for robbing a Swedish man's home of about 200,000 baht in valuables in March.

"We only have this name and a few pictures of him. All farang [Caucasians] look the same. It has been very hard to find him," Lt Chamaiporn Supakom of the Karon Police told the *Gazette*.

"We checked with Phuket Immigration, but they have no record of a Charlie Machin in Phuket."

Police originally learned the name 'Charlie Machin' from hospital records, but staff at Thalang Hospital confirmed that Mr Machin was not asked to present a passport during his visit.

Despite the lack of information and leads, police are continuing their search for the mysterious thief.

"If anyone has any information about Mr Machin or his whereabouts, please call the Karon Police at 076-396393 or 098-013 1191 at any time of the day or night," Lt Chamaiporn said.

— *Kongleaphy Keam*



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The destroyed taxi.

Airport taxi slams into 18-wheeled truck

AN AIRPORT taxi driver faces charges of reckless driving after his car slammed into an 18-wheeled truck near Mai Khao Temple, in northern Phuket, the morning of April 30.

The taxi rammed the trailer broadside, but luckily for taxi driver Vichan Artham, 35, the car spun out from under the trailer and came to rest in roadside bushes next to a house.

"Mr Vichan suffered only minor injuries to his head and back," confirmed Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police. "He was taken to Thalang Hospital for treatment as a precaution."

Truck driver Sumet Kalasri, 39, was not injured in the impact.

"Mr Sumet was heading north-bound when the accident happened," Maj Santi said.

"He said he was passing Mai Khao Temple when the taxi exited a side street at high speed, and that he could not avoid the collision."

Police have yet call Mr Vichan to the police station to question him about the accident, Maj Santi confirmed to the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

Hospital staff, however, confirmed Mr Vichan had been released from hospital on May 1.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Cyclists injured in Phuket Town firework explosion

A FIREWORK injured four cyclists after it exploded in a crowd at the start line of a night ride in Phuket Town on May 2.

The four injured were taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for minor injuries and released within a few hours, confirmed one of the organizers of the Plukpanya Night Ride, who declined to be named.

"We will pay for any medical costs and refund the registration fees of those injured. We will ensure nothing like this happens again," said the organizer.

Plukpanya Night Ride organizers set the firework off to commence the 23-kilometer ride from Lime Light Avenue to Kathu.

"The firework was lit on the side of the road. It shot up into the sky, but then fell to the ground, where it exploded," one witness told the *Gazette*.

Police will not be investigating further or taking any legal action, confirmed Sub Lt Prawet Mueangram of the Phuket City Police.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



The injured cyclists were taken to hospital.

Foreign-flagged superyacht charters possible for Phuket

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Marine Office will table the idea of creating temporary chartering licenses for foreign-flagged superyachts, as Thailand pushes for the province to become a maritime hub for Southeast Asia.

"There will be a public hearing, with an English-language translator, to discuss what legal measures need to be taken to ensure that Phuket becomes the destination in the region for yachts and superyachts," said Phuket Marine chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut.

"We will be looking at which licenses can be given to foreign-flagged yachts and superyachts to allow them to charter from Phuket."

The meeting falls in line with orders handed down by the Ministry of Transport, explained Mr Phuriphat.

The meeting, which is expected to comprise about 120 partici-



Yacht Haven recently completed installation of a dedicated superyacht pier, delivering the region its first 100-meter superyacht berths marina-side. Photo: Chris Husted

pants from the yachting industry and other relevant sectors, will be held on May 11 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, and headed by Marine Department Director Chula Sulmanop.

In January, Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview that changes in visa and chartering legislation were needed to secure

the island's position as the top yachting destination in the region. The minister's commitment to the changes has been backed by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.

Contested land marked for park

From page 1

...of the Nakkerd Hills, to 489 farmers.

The *SorPorKor* program aimed to give poor, landless farmers the right to use government land to farm in order to make a living.

In 2004, *SorPorKor* papers for 3,000 rai were revoked, following a ruling by the *SorPorKor* Land Commission that the land was not being used as intended.

It was later found that members of 11 wealthy families in Phuket were among the land recipients.

Ms Chalermkluck said that she thought the rights to the 69 rai, as claimed by the prominent Patong-

based Tantiwit family had long been laid to rest.

"The Supreme Court ruled that Banlue Tantiwit was not qualified to receive *SorPorKor* land," she said. "I thought that the land had been returned to the state since that is what the Supreme Court had ordered."

"But now, another person has filed an appeal and claims to own the land. I do not know who that person is."

Nonetheless, Ms Chalermkluck vowed to have the site transformed into a public park.

"It will take time, but I will do my best to give more to Patong and the tourists who visit," she said.

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Fishing boats raided for human-trafficking

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong joined a random inspection of three Phuket fishing boats near Rassada Pier as part of a nationwide crack down on illegal trawlers and human-trafficking of migrant workers in the industry on April 29.

The boarding party comprised officers from the Phuket Marine Police, Royal Thai Navy and other government agencies, accompanied by Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pinit Sirichai.

"The inspection focused on checking work permits and business licences, and to check on what the workers are paid and how are they treated by their employers," said Governor Nisit.

The 47 workers – seven Thais and 40 Myanmar nationals – and the three fishing vessels were all found to be legal.

"Each fisherman receives a salary of 8,000 baht per month plus a bonus from the catch each month, which alone is about an extra 10,000 to 15,000 baht a month," Governor Nisit noted.

"We will carry out random inspections every week. We know some boats in Phuket still do not



Governor Nisit Jansomwong took part in a random inspection of three fishing boats for human trafficking on April 29.

have licences, but we are giving these boats until the end of May to register."

After then, officials will crack down on any illegal workers and boat owners found illegally operating fishing vessels, he said.

"They will be charged for operating an illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing vessel," he said.

The inspection coincided with similar checks in Chon Buri and

Songkhla, carried out ahead of an upcoming inspection by representatives from the European Union.

The European Commission on April 21 put Thailand on formal notice for not taking sufficient measures in the international fight against IUUs.

Thailand was given six months to implement a corrective tailor-made action plan, or face a ban on seafood exports to Europe.

— **Thanaphon Phromthong**

Krabi double homicide

Couple involved in illegal pangolin trade found dead, ropes wound around necks

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE in Krabi are searching for at least three suspects in connection with a double homicide of a married couple who were engaged in illegally trading pangolins.

The bodies of the couple, Taweesak Janwiang, 41, and 43-year-old Jinda Janwiang were found with nylon ropes tied around their necks in a Tambon Huay Nam Khaw rubber plantation on Monday.

"We believe they were strangled to death over a business issue regarding their illegal trade in

'We believe they were strangled to death over a business issue regarding their illegal trade in pangolins'

— Lt Col Torsak Boonlon, Khlong Thom Police

pangolins," said Lt Col Torsak Boonlon of the Khlong Thom Police.

Pangolins, also known as 'scaly anteaters', are a protected species in Thailand, but are often sold to restaurants to be eaten.

"Relatives, who had filed missing person reports with the Thap Put Police Station on May 1, told us that the couple dealt in pangolins. They filed the

report after being unable to contact either of them for 24 hours," Col Torsak said.

"When we found the couple's ransacked pick-up truck in



Police believe the couple died about five days before their bodies were found in the plantation.

Nakorn Sri Thammarat on May 3, we officially launched our investigation."

Police believe that the pair were killed about five days prior

to the discovery of their bodies in the rubber plantation, about three kilometers away from the main road.

"We are chasing down all pos-

sible leads. At this point, we are unable to provide any additional information about the suspects' identities," Col Torsak said.

Police find body of suspected victim of human-trafficking

A SUSPECTED human-trafficking victim's body was uncovered in a shallow grave north of Phuket in Phang Nga on Tuesday.

The discovery follows the news of police uncovering mass graves in the Thai-Malaysian border province of Songkhla last weekend (see page 8).

The badly decomposed body, believed to be that of a woman, was unearthed after officials launched a probe into a human-trafficking camp in Takuapa, Phang Nga.

"We were made aware of the possibility of human remains being buried at the camp after questioning two refugee boys taken into custody," Phang Nga Governor Prayoon Rattanasene told the *Gazette*.

The boys are staying in a shelter in Phang Nga, after they and about 80 other Rohingya refugees were arrested at the camp in October last year, confirmed the governor.

"The boys told us that they witnessed some of the adults being beaten by the traffickers, and that it was likely that some of them were killed and buried near the camp," said Gov Prayoon.

Joining the search was Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat.

"At this point we can only tell that it is the body of a woman, based on the height and the clothes found with her," Gen Chalit said. "We have taken the remains to Takuapa Hospital to attempt to establish a cause of death and see if there are any signs of violence to the body."



The remains were found in a shallow grave. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

It is suspected that the woman was dead for months before the body was discovered.

Officers and rescue workers are continuing to search the area for bodies, confirmed Gen Chalit.

"The last arrest made in Phang Nga was in October, not because we have stopped hunting human traffickers, but because they are no longer using the same routes," said Gen Chalit.

"We have successfully sealed off one corridor. However, I have no idea if they are simply using a different network by land, or if they are avoiding the province by taking them by boat farther south.

"After the mass graves were discovered in Padang Besar, I urged police and local officials to remain vigilant. However, I am confident that they have not let down their guard since October."

— Chutharat Plerin

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

PROPERTY RENTALS

Typical: 2 bedroom
Sizing: 154 sqm.
View: Pool view
Description: Fully furnished and ready to move in.

• **Rental Price:** 90,000 THB/Month

Typical: 3 bedroom
Sizing: 154 sqm.
View: Marina view
Description: One of the best views of the marina with own private jacuzzi.

• **Rental Price:** 100,000 THB/Month

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AROUND THE nation

Gov't attempts to change costly lottery, reduce 'gray money'



The government is trying to solve the lottery issue. Photo: The Nation

THE government says its move to try and solve the problem of expensive state lottery tickets is a bid to control so-called 'gray money'.

The so-called 'gray money' earned from selling the tickets above 80 baht apiece might have been used in other illegal activities or to support activities that could have damaged the country, deputy government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said on May 3, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Sansern said that Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha's decision to replace the Government Lottery Office's (GLO) board by invoking Article 44 of the provisional constitution on May 1 was designed to boost the agency's management efficiency.

The change should enable better regulating of lottery ticket sales and appropriate prices, he said.

As part of the government order issued on May 1, people caught selling overpriced lottery tickets will be subject to up to one month in prison and/or a fine of up to 10,000 baht, starting on June 16.

The current penalty is a fine of up to 2,000 baht.

Many lottery vendors in Chiang Mai said on May 3 that they disagreed with the order because they thought it was not tackling the problem at the root cause.

They also said that selling lottery tickets for 80 baht may result in no profit, meaning they may have to find other jobs.

PM warns of tough action against human traffickers

PRIME Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has warned of tough action against state officials linked to human trafficking, a government spokesman said on Tuesday.

The warning came as five graves, once believed to hold the remains of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh, were found at a jungle camp in an area bordering Malaysia.

No bodies were found in the graves.

The camp was uncovered just a kilometer from a similar 'holding area' on a steep hillside in the border district of Sadao in the Deep South province of Songkhla, where forensic teams found 26 bodies over the weekend – all but one buried in shallow graves, reported *The Nation*.

Royal Thai Police Commissioner Somyot Phumphanmuang confirmed the discovery of the mass grave on Friday, noting the area had been used as a detention center by human traffickers.

After the second camp discovery on Tuesday, administrators of all levels – villages, tambons and districts – were ordered to comb their areas of jurisdiction to see if there was any illegal camp to hold migrants, *The Nation* reported.

Deputy government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said officials would be moved out of their areas of jurisdiction as punishment if more cases of human trafficking were found.

"If there is any serious incident



Dozens of bodies were uncovered from a mass grave in Songkhla province. Photo: The Nation

like the one in Sadao district of Songkhla again, the officials involved will be moved out of their areas. It's because they failed to enforce the law," the spokesman said. "Any official found to accept bribes or make personal gains will face criminal as well as disciplinary actions."

He added officials believed to turn a blind eye to such illegal activity would be moved out of their area and severe disciplinary action would be taken against them.

"The government must use

strong medicine against all forms of crime," the spokesman said. "This is to get rid of the deep-rooted evil from Thailand."

Separately, in the southern province of Phang Nga, Governor Prayoon Ratanaseni and Provincial Police Chief Chalit Kaewyarat led a team of local officials to inspect an area used as a jungle camp for Rohingya in Takua Pa district. They found a skeleton, believed to be of a Rohingya woman, buried in a Muslim funeral style (see page 7).

Meanwhile, national police chief General Somyot Poompunmoung on Tuesday issued an order to transfer 15 police officers in the south out of their areas of jurisdiction, in connection with the probe into the trafficking scandal.

The officers included Satun Police Chief Sunthorn Chalermkiat, and seven more police colonels, most of them from Padang Besar station, whose jurisdiction covers the area where the mass graves were found.

DNA evidence to be verified in Koh Tao murder case

A THAI court has allowed independent verification of the DNA evidence against two suspects in the beach murder of two British holidaymakers last year, officials said on April 30.

Both suspects, Myanmar migrant workers Zaw Lin and Wai Phy, appeared in court on April 30, reported *The Nation*.

The defence team has asked that several items of the prosecution's physical evidence be sent to the Justice Ministry's Central Institute of Forensic Science for re-examination.

The team also asked the Thai police to provide additional information to the court and

defence concerning details of analysis of case DNA evidence.

Mr Zaw and Mr Wai were arrested in October and confessed to the crimes, but later withdrew their statements saying they were tortured.

British and Myanmar envoys both raised concerns about the Thai investigation, with London sending a police team as observers. The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand has also expressed concern about the alleged forced confessions. Thai police have denied the accusations of torture or misconduct.

The trial is scheduled to begin on July 8.



The trial is set to begin in July. Photo: The Nation

UFUN scheme could be elevated to transnational crime

POLICE are seeking the permission of public prosecutors to elevate the status of the allegedly fraudulent UFUN Thailand scheme to a transnational crime, Lt Gen Suwira Songmetta, assistant national police chief, said on Monday.

Gen Suwira said the police had sought answers from their counterparts in other countries who had experienced the same crime.

He said they found that should the public prosecutors change the status to transnational crime, they could take over the case from the police and the suspects would face



UFUN supporters. Photo: The Nation

heavier penalties.

Gen Suwira said the police would present the request to the prosecutors within two weeks, reported *The Nation*.

More than 576 people have filed complaints against the UFUN Thailand scheme with a total damage of 152 million baht. Police have seized 800mn baht from the suspects and have sought co-operation from the Fiscal Policy Office to a file bankruptcy suit against them.

Gen Suwira said the police would take legal action, in accordance with anti-money laundering laws, against anyone who buys assets such as houses or cars from UFUN scheme suspects who want quick cash to flee the country and escape justice.



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Coming together in times of need

FIRST PERSON

WE CANNOT prevent a natural disaster from occurring. When one strikes, though, we as a global community should do as much as we can to help.

Thousands of people have died as a result of the earthquake in Nepal, and thousands of people are still in urgent need in the areas worst hit by the 7.9-magnitude quake. It is difficult to believe something like that occurred and caused so much damage to the country and its people.

It is these terrible disasters that show us humans will never abandon their brothers and sisters around the world during times of need. We will always be there to help each other. Nationality, religion and language do not make a difference. Love for mankind will bring us all together.

No one can ever know who will be the next victim of a tragedy, but we will always be there for each other, to help each other get through the pain and suffering.

About 2,500 Thai-Nepalese people live in Phuket. Most of us are from Myanmar and have never been to Nepal, but Nepal is our mother country. It is where our ancestors come from. We will always feel a connection to the land and people there.

I was very impressed by the quick response by Thai authorities and the Thai government to the earthquake in Nepal. On the other hand, I was disappointed with the slow response by the Nepalese government to the disaster.

They could have done more. Aid from countries around the world arrived before the Nepalese



Phanuphong Limbuprasertkul, 46, is the president of the Phuket branch of the Thai-Nepalese Foundation, officially called the Shree Bhagawat Dhaam Sanatan Mandir Foundation, which is located in Patong. Mr Phanuphong was born in Kanchanaburi, and has lived in Phuket for the past 24 years.

Here, he talks about how important it is for citizens of the world to come together to help victims of a natural disaster, like those of the April 25 earthquake in Nepal.

government stepped up to take charge. It is clear that neighboring countries were more alert and prepared than the Nepalese government.

We were quick to inform the Nepalese embassy about this, and how upset many Thai-Nepalese people were about the slow reaction to the disaster by our home country. We were not the only ones who complained, and now the government has taken steps to speed up the process of releasing aid supplies to the disaster victims.

Some of the items sent over from various countries needed to go through customs. In a normal, calm situation, this is fine. However, when it comes down to a tragic time of need like this, the most important thing is to get the survivors what they so desperately need.

Now, the government has canceled the supplies customs fee. This is helping to speed up the process and make it easier for the supplies to get to where they are needed most. I hope the government takes charge and continues to manage all of the supplies in an

efficient manner.

These supplies must be passed on to the victims as soon as possible so they can survive and start to heal.

Other than making sure affected people get the help they need, it is imperative that relevant authorities – whether they be Nepalese or international – help to rebuild our buildings, as they represent our heritage and our culture. Those buildings had been standing for thousands of years. It is important that they be renovated and restored.

I have been living in Phuket for more than 20 years, it is my home. However, I will not forget where I came from. I and the other members of the Shree Bhagawat Dhaam Sanatan Mandir Foundation have vowed to do our best to relieve the pain of the earthquake survivors.

We would like to thank all Thai people and every government department and business that gave up their time and money to help our people. I do not know what to say, except thank you to everyone, from the bottom of my heart.



Use your phone as you wish – before you board the plane. Photo: Laszlo Ilyes

Turn them off, folks

BECAUSE I'm an anxious flier, I have always been overly aware of my surroundings while taking commercial flights.

With all the drama surrounding the ban of Thai carriers to Japan, South Korea and China following the United Nation's International Civil Aviation Organization audit, which found that Thailand's Department of Civil Aviation met only 21 out of 100 operational and safety requirements, I was curious to see how well the safety measures would be followed on board my small Thai carrier flights to and from Penang.

One thing I am always hyper aware of is the use of electronic devices. As a safety precaution, it is requested they not be used during takeoff or landing, so as not to interrupt the navigational equipment on board.

While the announcement is made in several languages to switch them off, I am constantly checking the people around me to see if they've complied. It's safe to say that there is always at least one person sitting nearby who needs to be reminded before takeoff.

Surprisingly, on my first flight, there was not one person within earshot who had to be reminded to do anything, whether it be returning seats and trays to their upright positions or buckling their safety belts.

I personally attribute it to the fact that the flight attendant, although nice, was not overly accommodating and rarely smiled.

Adversely, during my flights back to Phuket on a different carrier, the flight staff were extremely

Island View

By Debbie Adams

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

kind and a little too accommodating. The first of two flights was not too bad. However, the second and final flight was absolutely ridiculous.

The announcement was made to turn off all electronic devices before takeoff and five to six people near me blatantly ignored it. Three different flight staff walked by and they failed to request the electronic devices be deactivated.

As we were accelerating down the runway, people were taking selfies, listening to music and texting. Their actions were difficult to miss because the dark cabin was lit up by screens.

The same problem occurred during the landing, but luckily the flight attendants sensed my anxious aggravation from the several pleading looks I gave them during their numerous, silent safety checks and actually made three different announcements to turn off electronic devices.

Although some may argue that they spend good money for their flights and therefore should be catered to and pampered, I would argue that I paid good money for my flight with the expectation of getting to my destination alive.

Therefore, I treat the flight attendants with respect, because they are the ones who take care in an emergency, not a Smartphone app.

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

Are big bikes truly banned?

AFTER reading your story about banning motorcycles from the recently completed Darasamuth underpass, I'm wondering if 'big bikes' are banned as well or if the ban pertains only to motorcycles under 150cc?

I understand that there is no dedicated motorcycle lane, but big bikes are capable of easily adhering to the posted speed limit.

Bythewindsailor
Kathu

Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office, replies:

Thank you for your question.

Please be aware that we have forbidden all two to three-wheeled, small vehicles from driving through the new Darasamuth underpass. As big bikes fall under this category, they will also not be permitted to use the underpass.

We have three lanes inside which provide enough room for cars only. It is dangerous for small, two to three-wheeled vehicles to drive through as there is no room for them.

Any such vehicles found passing through the underpass will be charged with 'breaking traffic regulations' and subject to a fine of up to 1,000 baht.

Please obey traffic laws and take note of warning signs outside of the tunnel. We are doing this for your safety.

Burial for a Patong Catholic

I AM a Roman Catholic, now retired in Patong at the age of 60.

I have seen a Christian cemetery located in a small street in central Kathu.

I would like to inquire how I can go about arranging to be buried there, who to contact, what charges may apply and what paperwork, if any, is necessary.

Thank you for your assistance.

Larry Flynn,
Patong

Preeda Ponmaesiyah, an assistant at the Freedom Church Phuket in Kathu, replies:

Thank you for your interest. We believe that you are referring to



A Catholic is looking for a place to be laid to rest. Photo: Music4life

our church, which is located at 46/367 Moo 6 Kathu – or more simply, opposite the Patong Go-Kart Speedway on the east side of Patong Hill.

Any Catholics may be buried in our cemetery. No paperwork is required, though you must attend

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Sunday morning mass at our church, which is held from 10am to midday.

For more information, call 090-802 6339, email us at freedomchurchpk2012@gmail.com, or visit the Freedom Church Phuket's Facebook page.

Grave times

THE discovery of a mass grave of dozens of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in Songkhla's Sadao District, on the border with Malaysia, this week screams urgency for the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to use its extraordinary powers to turn the tide against human trafficking in the Kingdom.

The order by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to bring to justice any officials who were aware of the illegal activities at the detention camp must be enforced (see page 8).

Those responsible must be found guilty and face full justice under the law.

Any action less demanding would only trivialize the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) voting just six weeks ago to introduce life imprisonment and the death penalty in cases where human traffickers' victims had died.

The discovery of the mass grave in Sadao is the latest indication of the vast scale of human smuggling and trafficking throughout the Southern Thailand provinces.

Human rights advocates make a distinction between 'human smuggling', which takes place with the consent of the illegal immigrants, and 'human trafficking', cases in which intimidation, coercion, deception or force against victims take place. By all accounts, this latest atrocity qualifies as the latter.

With the Asean Economic Community (AEC) set to take effect at the end of the year, human trafficking continues to make a mockery of the bloc's intent to use 'increased cooperation in human resource development' to achieve economic integration and create a marketplace with increased global competitiveness.

The sad truth is that Asean's charter mandate of non-interference in any member state's internal affairs provides just the right environment for cross-border human trafficking of stateless people such as Rohingya to flourish in the region, with the victims being passed on as unskilled labor ripe for exploitation in what essentially amounts to a modern-day slave trade.

However, human-trafficking victims are hardly limited to ethnic groups such as the Rohingya. Phuket alone is home to untold thousands of stateless illegal aliens, many born on the island to illegal laborers.

Many of these people were smuggled onto the island, delivered in the same manner as the 2008 'death truck' that left 54 Myanmar nationals dead from suffocation, including an 8-year-old girl, inside a seafood container bound for Phuket.

Those who survived are now often fluent in Thai and have children who have known no other home, yet exist as part of a growing underclass of stateless people throughout the Asean region.

Thailand needs to work with its Asean partners to address this threat to regional stability and not merely focus on ivory-tower economic development plans that will make the region's richest elites even wealthier.



First things first: Cut down on cars

Re: Gazette online, Phuket gifted B1.3bn for roads; underpass motorcyclists to face law, May 4

The was never a problem at Koh Kaew Intersection until some bright spark decided to put traffic lights there!

That being said, they do create breaks in the traffic, allowing motorists to exit side streets further down the road. A flyover will put an end to that.

The government can spend all they want building these so called 'solutions', but the only real answer is to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

*Agogohome
Gazette forum*

There is a lot of talking, but no action

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials probe return of jet-skis at Surin Beach, May 4

What a joke. Everyone knows what is going on at Surin Beach so blatantly and openly.

And the jet-ski operators, beach vendors, taxis and animal touts don't care because they know that the authorities will do nothing – only deceiving talk with no action.

The operators just continue as normal, knowing nothing will happen to them. Same as the motorbikes cruising through the new underpass.

No respect for the law – with good reason.

*Jake
Gazette forum*

Slap on a smile and go with the flow

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Phuket Immigration – For better or for worse, May 5

Did the Retirement visa a couple of weeks ago – the trick is to get

Letters to the Editor

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

in early and queue before they open, with all the paperwork in order. I was out by 9:10am and could see the new permit in my passport.

I can't understand the reason for having to come back and collect in the afternoon though.

Delays occur with all the people ill-prepared to do what they need. Indeed, some just turn up with a passport and no backing paperwork.

The Immigration Volunteers weed out a lot of those ill-prepared people but it still costs time for those of us who know the system and have all our paperwork in order.

All in all, they are making the best of a bad job – strap on a smile, don't get riled and just accept that what once took 50 minutes will now take a day longer for marriage and business visas.

*Mister Ree
Gazette forum*

Calm angry teens before they become men

Re: Gazette online, Rock-throwing teens surrender to police, May 2

The no-forethought, reactionary culture embodied by so many men (and also sometimes women) here in Phuket never ceases to astonish me.

How is it permissible in any situation to wave away a violent act because the offender was 'upset'?

I, for one, will never honk my horn or show any sort of 'road rage' behavior while driving in Phuket, as I am truly afraid that I will anger the wrong Thai person, and provoke an attack.

What is it going to take before people realize that this way of suddenly reacting without serious consideration of the consequences needs to change?

Police should make an example of these youngsters so that others do not follow in their paths and bring bad habits into adulthood.

*Sean Hall
Thalang*

Nai Harn doesn't need a movie museum

Re: Gazette online, Funds approved for Nai Harn movie memorabilia museum, May 1

I would have a difficult time trying to think of something less appropriate for Nai Harn Beach than a museum of any kind.

But a museum featuring objects that had been filmed? Driftwood? Sea shells? Plastic bags?

No conceivable justification for this. But the last sentence of the story explains it all – "managed by Rawai Municipality".

*Totally disgusted
Gazette forum*

We aren't that naive

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Rank canal water not polluted wastewater, says Phuket official, April 29

What tests did they do? Fecal coliforms?

Anaerobic breakdown of organics can release sulfides resulting in rotten eggs smell and release of tannic acid which will turn the water dark from leaf breakdown.

More information would give the public some certainty that they are not just providing lip service again.

The public is not so naive.

*Anon
Gazette forum*

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Steal your Facebook



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

WITH the advent of social media and its meteoric rise in popularity, technology has grown at a rate much faster and in ways that the law has not been able to keep up with or envisage.

Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram and Pinterest now have billions of users.

There are a couple of areas in particular that should be of fundamental interest to business owners and people using social media for profit. These main issues focus around copyright and data protection laws, or more commonly, who owns the content and what can be done with it.

Many people may be surprised to know when they post content on many of the above named platforms they have given up many of their rights to the service provider, although they still own the copyright to original material.

For example, when you sign up for a Facebook account and agree to their terms and conditions you agree to 'a non-exclusive, transferable, sublicensable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook.'

So in understandable terms what does this really mean?

Put simply, you are allowing Facebook to use your content as and how they like – and they can

use it for free. Even more relevant, they are allowed to let all of their users (and this includes people that do not even have an account) do the same.

So the reality is the moment you post any content on Facebook, you lose the privacy and control you originally had over it.

In practical terms what does this mean?

Once you have posted content on Facebook, you have given up most of your legal and commercial rights. When you see someone's post on Facebook you

have the opportunity to Like, Share or Comment. You have given implied consent to anyone that sees the post to use that information in any manner they want (as long as it is lawful), and you are

not entitled to the expectation of privacy or reward.

While we have focused on Facebook, the same applies to most of the social media providers.

YouTube is an example of where they even make it easy for other people to use your content. If you look at any YouTube video that is public, there is the Share tab. This allows any viewer to take your video and send it to others, and even place it on their own websites as if it were their own. They must not amend or tamper with your video, but they have a cost-free version of your content.

Instagram has gone a step further and has you agree in their terms and conditions that they can receive money for selling your content to third parties.

Once you post any content on social media you pretty much lose your right to any expectation of privacy or payment.



Before you start sharing your selfies on Facebook, be sure you read the terms and conditions. Photo: Garry Knight

LinkedIn really takes the cake. Their terms allow them to "copy, prepare derivative works of, improve, distribute, publish, remove, retain, add, process, analyze, use and commercialize, in any way now known or in the future discovered..."

LinkedIn is saying they can use your content and ideas in whatever ways they can to make money, even in ways that have not even been thought of yet.

In short, once you post any content on social media, you pretty much lose your right to any expectation of privacy or payment.

While you do retain ownership, even if you try to delete the content in the future, it is like the proverbial genie, once it has been let out of the bottle it is virtually impossible to get it back in.

So, before you create a new account, it is worth checking the terms and conditions, and before

you post on social media make sure you are not giving away the keys to the cookie jar.

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

Businesses turn to bloggers to draw in tech-savvy consumers

THE emergence of digital media not only offers tremendous opportunities for companies wanting to market their products, but can also create jobs for bloggers, some of which have become important links between brands and consumers.

Nuffnang Thailand cashed in on this idea when it built up a 'blog advertising community' years ago.

"New brands are created every day in the market. Each of those brands needs its own differentiation and uniqueness. Storytellers, therefore, are needed either for traditional communication or online conversation," explained Patcharrah Sirikietsoong, executive director of Nuffnang Thailand.

Brands are being challenged by an array of uncontrollable risks on online platforms. Smart consumers are searching out and reading comments and product reviews on their hand-held devices before opening their wallets.

Mr Patcharrah said bloggers provide answers for consumers, and brands are seeking specialists to help deliver messages to target audiences.

He added that Nuffnang Thailand currently managed around 1,000 bloggers, YouTube users, Facebook page managers and Instagrammers. Dealing with these talented people, the company expects to see at least 30-per-cent year-on-year growth in revenue.

The company acts as a business matcher between brands or companies and top bloggers. The agency must understand its clients' marketing strategy and demands and translate these requirements to the right bloggers and influencers to promote online marketing campaigns.

"We hope that our business can create new jobs for the advertising industry as Thai people have great talent in this regard," he said.

– The Nation

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Ways expats lose money

Financial complexities in foreign countries can spell disaster

FINANCIAL problems, or losses, are often the major reason why expats are forced to return home or worst – end up stuck somewhere they no longer want to be.

If you don't want to end up in the same position as many failed expats, keep in mind the following ways expats lose money abroad.

OFFSHORE INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

Investing in complex offshore products requires even more due diligence on your part than investing in 'normal' investment products in your home country, as additional due diligence may reveal extra risks.

For example, high interest rates are usually paid to compensate for risk, either because of what the product itself is invested in or because it's based in a jurisdiction with less financial regulation and oversight.

If you have trouble understanding even basic investment products like exchange traded funds, don't even think about investing in complex offshore investment products.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Currency fluctuations and FX transaction fees are a fact of life for expats and you will probably find there are times when your income and living expenses in multiple currencies are moving in the wrong direction.

And while currency fluctuations and transaction fees can be managed or the risks minimized (such as maintaining accounts in multiple currencies so you are forced to draw on one for money at an inopportune time), be cautious trying to speculate or profit from currency movements as you will probably end up getting in or out at the wrong time.

Likewise, you should also be extra cautious of investment products that force you to lock up your money in one currency for a long period of time or don't offer you much flexibility to get in or out quickly should the need arise.



Finance

By Don Freeman

BUDGETS

The need to live by strict budgets becomes imperative when living

abroad.

You will need to deal with currency fluctuations and likely much higher rates of inflation – meaning you will need to track exchange rates and prices.

Failing to properly budget can easily mean you will end up spending significantly more than you need to.

REPATRIATING MONEY

If you are working abroad or have managed to earn a big capital gain in a currency other than that of your home country, you may have trouble repatriating your wealth out of your adopted country and back home, or into your home country's currency.

Many countries have or could institute strict capital controls (especially in times of crisis) while a negative currency movement could easily wipe out your capital gain or savings.

Don't forget about transaction fees or any exit taxes that you could be liable for.

PROPERTY

Buying or speculating on property might be commonplace in your home country, but buying property in a foreign country is a minefield, as the rules and regulations are inevitably much more complex and titles are often not clean.

In the worst case scenarios, you won't be able to sell the property or you may find yourself paying heavy taxes to multiple jurisdictions on any capital gain.

You also might have your losses disallowed for tax purposes.

TAXES

Depending upon your citizenship, you may have tax liabilities in both your home country and in any other country where you live or perform work.

If you are an American and thus subject



Expats should plan in order to avoid financial pitfalls that could be devastating. Photo: Wonderlane

to worldwide taxation and disclosure requirements for foreign financial accounts, you will probably need to hire an accountant who specializes in expatriate tax preparation to avoid increasingly heavy fines and penalties for non-compliance.

FINANCIAL ADVISERS

As an expat, you will need to seek financial advice, ideally from a financial adviser who is independent and regulated.

Remember, while referrals are always a good way to find competent professional

advisers, they aren't effective if the person making the referral failed to do his or her due diligence on the person first.

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

Bank of Thailand's Forex regulation changes draw mixed reviews

THERE are doubts over how much effect the Bank of Thailand's relaxation of foreign-exchange regulations will have on the value of the baht, but there are some positive indications that the measures will facilitate overseas investment.

The new regulations have received approval in principle from the Finance Ministry.

Vallop Vitanakorn, vice chairman of the Thai National Shippers' Council, said the measures would provide more incentive for local companies to invest overseas, and that would lead to an outflow of US dollars, consequently depreciating the baht.

However, it would take some time for business operators to act on the new measures.

"The consecutive cuts of the

policy interest rate and the additional measures have so far pushed the baht further down to 33 per dollar, but I doubt it will [weaken] any further in the coming quarter. The depreciation will help close the gap in exchange-rate competitiveness, but the currency is still on average 7 per cent stronger than [those of] our trade partners in the region," Mr Vallop said.

"Operators will need time to consider the new measures, while the depreciation of the baht also depends on the main trading currency [US dollar], which is on a downward trend from the poorer-than-expected US economic numbers in the first quarter."

Tim Leelahaphan, Maybank Kim Eng Securities (Thailand)



Some believe that the new regulations could lead to an outflow of US dollars and depreciate the baht. Photo: Ervins Strauhmanis

economist and assistant vice president of its research department, said the BOT anticipated that the new measures would make the baht weaker, but the securities

firm expected that the measures would have only a 'limited impact' on the Thai currency.

"You can open more room but it does not guarantee that people will move into it," Mr Tim said.

He said Maybank's regional team had changed its prediction for the baht to be trading at 33 per dollar by the end of the third quarter to around 33.2 after the policy-rate cut on Tuesday, but the team now had decided to maintain its earlier prediction after the new measures have been revealed.

Pimonwan Mahujchariyawong, deputy managing director of Kasikorn Research Center, said many business operators were looking to expand overseas and the central bank's new measures were in

line with this trend.

The measures would also increase the pace of the baht's depreciation, but even so, Kasikornbank still believes that the currency will probably be in the 34-per-dollar region by the end of the year.

Pornsilp Patchrintanakul, adviser to the Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber of Commerce, said the relaxation was a positive measure that should help weaken the baht and benefit the export sector.

"Both the policy-rate cut and the central bank's relief measure on capital inflows should stimulate economic growth, as the export sector will perform better from a weakening baht, while domestic investment will also be stimulated," he said. – *The Nation*

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

May 15-17. Summer's End Extravaganza at Lighthouse Market.

The Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market returns for a three-day extravaganza of shopping, chilling and eating on the dockside of Phuket's liveliest marina, Friday, May 15 to Sunday, May 17, 5pm to 10pm. The family fun along the boardwalk will be bigger and better than ever to celebrate the end of summer. Entertainment includes a special high-tech show that will literally light up the marina between 7pm to 8pm and Happy Hour between 5pm-7pm every evening.

May 23-24. Social Media Mastery, 2-Day Event To Transform Your Business or Income

Imagine being the number one 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 *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 of the shoreline. Each

lap is 2km: 12 laps for men and 5 for women, a VIP race and 15 laps for the men's elite race.

Savor the ultimate DJ experience, exclusively played by local artists. For more information and to register, please visit www.bangkokcriterium.com and keep following the *Gazette* for the latest information.

May 30. Facebook Marketing For Business – Increase Sales & Profits Instantly

Facebook is the number one most popular social media format.

Imagine if you could dominate it with your business? Increase interest, leads, conversions and sales. This course will show you how to get ahead of your competitors and dominate your niche. Limited places, so register now and lock in your spot before someone else does. Presented by Simon Wetherell, as seen in Business Buzz here in the *Gazette*.

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 onward. *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



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YOUR Phuket

Another year of
fun under the belt



Birthday boy Georges Dufresne, the owner La Versace, Cecilia Pitre and DJ Sabrina Torence celebrate on April 27.

‘Better look, better luck’

Romrawin Clinic held the ‘Better Look, Better Luck with Facial Feng Shui’ event in Central Festival Phuket on May 3.



LOOKING GOOD: (From L) Walairat Kittisilakorn, the marketing communication & PR manager for Romrawin Clinic; MD Narong Bamphoengphon, MD Tarinrat Pattarapuntakul and Savitree Samipak, Thai actress.



LIGHT OF CHANGE: (From L) Panee Koaysomboon, co-owner of Limelight Avenue; Nadech Kukimiya, Thai superstar; Phuket Vice Governor Sutee Tongyam and Ponganan Suwannakarn, co-owner of Limelight Avenue.

Limelight brings vibrant Phuket Town

Limelight Avenue Phuket held its grand opening under the banner ‘The Vibrant Phuket Town’ on April 28.



Thai superstar Nadech Kukimiya performs at the opening night of Limelight Avenue Phuket.



SPEAK EASY, DANCE HARD: (From L) Julien Princelle, Catherine Masson, manager for The Speak Easy, and Alessandro Luciano.

Latin beat on RPM boardwalk



DANCE SHOES: Anna On-Uma Wasin (L), the founder of Salsa Phuket, enjoys salsa night at The Speak Easy restaurant on the Royal Phuket Marina boardwalk on April 25.

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PROPERTY FOR SALE
of the week



OCEAN VIEW LAND
IN KAMALA

See page 16

PROPERTY FOR RENT
of the week



LAND & HOUSE PARK
CHONLADA PROJECT

See page 18

WHEELS & MOTORS
of the week



TRAKTOR FOR SALE

See page 20

BOAT & MARINE
of the week

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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: ornholland@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. Aicon. 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

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.

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.

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.

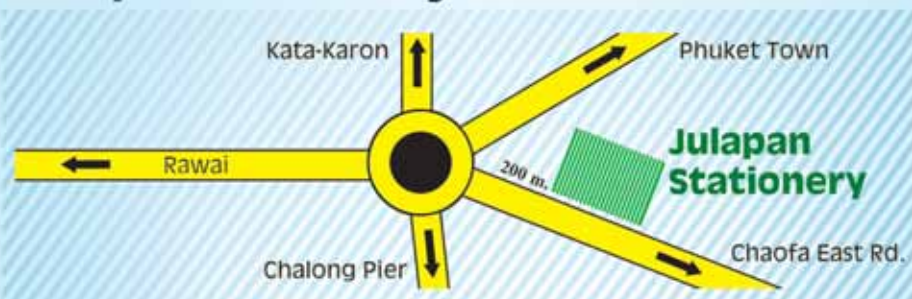
3-BEDROOM LUXURIOUS VILLA



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

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Properties For Rent

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Furnished, 2 bedrooms, cable TV, WiFi, garden, quiet, secure, from 12,000 baht / month. Please call 095-046 4039.

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2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms, fully furnished villa available for rent for up to 6 months. Full aircons. Western style kitchen, internet, cable TV. 35,000 baht per month plus security deposit. Tel: 081-970 1718 (English), 062-402 3745. Email: ashleyjames555@gmail.com

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

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

2-BEDROOM CONDO RAWAI

Fully furnished with amenities and linens. Kitchen, pool, WiFi, TV, stereo. Great location near beaches, shops, restaurants. Only 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

APARTMENT FOR RENT - PATONG

Condo0minium, pool, security, 46sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

NAI HARN PENTHOUSE FOR RENT

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

2-BEDROOM BEACH HOLIDAY APARTMENT

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

House for Sale / Rent

Land&House Park Phuket - Chonlada Project
2 bedrooms, 3 ensuite bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 carparks, maid service.
Sale: 10 million baht
Rent: 55,000 baht / month
Tel: 081-892 4997, 087-698 9431

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. Please call 076-344922, 083-102 5928. Fax: 076-341870. Email: kkiran23@hotmail.com

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

Property Wanted**30 RAI JUNGLE WITH STREAM**

Waterfall or creek on property and secluded quiet location a must. Chanote or Nor Sor 3 Gor titles only. Anywhere in Thailand. Tel: 081-892 2419 (English & Thai). Email: linprachakrich@gmail.com

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.

HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE

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

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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

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

FOR RENT RAWAI/NAI HARN

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

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

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

STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annanol1@hotmail.com

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

Accommodation Available

NAITHON BEACH PALACE

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

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

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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SALES REP. AND TO.

DVC looking for English Representatives and TO. Tel: 098-270 8099. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

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.

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

SECRETARY

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

SALES MANAGER

- Excellent communication, reading & written English skills.
 - Ability to adapt quickly to new trends and new markets.
 - Experience working in property markets.
 - Must be hard working & dedicated.
 - Co-ordinate and work with Management team as required.
 - Thai national preferred.
- Baan Yamu Residence. Tel: 076-310500, 076-310507. Email: info@baanyamu.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).

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: rbv@royalperspective.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Business Opportunities

SACK YOUR BOSS

An affordable home based business that has a 30-day trial + a 30-day money back guarantee. A must see. Please call +61-49-917-8152 (English) or tracy_j_cooper@hotmail.com, http://ipasdiscount.com/pre/?id=76298&tid=#sthash.xvBSLABQ.dpuf

RESTAURANT NAI HARN

Fully furnished. Ready to open. 2nd and 3rd floor. 3 bedrooms. 3 bathrooms. 12-year contract. Low rent. Sale for 1.7 million baht. Tel: 089-026 4172, 087-278 6267. Email: pietrij@gmail.com

OFFICE SPACE LAGUNA

Plaza del Mar. 4-fully-furnished office. Suite plus boardroom. Rent entire unit or individual office. Tel: 080-045 5421 or email: nicole.morze@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

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

GUESTHOUSE / 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

RESORT FOR SALE

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

KATA RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully furnished restaurant and guesthouse for take over, near Kata beach. For more information, please call 087-674 5804 (Thai & English).

A GO GO BAR FOR SALE

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

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

Business Products & Services

STAMPED CONCRETE

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

OUR SERVICE

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



DINO DAYCARE CENTER

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

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

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

DINODAYCARECENTER

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. Tel: 089-972 3861 (Eng.), 089-570 1519 (Thai).

Cameras & Equipment**EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW**

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

Club Memberships Available

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Family lifetime membership available. Dues are paid for 2015. 750,000 baht inclusive of transfer fee. Please contact via email: mruper1@gmail.com or call: +65-812-79306.

BLUE CANYON FAMILY
Golf membership. Good title. Only 650,000 baht and transfer fee. Tel: 081-895 5022.

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

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

Golf Stuff**TAILOR - MADE RBZ**

5 - 9 PW, SW, A, 52?, 3/5 Wood, rescue, putter, driver RBZ - RBZ 2 (10.5). Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 089-046 4583 (English / German).

15,000 BAHT

Wilson fat shaft-full set of irons and drivers, etc, with large Wilson golf bag with 8 outer pockets. For more information, please call 081-082 5004 (English). Email: arcott.rell70@hotmail.com

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

MITSUBISHI PAJERO FOR SALE

Full option Pajero Sport from May 2013. First owner. Only 25,000km. White. 900,000 baht cash or 400,000 baht down payment and take over financing until May 2018 at 18,000 baht per month. Selling because of relocation. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

QUICK SALE NISSAN

Teana 2.5L, 2013-14 top model. Only 18 months old, 17,000km. New: 1.7 million baht. Sale now: 950,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

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@asian wind.biz

HONDA ACCORD 95,000 BAHT

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

2012 BLACK HONDA BRIO

Great condition, 1 farang owner. 30,000km. Many extras, skirt, interior, etc. Great deal. 355,000 baht ono. (new price: 500,000+ baht). Tel: 095-412 4777 (English & Thai).

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.

Motorbikes

BIG BIKE FOR SALE

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

VESPA PRIMAVERA 125
Black, 11 months old, only 930km. One owner, Green book, taxed. Includes: Akrapovic exhaust. Vespa flyscreen. Malossi variator, etc. 84,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 084-292 0008. Email: robinson kevin@maccom

HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY
2008. Copper black. 19,500 km. Many extras. No accident. Only 675,000 baht. Tel: 083-644 9229.

HONDA CLICK 17,000 BAHT

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

Rentals

RENT MOTORBIKE

For rent. Honda Dream 2,000 baht, Honda Wave 2,500 baht, automatic start at 2,900 baht, deliver service. Tel: 086-683 7162 (Eng. & Thai). Email: 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. Tel: 076-383488, 081-537 7137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

Pick-ups

PICK-UP WANTED

Toyota Hilux, Ford Ranger or Isuzu. Year 2006 or later. Please send email to mark_313@hotmail.com

2010 RANGER DIESEL FOR SALE

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

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. Email: dechamps.isa@gmail.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

HIGHFIELD 310

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

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)

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

KANTER 54 PILOT HOUSE (1993)

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

TENDER / PWC

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

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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

BENETEAU EVASION 34

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

NAJAD 360 SLOOP (1989)

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

OWEN EASTON 42 CATAMARAN

2012 twin 30hp Yanmar diesels. US\$230,000. Tel: 076-239754, 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com or check out my Boat shed page at www.boatshedphuket.com/contact

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.

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

HOBIE CAT 16

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

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: blany2000@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

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

SR MARINE BOAT MANUFACTURER

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

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE**Perry 57 Passage Maker (2009)**

Asking \$1,650,000 AUD

Ivory Street is one exceptional cruising catamaran, with a focus on quality along with luxurious comfort and enviable performance. Her massive inventory ensures you have everything and more for blue-water cruising with the family. Lying: Penang, Malaysia

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E info@multihullsolutions.asia

www.multihullsolutions.asia



SAIL | POWER | NEW | PRE-OWNED

Leopard 46 (2009)

Asking 420,000 USD

Double Fantasea is a cruising catamaran that combines spacious living accommodation, high quality construction and great performance. In the four-cabin, four-bathroom layout. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

Shuttleworth 40 (2000)

Asking \$180,000 USD

Wider Wake is a fast, safe regional cruiser that has recently enjoyed a total refit including paint job and is looking immaculate. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

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

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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across:

9. POLICEMAN: *lampionce* 10. PROTEINS: *insport-E* 12. ALOE: al-0-e 13. MEMOIR: *ormeim* 14. NAITHON: *ahinton* 15. EXTENSION: *nextisone* 17. UNCOVERED: *overdunce* 18. TRUCIAL: tr-U.C.-ial 20. PRECIS: *prices* 21. NGAN: 24. HIGHROAD: *higohard* 26. CONTINUE: *countin-E* 28. WIND: turn 29. STAPLE: metal fastener 31. PATIENT: uncomplaining 34. SAUCEPANS: *uscanapes* 36. RETENTIVE: *triteeven* 38. MILEEND: *mindeed* 39. OUTLET: *tout(le)* 40. ODES: 0-des 41. PALIASSE: pa-I-ass-e 42. RACONTEUR: R.A.-counter

Down:

1. APPARENT: a-P-parent 2. ALLOUT: total strike 3. IMPERIAL: *pairmile* 4. UNBORN: U.N.-born 5. APERTURE: *ruepater* 6. CONNECTION: con-N-notice 7. RELIEVE: *ielever* 8. ANCHOR: T.V. presenter 11. ANODYNE: *doneany* 16. NEIGHS: *signhe* 19. UNION: *num(10)* 20. PUD: up[up]-D 22. GAUGE: G-ague 23. LISTEN: list-E-N 25. OUTLANDISH: out-hisland 26. CUE: Cu-E 30. PASSOVER: pass over 31. PATIENCE: *nicetape* 32. TREASURE: *ratesure* 33. GENERIC: *green-I/C* 35. UNLOAD: U-N-cargo 36. RETURN: re.-turn 37. INDEED: in-action

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



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

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
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:

- Learn to fly
- Buy or hanger a plane, or
- Build or rent a hangar

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

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	(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



BIG KNIFE, BIG CAKE: Natthakanya Saengpho, the managing director and CEO of the Paradise Group, celebrated her birthday on May 1 at Silk restaurant at the Andara Resort Residences. Photo: Phuketindex.com

Birthday bash in Paradise

Natthakanya Saengpho, the managing director and CEO of the Paradise Group, celebrated her birthday on May 1 at Silk restaurant at the Andara Resort Residences.



The birthday party was done with 'Gatsby Glamor'. Photo: Phuketindex.com



JOURNALISTS: (From L) Azra Anderson, took fifth place in the Under-14 category; Nyke van der Laan, school finalist; Hami Song, school finalist; and Thanyaporn Tantitakorn, took third place in the under-18 category.

Blossoming journalists

Students from Headstart International School received awards for their efforts in the '2014-15 Young Journalist of the Year Award', presented by Amnesty International. The competitions is designed to inspire students to uphold the fifth pillar of democracy and fight against human rights abuses throughout the world.

BIS appoints new Head Students



ON TOP: (From L) Nicolas Varnier, head boy; Natchongrat Terdkiatkhachorn, deputy head girl; Fransiska Greene, head girl; and Archie Plunkett, deputy head boy and PGTV presenter.

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Words from the wise

“It’s not what you look at that matters,
it’s what you see.”

– Henry David Thoreau

Medium

		2	1	8	3	5		
	4						1	
1			4		9			3
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Hard

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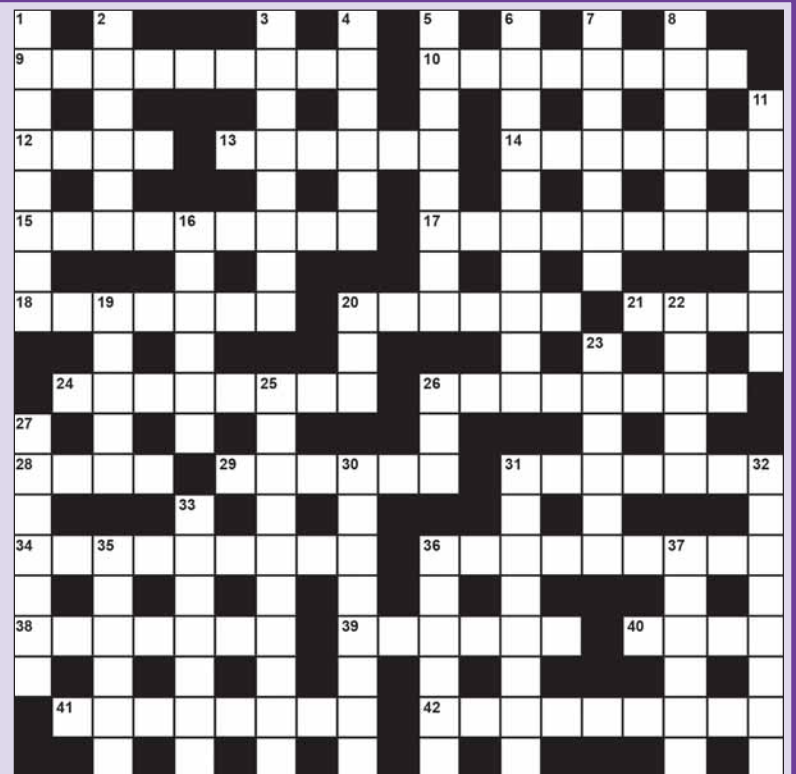
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Copper lamp I once broke (9)
10. Essential nutrients in sport out East (9)
12. Nothing in ale is succulent (4)
13. Or me, I'm producing an autobiography (6)
14. Maybe a hint on a Phuket beach (7)
15. Lengthening next is one arrangement (9)
17. Wandering over, dunce laid bare (9)
18. Bound by an agreement to stop fighting, University caught in trial (7)
20. Summary of different prices (6)
21 For new Golf, an area of land in Thailand (4)
24. Hi! Go hard around the important thoroughfare! (4,4)
26. Go on, count in new note (8)
28. Turn into the breeze (4)
29. Metal fastener an important article of commerce (6)
31. Uncomplaining case for a Doctor (7)
34. U.S. canapes produced in pots with handles! (9)
36. Not forgetting could be trite, even (9)
38. Mind eel back in part of East London! (4,3)
39. The French maybe tout around the distribution point (6)
40. Nothing of the French verses (4)
41. I fool in pale straw bed (8)



42. Rear Admiral moves counter the narrator (9)

Down

1. A past progenitor is evident (8)
2. Total strike using every resource (3,3)
3. Majestic pair mile apart (8)
4. Expected United Nations brought forth (6)
5. Rue Pater destroyed opening (8)
6. Against new notice changing relationship (10)
7. To replace, i.e. lever out (7)
8. T.V. presenter holding device (7)
11. Done any different to be inoffensive (7)
16. Sign he possibly makes horse noises (6)
19. Nun moves, embraces ten in harmony (5)

20. Raise up date pudding shortly (3)
22. Grand ague upset measuring instrument (5)
23. Catalog two points, pay attention (6)
25. Not in his land, perhaps far out (10)
26. Copper, note, gives hint (3)
27. Breathtaking dread to some (7)
30. Ignore the Jewish festival (4,4)
31. Willingness to wait for new nice tape (8)
32. Carefully keep rate carefully, sure (7)
33. Could be green in charge of the unspecified (7)
35. Turn new cargo to discharge (6)
36. Comeback about act (6)
37. In action, is that so! (6)

Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



Your head and heart may be in conflict early on, so reaching an important decision could be fraught with difficulty. When it comes down to it, it may be your financial situation or issues surrounding it that encourage you to choose one way or the other. Later in the week a friendly reunion could have positive consequences for you.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)



You'll be in your element as Mars powers into your sign from Tuesday, enhancing your vitality and determination too. If you've had problems getting a project off the ground, the motivation you need could be found by reading books or by getting advice from those who have achieved something similar. If they can do it, so can you.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)



It will be worthwhile paying more attention to your dreams, as those that are particularly vivid or memorable may well contain some useful guid-

ance. The focus shifts more to your spiritual sector, encouraging reflection on future plans and how you might be able to achieve success. As a result an inspired idea could have a positive impact.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



Someone's words could affect you deeply, acting as a catalyst that fires you up and gets you going. However, before you leap into action, consider whether they might be manipulating you for their own purposes. While there's value in listening to someone's good advice, you'll need to judge for yourself which category this falls into.

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



Desire is a potent force. This week it seems to be directed at getting ahead, whether this involves your career, current job or personal goals and ambitions. You might find it beneficial to do some full-on information gathering. You may also need to pacify a family member who seems overly critical of your plans.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



If you're keen to make progress, your sensitive appreciation of others' needs can make a positive difference. Even so, the same cannot be said about a certain person who seems to disagree with an idea of yours – seeing it as rather too ambitious. You'll need to be tactful and diplomatic if you're hoping to change that person's mind.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



During this week you could find yourself saying yes to someone's extravagant plans. While there's nothing wrong with this, be sure you know what you're getting into. Meanwhile, your feelings for someone could intensify, and a heart to heart can enhance intimacy, with the weekend putting romance high on your agenda.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)



Frustrations might arise if you sense that others aren't receptive to your views. It's going to be important this week not to take any criticisms too personally. Rather see any as a chance to learn from them and use them as an incentive to improve. Mercury's link with Jupiter can also bring encouragement, if you have plans to expand your horizons.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



Is someone pushing you in a direction you'd rather not go? If so, it might be best to nip this in the bud quickly otherwise you could end up resenting their interference for some time to come. Mars relocating to Gemini from Tuesday can however give you a motivational boost, encouraging you to keep up to speed with your daily exercise routine.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



If you listen to your intuition you'll be in a position to take advantage of op-

portunities that others may not have noticed – and potentially giving you a telling advantage. On another note, by being shrewd and resourceful a solution to a financial problem can emerge. Mind, do be careful regarding a major purchase – it may be best to try it before you buy it!

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



Though not your usual style, the best way to get ahead this week may be to show off a little, inspiring others to pass on the good word about you. In addition, Venus' presence in Cancer can amplify your social charisma, making this a time of helpful and profitable encounters, and ones that you might well enjoy.

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



A little deliberation can help ease any difficulties you're facing. Research your options and you might find a plan or idea not so difficult to accomplish, after all. And as Mars roars into Gemini, good connections and socializing can be the key in getting ahead. Most of all don't let a temporary stumbling block put you off.

Hideaway breaks ground

Local tycoon family starts construction of resort-style residential development

By Nina Suebsukchareon

DESPITE a nationwide slow-down in the property market, a new residential estate construction project is on track, according to the scion of a local tycoon family.

Boon Yongsakul, deputy managing director of Boat Development Company, said Hideaway@Bypass is up and running as transfers of the company's first project near Bypass Road, Bypass Biz Town, are underway.

"We have about a thousand rai of land here and have a vision of turning it into a town," Mr Boon explained.

"We started selling around 60 Bypass Biz Town units in March and have almost sold out.

Let's say 99 per cent are gone, so the reception was much better than anticipated. Single houses sold best and we ourselves were surprised."

He said the company's success was due to "getting the mantra right with the location."

Mr Boon said the location of 200 meters off Bypass Road is

ideal for a resort-style residential estate.

"And the price point from 2.5 million baht for a townhouse, climbing to 12mn baht for a pool villa is easy on the pocket," he added.

Mr Boon said the residential estate will eventually occupy about 15 rai and comprise 60 pool villas, houses, twin houses and

townhouses with an investment of 450mn baht.

Although Thais living in and around Phuket are the primary target, foreign buyers have purchased 10 to 20 per cent of the units. Mr Boon said Boat Development Company has established a new department, Boat Assessment Management,

which will provide maids and gardeners to maintain units for off-site owners.

"We have asset management as a support service because this is a long-term investment in building up our brand," Mr Boon explained.

Mr Boon's plans for the future include a furniture and housing



■ We have about a thousand rai of land here and have a vision of turning it into a town ■



The residential estate will eventually comprise 60 pool villas, houses, twin houses and townhouses.

center and an entrainment complex similar to Fantasea in Phuket or Asiatique in Bangkok.

"We are looking for a partner who might want to develop

another Phuket Fantasea or Magic Land or Asiatique or even Thai boxing," he said.

"But the positioning is daytime entertainment because there is

already plenty going on at night. We have the hardware – the land and the branding – and we are searching for software from a partner with a similar mindset."

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Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted

THIS type of beachfront villa in the south of the island is rare. But, why?

We should start by saying that all beach fronts on the island of Phuket have been occupied by hotels and resorts, and the cost of land is so expensive that to build a private villa, for most budgets, would not be economical.

Furthermore, Thai law states that property may not be built on beach land within 20 meters of the high-tide mark and even then only 6m high.

You can see from the photos that the villa is a stone's throw away from the beach.

You really can't get much better than this.

This beachfront villa is located right on Chalong Bay in a 4-star resort.

The highlights of this modern Thai-style villa are its spacious pool (32 square meters), three-jet jacuzzi (2.8sqm) and terrace which overlooks the beach and provides direct access to it. A large sala sits at the edge of the property offering shade and pool access.

The house is offered fully fur-

nished with large screen TVs and internet. The open interior living plan, dining area, and western kitchen are massive. The tasteful decor makes the place ideal for entertaining, and the high ceilings and tiled floor keep the interior cool.

There are four bedrooms inside the home, including two beautifully finished master suites with seating areas and en-suite bathrooms with bathtubs.

The two guest suites have en-suite bathrooms, but with showers only. There is an additional maid's room with an en-suite bathroom.

All bedrooms are air-conditioned.

The full Western kitchen features golden wood cabinetry and black marble counter tops. There is a built-in hob, hood, oven, microwave and dishwasher. In addition, there is a safe room, a laundry room, and a guest WC.

The property is surrounded by walls and has an impressive entrance and car port with room enough for two cars. The exterior area is 900sqm and internal area 400sqm.

Hotel services include security, watering, gardening and swimming pool cleaning, plus any public access and use of amenities. A 30 per cent discount off restaurant, bar and spa from the resort are

You can see from the photos that the villa is a stone's throw away from the beach. You really can't get much better than this.



As you can see, the villa is a mere stone's throw away from the beach.



included.

There is a *Chanote* title available for the land, and road access through the resort. The land and villa itself are both free of a mort-


gage. It is available freehold. This gorgeous villa is going for 37,000,000 baht.

For more information about the

villa, contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSOB6434. Please call 076-288908 or visit the website www.siamrealestate.com





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Streamline EIA process: developers

ENVIRONMENTAL impact assessment approvals should be streamlined, as residential projects worth more than 600 billion baht are waiting for EIA permits, property-industry players say.

If the EIA committee sped up its approval process, it would be a significant boost to the economy as condominium construction could get under way, Prukka Real Estate president and chief executive officer Thongma Vijtpongpan told *The Nation*.

He said property firms wanting to develop condo projects had to wait eight to 12 months for an EIA permit after submitting their applications, and these companies had to bear significant costs before they could launch the projects on to the market.

Atip Bichanond, president of the Housing Business Association, said the problem was that EIA applications were not considered according to objective standards but were granted or rejected based on the personal judgements of the



Projects should get an EIA before breaking ground. Photo: One Nirun

EIA committee members.

No set timeline for EIA approval exists; some projects are approved within four months while others must wait 13 months. Meanwhile, the property firms are bearing costs for land they cannot do anything with, he said.

Thai Condominium Association president Prasert Taedullayasatit said that on average there were 500-600 EIA applications a year for condo or hotel projects, but the average approval rate was only 400 a year.

That means an annual shortfall of 100-200 approvals.

According to the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (OEPP), it approved EIA permits for 586 of the 3,994 projects proposed in the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2014.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Impact Evaluation Bureau under the OEPP says it has tried to solve the delay by revising the EIA rules and decentralizing the process.

At present, all EIA applications are handled by the central OEPP office, but this will change in September, Environmental Impact Evaluation Bureau director Piyanant Soponthanaporn said early this year. An amendment to the relevant legislation will localize EIA approvals.

If the decentralization is effective, the approval process may be faster, Prasert said. However, the rules governing EIA approvals also need to be revised and standardized, he added.

— *The Nation*

Recall: sportsmanship, winning



Island Fever

By Bill Barnett

I'M NOT quite sure what compelled me to join the flock of media-crazed sports fans and buckle up for the fight of the century between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao. The fact it was a Sunday made the decision to couch surf a little bit easier.

But in the end, I, like so many others who once went past the high-energy play up to the big event, was lulled into such a state of sheer boredom that I had to wonder if my wife had spiked my coffee with some sort of sedative.

I love Manny and my heart was with him the entire time, but at the end he was beaten by the better man on that day, who benefited from a height advantage and longer reach.

Those crying about unfair scoring are muttering nonsense. Anyone who has ever watched boxing can understand the rudimentary rules that bind the sport on points. Floyd played the rules to his advantage and won, clear and simple.

For those who claim that the

judging was slanted or any element of unfairness was involved, please go back and join your nursery school children in their sandbox. You may come out if and when you grow up.

Not long ago, one of my daughters was participating in a sports event and at the end of the day she ended up short of the awards and ribbons. Her despair was evident as she questioned why everyone can't win and why bother playing a game if you don't win?

Over the past day or so I have scanned social media about

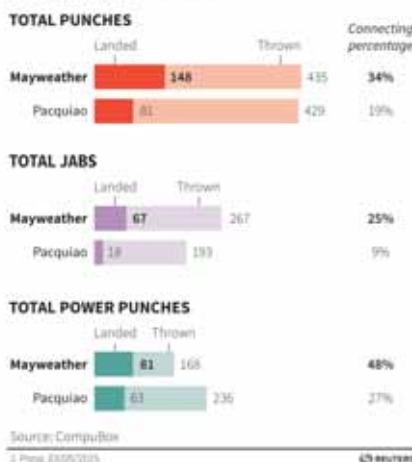
postings about the Manny / Floyd debacle and what is clear is that a great deal of people have lost the entire concept of sportsmanship, or shall we say 'sportspersonship'.

There is no admitting that the match determined a winner and loser in the ring and that closure needs to be in a finite ending of the matter.

Despite bruised national pride, the Filipino people can be proud of Manny, who in his own words, accepted his defeat with grace and simplicity. As for the Floyd bashers, and there are many, the rant goes on, and on. But despite all this media hoo-ha, the reality has to be that the great scorer has

Mayweather beats Pacquiao

Floyd Mayweather Jr cemented his place among the pantheon of boxing greats with a unanimous decision victory over Manny Pacquiao in their welterweight megabout on Saturday. The win improves Mayweather's unbeaten career record to 48-0.



Mayweather was clearly the winner, so why aren't people letting this end in the ring? Photo: Reuters

weighed in and what is done is done.

Sure there remains an argument for children everywhere about the importance of winning games, titles and contests. Now that I've grown up, the mere utterance of that term makes my hair stand up. What little hair that's left.

But back to the time I played for the love of the sport and also the motivation of trying to win.

They often say about sports, 'why keep score', but the reality is that's the measurement of not only a game but it also provides a benchmark for us to stretch

beyond our limits.

I can only counsel my young ones about the virtues of being a good sport, in winning and in losing, and in defeat, to create value to push hard, to work harder, train harder and believe that you can do better. Without stretch there really is no need to get off the couch and do anything at all.

At the end of the day, what's been lost in all this is that boxing is a game and a sport.

While life has no suddenly taken center stage, this was only 12 rounds which pale in comparison to a lifetime. In a world gone

mad with violence, human suffering and true craziness, the end result of what happened in the ring is hardly going to result in social and political change. Nor should it.

Most of us love sports as a pastime and a way to escape the more sober part of life, and the only message perhaps is to let the winners be and the results stand as a reminder to push a little harder, play again and see what may happen on that day.

There is no guarantee and winning a single game has little to do with how you live your entire life.

Aussie lad stuck between escalator and a hard place at Phuket airport

QUEER news

A 12-YEAR-OLD Australian boy is safe after getting his head caught between an escalator handrail and a wall at Phuket International Airport this week.

The boy, who the airport director declined to name, was travelling back to Melbourne after flying in to Phuket with nine of his family members to visit Khao Lak.

"After checking in at Terminal 2, the boy went up the escalator toward Terminal 1. He laid his head on the handrail," Airport Deputy Director Thanee Chuangchoo said. "Near the top of the escalator there is a space between the



The boy's head became jammed between the wall and handrail.

handrail and wall that narrows, which he ended up getting his head jammed into."

Airport employees immediately stopped the escalator to help free the boy. He had minor injuries to his face and was taken to Thalang Hospital to check for any further head trauma.

"Our staff always do their best

to take care of passengers' safety," Mr Thanee said. "However, parents should keep a close eye on their children and not leave them unattended, so as to avoid such accidents."

After treatment for minor injuries, the boy and his family flew back to Melbourne.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Season's last Kata Beach dive

IF YOU haven't figured it out yet, you might not be at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, but you sure aren't listening well – Kata Beach diving is amazing, and so are the night dives there.

Of course, it feels a little like bragging about going to a underground Rolling Stone's show after the fact, but for those who will be coming to Phuket next high season, make sure to save a couple of nights for beach diving.

With the southwest monsoon season blowing in fast – much to surfers' delight – the prime west-coast dive location will be too rough to dive most days and nights. Luckily, it was possible to sneak in one more full-on night dive with Vince of Kiwidiver.com to see which beautiful, unusual and delightful creatures could be found.

"Often, it's easier to find critters and appreciate their wonderful colors in the more 'pure' focused light of the torches, without the overwhelming blue-green of sunlight. Colorful feather stars, for instance, are amazing to watch at night, whereas you'd often just swim past them on a day dive," said Vince, who seems to

spend just as much time nose deep in marine-animal identification books as he does in the water.

"Reefs come cracking and popping to life at night, so to sit and watch the heightened activity of life underwater can be an amazing experience."

A heightened appreciation is one thing, but some of the animals that actually show up on the dive are the real selling points.

For unseasoned divers, there are a lot of

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

parrot fish and various species of moray eels are not too uncommon. Even for divers who have far surpassed the triple-digit mark, there can be a few opportunities for first sightings of robust ghost pipefish, ornate ghost pipefish, frog fish and bumblebee squid, as well as unusual nudibranchs and flatworms.

Even more exiting are the fish that you can't identify (see photo, center). This long-chinned fish was camouflaged against a piece of mooring line out in the sand. It resembled some strange mix between a shrimpfish and robust ghost pipefish... Vince (and I) were stumped.

However, what next season will bring will remain a mystery, at least for the next few months.

The Kata Beach dive site of the 2013-2014 season is different than the site of the season we are wrapping up now. What appears to be an increase in water pollution rolling in from the canal at the north end of the beach has changed the biological landscape. The seahorses, which

were being spotted regularly out in the sand and the sea grass beds, were mostly gone by the middle of the season. In their place a number of different sea creatures, including a variety of sea cucumbers, crawled in.

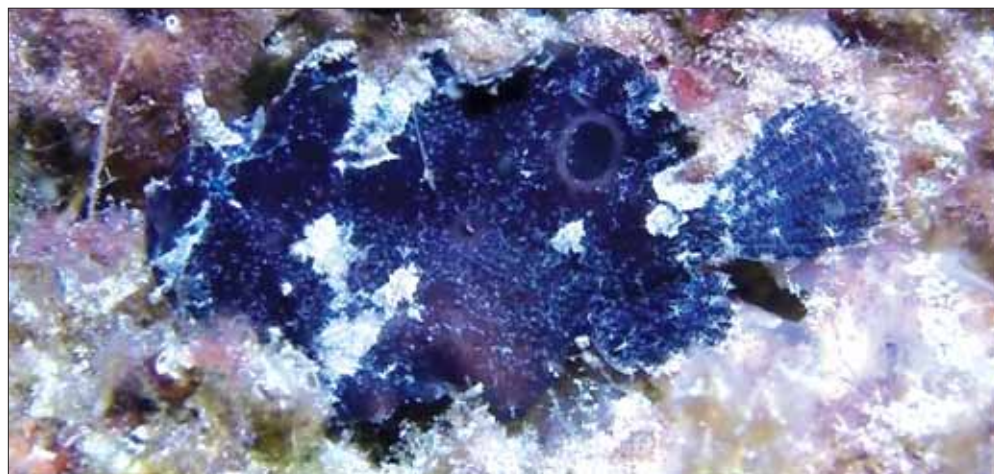
"I would expect pollution levels to subside a little during this 'low season' and hope that more seahorses return at least for a while, until 'high season' tourist numbers cause pollution to increase again. There are annual patterns anyway, warm and cold



If you can identify this fish, let us know at isaac@phuketgazette.net



A number of wonders can be found on night dives off Kata Beach (playful squid above, frogfish below). Photos: Kiwidiver.com



water cycles and so on...so I would expect some new critters [compared to the last year or two]," said Vince.

Whatever it brings, a few nights spent

away from the bars and on the Kata Beach dive site will be nights well spent with the kinds of creatures of the night that your significant other might approve of.

Three days of Lighthouse Market: shop, chill, eat

SINCE it began in January, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market has brought a brand new shopping, chilling and eating experience to the island's local and expat community – and this time around it will last three days.

Held on the last weekend of each month, the Lighthouse Market started as a fun gathering of local shop and restaurant owners along the dockside boardwalk of the marina and quickly turned into a bustling market with a distinct touch of class.

The concept of a local market with a cosmopolitan ambiance was an instant hit and something, it seems, that locals were more than ready for: a venue in which to relax with friends over not-too-pricey fine food and imported nectar.

You can sit on the dockside and tuck into the carvery, or even treat yourself to champagne and oysters if so inclined. For health-conscious diners, there is a variety of freshly-squeezed juices – organic of course – as well as



Explore the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market after work on Friday, May 15.

exotic salads and great tasting raw food recipes from the island's organic restaurants.

For families, the Lighthouse

Market has been a sensation. Located near the bypass road, the Boat Lagoon is easy to access and a place where kids can run about

and let off steam with fairground style games and activities. Plus, a challenging walk up the spiral staircase of the Boat Lagoon's

lighthouse, which reveals a spectacular view across the marina and the hills beyond, provides an excellent place to take a photo, or two, of the setting sun.

Magic shows, acrobatic performances and live music are also part of the entertainment mix, keeping young ones in one place and giving them something to rave about on the way home.

The next, and last, Lighthouse Market before the rainy season goes into full swing is going to be a three-day affair from Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, starting every day with a happy hour from 5pm-7pm on all drinks and selected food.

This will be followed by what promises to be a spectacular light and sound show to light up the marina. Another new addition is a mini-motor expo featuring about 10 different brands.

Even if it does rain, free raincoats will be available and the stalls will be covered to keep patrons nice and dry. – *Phuket Gazette*

Yoga above the rest

By Isaac Stone Simonelli



AERIAL yoga, widely known as 'anti-gravity' yoga or 'flying yoga', is now available in Phuket, as it takes Asia, Australia and the rest of the world by storm.

The incredibly new form of yoga, the first classes reportedly being taught by Michelle Dortignac in New York City in 2006, takes adaptations of traditional yoga poses, and combines them with the circus art of aerial silks to create a playful, challenging and rewarding practice.

"It's really just started taking off in the last year or so, and it's not just here, it's everywhere... everyone is doing aerial yoga," says Kim White, who has been teaching yoga on Phuket for the past six years, and now teaches aerial yoga at Yoga Connections in Chalong.

Unlike many traditional forms of yoga, aerial yoga demands a great deal from the studio, including sturdy ceiling anchors to hang the hammocks from. However, it was an investment that Yoga Connections saw worthy of the fun and health benefits that can be derived from the practice.

The hammocks and anchor points can support the weight of



Aerial yoga at Yoga Connections is a mix of modified static yoga poses, moving yoga and circus arts.

about 150 kilograms, so larger clients really have nothing to worry about, says avid yogi and owner of Yoga Connections, Pomme Thongmuang.

The material of the hammock is the same material you'll see performers using on the stages of Cirque du Soleil and even at Phuket aerial performances, which are becoming a popular part of almost any big opening event.

"It's fun. I call it going back

to your 'monkey bar' days," says Kim. "There are times when you see these people who are a little bit trepidatious when they start, but at the end, they have this massive, 4-year-old grin on their face."

Apart from bringing out the child in us, aerial yoga has a number of additional health benefits, including improved circulation, structuring a person's shoulders and decompression of

the spine and joints, she adds.

"It's awesomely core. The structural alignment in my shoulders has improved, stability and strength has improved," says Kim, who teaches the course several times a week. "It's a good cross-trainer for other arts as well."

The students at Yoga Connections agree.

"My body feels more flexible and I've even lost a little bit of weight," says Give Vanichkul, who regularly

makes her way down from Phuket Town to join the class.

Lindsay Rose, another student, points out that aerial yoga is a good jump-off point for those wanting to participate in other aerial sports.

"I like to do aerial sports like aerial hoop, aerial silk and pole dancing. It's a good way to start, it's not too difficult. It's a challenge. It's a good challenge to start off with."

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

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

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

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Serving Indian soul food

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE dishes served up by Spice Box's chef, Savita Sriram, are the Indian version of the Southern American soul food that makes New Orleans a must-stop destination on any foodie's travels – they are simply everything you want from Indian food and nothing you expect.

"We are not a fancy restaurant. We are not tandoori chefs. We are none of that; we don't claim to be," says Chef Sriram with the air of an old friend. "We give good solid food. The kind of food that if you travel anywhere in India, you will find in a small, little restaurant."

"The kind of food you eat in a big restaurant, that's not the kind of food you would eat at home at all. You can't eat like that, that heavy creamy stuff. This is what we eat on a daily basis. And that's what we want to introduce to people."

The funky, little Indian restaurant nestled into one of the many industrial storage containers of Phuket's Boat Avenue serves up truly authentic, home-style dishes, which means patrons, who quickly become friends of the owners – Chef Sriram and Sonu Kapoor of Events International – have to re-adjust what they think about when they think Indian food.

"In India, 'curry' means many things, it means vegetable, as well as meat. It just means a preparation, a dish. So even *aloo gobi* is a curry, though traditionally for the western palate it's different because it's dry like a stir fry, but in India it's a curry."

Though *aloo gobi*, which is basically spicy potatoes and cauliflower, is nothing like the curry found in Europe, it has quickly be-



Co-owners Chef Savita Sriram (left) and Sonu Kapoor are bringing the island authentic, home-style Indian food.

come a crowd favorite at Spice Box, explains Chef Sriram. However, this doesn't mean everything prepared in an Indian kitchen is a curry. Kebabs, and samosa are different, but if you eat it with rice or *naan*, then it's a curry.

Because Indian curries have travelled the world, they are very different things to different people. In British cuisine a lamb *rogan josh* is a spicy, bright-red curry. However, because Spice Box serves home-style cooking, it's a very mild curry – even for a foreigner.

"So we do kind of like a mix. Because it's home cooking, it's not very spicy, but I add spice for people who would like it. However, when it's made in its pure form, it's



The aloo chat is not to be overlooked.

actually not spicy," explains the chef.

Chef Sriram, originally from Bombay – yes, when she was living there last it was still Bombay – also serves up a traditional southern curry.

"This has mustard seeds. They have quite a sharp bite, a bitter bite. And this curry leaf, that's a very

specific herb, very specific to southern India," she says. "And it doesn't grow here. So we've actually both brought our plants back from India and nurtured them over the years – so it's very precious that curry leaf, but it imparts a very subtle, beautiful aroma and taste."

Though Spice Box plates up more mild dishes than are eaten in other Indian restaurants in Phuket, it does spice it up a bit. Moving away from a true home-cooked meal, which would usually only have a few spices, such as coriander, and fresh ingredients such as ginger, garlic, lime and chili, Chef Sriram incorporates *garam masala* in almost every dish.

"You roast the cloves, cinnamon, star anise, peppercorns, cardamom (green and black pods) – there are about seven different spices – and make a powder, and that's called *garam masala*. *Garam* means hot, as in warm, because it creates a heat within your body. *Masala* basically means 'spice mix'," Chef Sriram says.

"It's all the spices that people came to India for. This was basically the reason India was colonized."

"We had all these spices, and they were traded like gold," she says with a big laugh. "And now, we just use them willy-nilly everywhere."

With a customer base that tips the scales at about 80 per cent returning customers, Spice Box is looking to keep the buzz going in Boat Avenue along with the help of Events International. Co-owner of Spice Box, Sonu, will be roping off an area on May 30 and setting the stage for international renown, American standup comedian Tom Rhodes.

The Evening News describes Tom as, "brash, abrasive, but exceptionally funny!" while Edinburgh Festival says, "Highly recommended, if you want a fast thinking razor sharp and above all – irreverently funny show."

Though the colorful, open-air restaurant might seem like an odd venue for an American comedian, who has taken the New York City stage for Comedy Central Presents, it is in fact a perfect match – as long as it doesn't rain.

At the heart of it, the food, the show and the people behind putting it all together, are the souls of community builders, who are bringing new tastes, spectacles and edgy comedy to our little part of the world.





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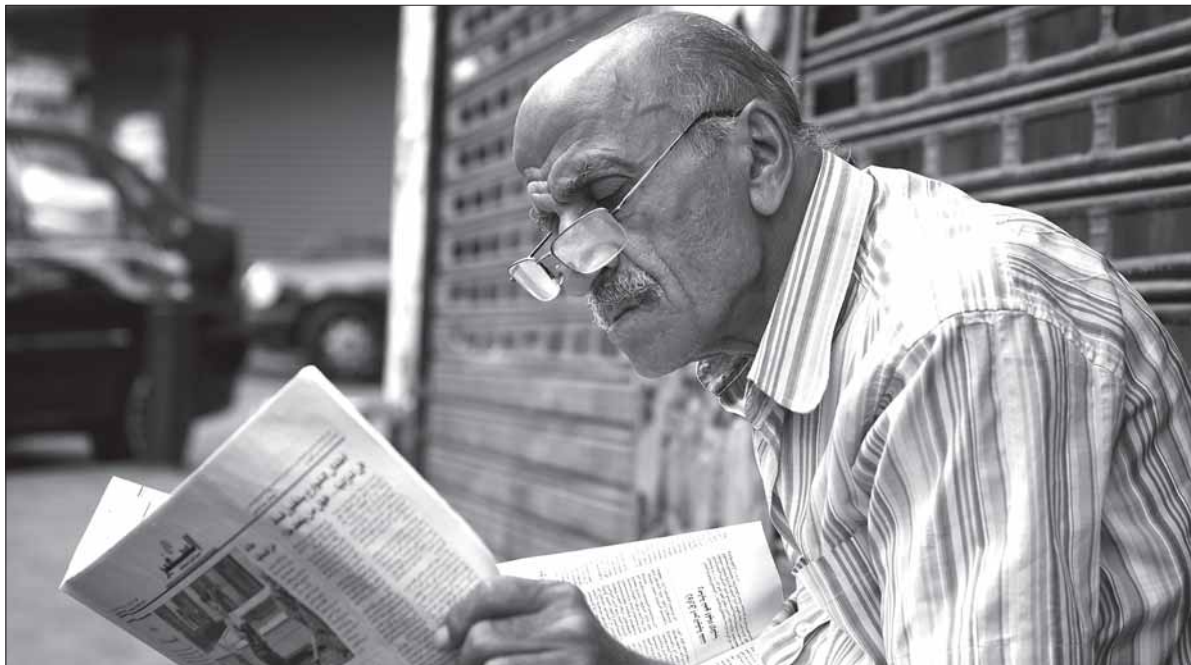
On Your Mind

By Patrick Mattimore

I FIRST became skeptical about the print media 20 years ago when my family (wife, son, and daughter) were returning to the United States from a trip to Peru. We flew out of Lima and arrived in Houston, Texas, where I picked up a copy of that day's *New York Times*, which included a story about political unrest in Peru.

Reading the story, which sounded an alarm about a serious political protest in the capitol city, I was struck by how at odds the report was with what I had actually seen and learnt in that country. The protest I had seen in Lima was a small orderly affair and few of the people with whom I had spoken in Peru seemed much concerned with the current government there. What I realized upon reading the overblown *Times* story was that the reporter – likely the only foreign US correspondent covering matters in Peru – had needed to pump up the story in order to get it published. What I had seen and learnt in Lima was certainly not newsworthy, at least not on an international scale.

When I lived in China for three years (2009-2012), I frequently wrote commentaries for the English-language newspapers the *Global Times* and *China Daily*. In



What might read as an alarming story could be very much an exaggeration of the truth. Photo: Thomas Leuthard

addition, I authored an award-winning web column for *China Daily* for a year. Unlike some Western journalists, I generally felt that the Chinese press treated many subjects fairly and objectively, albeit with glaring blind spots and 'off limits' topics.

Now that I have lived in Thailand for a couple of years, I still peruse Chinese sources, particularly for news about Thailand.

It was disappointing to read an op-ed recently in the *Global Times*, 'US interference in Thailand leaves country in mess and

hinders change,' (March 10) that exaggerates US influence here.

While it is true that a US State department official recently criticized the current military government for its slow movement in implementing its promise of democracy here, it's hardly the case that the country has been left in a mess or even that the comments will hinder change.

The *Global Times* op-ed headline, like the story I read many years ago in *The New York Times*, simply misrepresented what was happening, likely as a way to

attract and provoke readers.

But China's media has a more endemic problem than an occasional inflated headline. Because the media is an arm of the government, it cannot call that government to task. Nearly as damaging as that disability is the perception that the Chinese media never acts independently and that even op-eds represent the government's official position.

For example, four years ago, the American magazine, *The Atlantic*, accused the *Global Times* of launching a propaganda war

against a small Maine town based on an op-ed that cautioned Chinese parents to think twice about sending their children to a public high school in Maine at a cost of US\$24,000 (798,900 baht) per year. *The Atlantic* accused the newspaper of serving "as a regime tool to flatter the Communist Party and to assail its enemies."

In response to *The Atlantic* criticism of the *Global Times*, an editor at that newspaper wrote that his newspaper had chosen to publish the freelance submission "because we thought it was interesting, like virtually all of our original English-language opinion pieces. It had nothing to do with any political agenda."

The op-ed, which I had written, was the same type of advice I would have given as a former public high school teacher to anyone living outside the US considering sending a child to that Maine school.

I had done some background research on the school and it was a run-of-the-mill school trying to bolster sagging enrollments and financial difficulties with a clever overseas recruitment strategy.

I'm pretty sure I wasn't the victim of a subliminal brainwashing scheme intended to inculcate socialist values in the masses, but unfortunately, sometimes the message plays second fiddle to the messenger.

Make sure you get enough 'D'

ONE in every three Thai working people has a vitamin D deficiency, while 64.6 per cent of adults in Bangkok face Vitamin D insufficiency leading to increased risk of health problems in the long term, according to a leading expert.

Vitamin D insufficiency is caused by insufficient sun exposure, primarily as a result of long hours inside the office and concern about skin damage from sun exposure. The statistics were unveiled at the "Have you got enough D?" event, held by Roche Diagnostics (Thailand), which aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of Vitamin D.

"Vitamin D is known as the sunshine vitamin. The recent study found that one in every three, or 36.5 per cent, of Thai people had vitamin D serum lower than 20ng/mL, which is defined as a deficiency. The lowest level of vitamin D in the blood of the sample group was 9.95 ng/ml. Even in Thailand, a country with abundant levels of sunshine, a large percentage of the Thai population is at risk of low vitamin D levels, especially Bangkok residents who spend long hours sheltered from sunlight," says Dr Sant Chaiyodsilp of Phyathai 2 International Hospital.



Dr Sant. Photo: The Nation

"Common pollutants in the air also decrease the amount of UV rays reaching the skin, hence reducing the opportunity for the skin to produce vitamin D. Worldwide, it is estimated that 1 billion people have vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency."

Vitamin D is produced by the skin via its absorption of UV rays and also occurs naturally in a few foods, among them certain fish, fish liver oils, and egg yolks, as well as in fortified dairy and grain products. At higher risk of vitamin D

deficiency are dark-skinned people, the overweight and the elderly, menopausal females, pregnant women, lactating mothers and those who adhere to a vegan diet.

In addition to insufficient sun exposure, further factors include ingesting fewer vitamin D-rich foods, intake of anticonvulsant or steroid medicine for long periods, and absorption problems.

"Vitamin D has taken a back seat to vitamin C and many do not realize the vital role it plays in their health," Dr Sant continues.

High vitamin D levels protect against such auto-immune diseases as rheumatoid arthritis and Type 1 Diabetes, while a sufficient vitamin D level lowers cardiovascular risks including hypertension and the hardening of artery walls.

In addition, researchers have pointed out the correlation between high Vitamin D levels with decreased risks of breast, colorectal and prostate cancer.

"I urge Thai people to take vitamin D deficiency seriously. The first step is for people to have their vitamin D level tested because deficiency can occur even in people who consume rich Vitamin D food or take supplements," said Dr Sant.

– The Nation

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* Channels and schedules: See page 29, this issue of the Gazette.

Phuket Gazette

Dog days, damp plants



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

AS THE poet W.H. Auden once observed, "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

That adage is equally applicable to the plants in your garden, though loving your charges and watering them are part and parcel of the same impulse. Now, after three months without rain, Phuket's gardeners are all prioritizing their use of the world's most precious commodity.

Personally, and since I have no functioning well, I have decided to let the grass turn brown and sere in the expectation that a good downpour – or three – will restore its verdancy. The same principle applies to established trees: their deep root systems should ensure their survival.

Container plants, however, still have to be watered on a daily basis: that is to say everything growing in ceramic pots apart from cacti, succulents and desert shrubs, such as *euphorbias* and *adeniums*. As for the rest, and granted a continuation of these xeric conditions, without daily applications from the hose or watering can, they will first wilt, then shed foliage and finally expire.

Which brings me to marsh-loving flora. Not the ones recently discussed in these columns: plants which actually live in water with submerged roots like *nymphaea*, lotuses, papyrus, water cannas, reed mace, or the flotilla of tropical floaters such as water hyacinths, water chestnuts and water lettuce. With all of these, just top up their pots with more liquid, and maybe add a fertilizer tablet for good measure. They should be fine.



Ixoras are a tough shrub with leathery leaves that will take any amount of heat. Photo: Mohammed Tawsif Salam

Plants whose leaves require fresh air to breathe and whose roots sit in moistened soil present a different problem. To keep them going means heavier applications of water than is required by the rest of your land-locked collection. Sitting in shady surroundings will help to limit both water loss through transpiration and the dry-

ing out of roots, but they will still need irrigation.

When I first planted my garden – 'designed' is too grand a word – I put in *alocasias* (elephant ears) to provide some shade, and both *canna* lilies and *heliconias*. The idea was that the elephant ears, large specimens garnered from marshy, jungle waste

ground, would provide instant shade for less robust neighbors. It worked well enough in the rainy season, but once the monsoon was over they started to struggle beneath the harsh tropical sun. After all, they are rainforest understorey plants that require the kind of humid, somewhat cooler conditions that my garden simply

did not possess at the time. Now, years on, I have one *alocasia* left. It has survived, a specimen fully 10 feet tall, because it is next to a sizable tree and, more important, gets a daily dose of water in the form of run-off from the outdoor shower.

And there's the rub. If you want to grow *cannas*, *alocasias* or *heliconias*, in fact most rainforest understorey denizens or bog-loving plants, you will need either a consistently damp, shady area, or an unenclosed pond or canal which allows plants to thrive at its muddy margins. An ordinary flower bed just won't fit the bill.

I recall my neighbor who, blessed with a soil-filled trough the length of his outside wall, planted rows of *heliconias*. An area in full sun and with a limited depth of soil, it proved too much for them. Within a year they had been replaced with orange *ixoras*, a tough shrub with leathery leaves that will take any amount of heat. Right now, three months into the drought, they are still blooming. I should add that my *canna* lilies, similarly misplaced, went the same way as the neighbor's *heliconias*.

There is a further distinction to be made between understorey plants that simply need moist roots and high humidity, and those that, in the wild, occupy the zone between land and water, thrive at watery margins and can cope with waterlogged environments. Many irises – for example *versicolor*, *laevigata*, and the yellow flag *pseudacorus* – flourish in such conditions, as do *gunnera*, swamp milkweeds and most varieties of *juncus* (rush), sedge (*carex*) and reed.

It's all about horses for courses. Selecting the right plant for the right location is half the battle.

Did I say battle? I mean make love, not war, at least with your plants.



Iris laevigata thrive in watery margins. Photo: Dennis L. Lindwall

Tip of the Week

Growing galangal

EVERYONE knows the familiar taste and appearance of root ginger, but galangal (*alpinia galanga*) is not so well known outside Asia. But to Thais, *kha* is just as important, and the sour soup called *tom yam* would be unthinkable without it. What's more, it comes from the same zingiber family. The rhizomes are less knobbly, and a paler pink than those of ginger, but there is no mistaking their extreme and unique spiciness. It is too pungent to be eaten raw.

Galangal is very easy to grow. The quickest way is to put a couple of roots directly into fertile, moist soil, with the reddish stems protruding above ground. These rhizomes are always available in your local fresh market.

It grows fast and does best in partial shade; my plant has stems fully six feet high. And you can split the roots up for the cooking pot, or to start a new plant.



Galangals are easy to grow. Photo: Thomaswanhoff

BISP youth footballers score big in Bangkok

FOUR teams from Cruzeiro Football Academy at British International School Phuket (BISP) brought home gold, silver, bronze and shield medals from the Bangkok International Youth Football Festival 2015, held on April 25-26.

The Under-11 boys, under Coach Simon Bray, defeated Singapore's JSSL Arsenal Sanchez to win gold in their final, while the Under-9 team – with Coach Tim Pearson – took silver by losing 2-1 in the championship match against JSSL Wilshire, despite aggregating a two-day overall record of 7-1.

BISP academy's Under-15s secured the bronze medal in their division, and the Under-13s won the shield prize.

"The Bangkok International Youth Football Festival 2015 provided a great opportunity for our academy teams

to play against some of the best football academies in Asia," Mr Candido said.

"It was a big challenge for our players due to the high level of quality and the number of games played in the two-day tournament.

"But our teams impressed with great organization on and off the pitch. All players showed excellent behavior and respect for all the referees, coaches and other players," he added.

"The results were very good, but the way that our teams played was the highlight of the tournament."

Coach Pearson agreed.

"They conducted themselves as professionals at all times and played some beautiful football and all have very bright futures ahead of them."

– *Phuket Gazette*



The BISP Under-11s won gold in their competition.

Kingdom's Cup runneth over

By Chris Husted

LOCAL sailors Scott Duncanson and Alfie Rowson, and their fellow *Kingdom Property* crew David Chapman, Trent Pedersen and Tony Harman, have won the Coronation Cup 2015.

In doing so, they have become the first crew to successfully defend the title in the event's 19-year history.

The four-day Coronation Cup was held as part of the Top of the Gulf Regatta, raced at Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Pattaya, starting last weekend and culminating with the final day of racing on the Coronation Day public holiday on Tuesday.

Kingdom was slow out of the blocks, Duncanson admitted, placing fourth in the first race of the series.

The crew managed third place in the second race of the day, and then closed the first day of racing with a first-place bullet.

"It was a conservative and careful start," Duncanson said. "The conditions were 'superlight winds', which were very tricky, but the breeze picked up to about seven knots on day two, and we started getting our groove on."

And that they did, finishing first in all five races held over the next two days.

Two races were held on the final day, and *Kingdom Property* required only 10th place or better in one of the two outings to claim



Scott Duncanson (above, right) and his *Kingdom Property* crew (below) made history by defending the Cup.

overall victory and defend their title.

But a poor second-row start by *Kingdom* sparked a rally from tactician Chapman, who guided the team through the fleet and with some impressive upwind boat speed, *Kingdom* rounded the first mark of the windward-leeward course in second place.

From there, the team steadily consolidated their position, passing the Hong Kong crew led by Andrew Moore and Jonno Rankine aboard *Wicky* on the second



The *Kingdom* crew.

and final lap to take a convincing overall points victory and not even need to start the final race. Such was *Kingdom's* dominance throughout the regatta, the crew

amassed a tally of just 16 points – after scoring maximum points for not even contesting the final race.

In comparison, the much respected crew of Chris Way on *Easy Tiger IV* massed a tally of 28 points to place second overall.

Duncanson, who has now won the Coronation Cup a record five times – in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and now 2015 – was full of praise for his crew.

"The defence of the title has been our goal for the past 12 months," he said.

"As always, our boat preparation was second to none and with some new sails, speed and tuning tips from David [Chapman], we worked hard on areas where we had been previously a little weak, which really brought the whole boat and crew package together."

The 7.5 meter Platu class yacht was designed specifically for Thai waters by world renowned yacht designer Bruce Farr in the early 1990s and continues its global success offering affordable one-design racing in New Zealand, Asia and Europe.

With more than 20 boats based in Thailand, the Platu racing division remains one of the Kingdom's most competitive one-design sailing classes.

"I'm often asked what was the deciding factor in regatta victories, but there are so many variables in yacht racing it's impossible to single any one thing out," Duncanson explained.

"What I can say is that the *Kingdom Property* crew put in an almost-flawless performance on and off the water, and approached the regatta with the utmost professionalism. I'm very proud to be part of this team.

"It's not often a one-design regatta is won by such a large margin, especially at this level, so defending the title so convincingly makes it a very special achievement – It's hard to believe ... and it's still taking Some time to sink in."

Ronins draw in Krabi showdown

PHUKET FC missed their chance to climb into third place on the Yamaha League One football table when bayside rivals Krabi FC scored a late equalizer at Surakul Stadium to force a 1-1 draw last Saturday.

The Ronins took the lead after Alef Pohji delivered a superb cross into the box at 38 minutes.

Krabi center back Kone Chedu mistimed his header, and put the ball into his own net.

Despite roars of encouragement from Phuket FC fans, the Ronins failed to take advantage of



Phuket FC (center) managed only a draw against Krabi. Photo: Phuket FC

many scoring opportunities created throughout the rest of the match, as Krabi goalkeeper Sayomphu Iadpool denied Phuket time and again with brilliant saves

that eventually saw him named Man of the Match.

Ronins' fans were finally silenced by a Krabi counter attack in the 76th minute, when a long ball from the left was improperly cleared by Phuket defender Anuwat Promsakul.

The ball bounced to Krabi striker Larby, and his powerful left-footed shot was too strong for Phuket keeper Piyawat Inthaphim.

Phuket FC return home to play at Surakul on May 10, when they take on Tobacco FC. Kickoff is at 7pm. – *Saroj Kueprasertkij*

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Mayweather runs away with fight of the century

By Mark Lamport-Stokes

IN A hotly anticipated match-up of contrasting styles, Floyd Mayweather's defensive brilliance trumped Manny Pacquiao's all-out attack as the American eked out a unanimous decision over the Filipino on May 3.

Time and again, Mayweather bobbed and weaved out of harm's way to leave Pacquiao punching thin air in a welterweight show-down at the MGM Grand Garden Arena that was no classic, but is expected to be the richest bout of all time.

"I knew he was going to push it, I knew he was going to win some rounds," Mayweather said ringside after improving his career record as a professional to 48-0.

"He had moments in the fight, but I kept him on the outside. I was a smart fighter. I outboxed him. I wasn't getting hit with a lot of shots until I sat right there in the pocket, that's when he would land a lot of shots."

Mayweather is regarded as one of the best defensive fighters of all time and he relied on those



Mayweather landed 148 of 435 thrown punches, while Pacquiao landed just 81 of 429. Photo: Reuters

skills, along with timely counter-punching, to earn the vote of all three judges in what is expected to be a record-shattering payday of US\$180 million.

Mayweather has been criticized

over the years for being too cautious, and the level of entertainment he provides in the ring very rarely reaches lofty heights.

"I am a calculated fighter," said Mayweather, who landed 148 of

435 punches, while eight-division world champion Pacquiao landed just 81 of 429. "He is a very, very awkward fighter so I had to take my time and watch him extremely close." — Reuters

F1 unable to gain traction in pulling female brands

WHEN Claire Williams was appointed vice-principal of the Williams Formula One team, she hoped her promotion and the presence of Susie Wolff as test driver might open the door to an untapped market.

With women making up some 40 per cent of the audience, it seemed a good time to approach brands more interested in female consumers than the average petrolhead.

The response was hardly deafening: "I said [to the Williams sponsorship people] 'Let's go out there, let's really go hard at female brands'. And not one of them [brands] was interested," Williams, who was appointed deputy to her father Frank in 2013, told Reuters.

Formula One has become more inclusive — some eight per cent of Williams' engineers are women — and has come a long way from the days when the sport was sponsored by oil, beer, cigarettes and even men's magazines and prophylactics.

While Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone is convinced that a woman racer would be a commercial boost for the series, getting one who really excites the fans — and sponsors — has been the problem. — Reuters



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