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## Nepal victim fund goes sideways

**Last-minute changes to earthquake fund allocations stall donations**

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## ‘ONE-YEAR CHARTER LICENCES FOR SUPERYACHTS’ Super solution

Public applauds initiative to attract more superyachts to Thailand's marinas

By **Chutharat Plerin**

STANDARDIZED criteria for foreign-flagged superyacht chartering licences, which are designed to move Phuket and Thailand toward the goal of becoming the regional maritime hub, will be finalized by the end of the month, it was announced this week.

The current issuance of such licences is subjective and dealt with case by case, explained Marine Department Director-General Chula Sukmanop.

“We are looking to issue one-year temporary licences to vessels that are 30 meters or longer. We expect them to be crewed by about 12 or more people,” Mr Chula explained.

The announcement was met with mostly positive reactions at a public meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday.

“There are many superyacht owners who would bring their superyachts to Phuket if they could charter them while here, and I know many people who charter superyachts around the world for in excess of US\$100,000 [about 3.4 million baht] per week,” said Gulu Lalvani, chairman of Royal Phuket Marina.

“Introducing a charter licence for superyachts whose owners wish to charter in Thailand will significantly increase charter revenue for the country.”

With its world-class cruising grounds, Thailand is the destination of choice for superyachts coming to Asia, and amendments



Marine Department Director-General Chula Sukmanop looks to support yachting industry.

to the current rules and regulations are expected to encourage growth in superyacht arrivals and potential charter income, Mr Lalvani noted.

To illustrate the economic power the superyacht industry could have on Phuket and Thailand, Nick Wyatt, marina manager for Yacht Haven Marina (YHM), broke down the numbers for January 2014.

At YHM there were 14 vessels between 30m and 40m with an average value of about 1.3 billion baht; seven vessels between 40m and 50m with an average value of 1.7bn baht; and 10 vessels between 50m and 60m with an average value of 2bn baht. Given that the industry standard for calculating...

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## Tour fraudster blames loan shark threats

A 25-YEAR-OLD man wanted for defrauding a Phuket tour company of about 1.5 million baht handed himself into police on April 29, claiming that the crime was committed under the duress of death threats from loan sharks.

Peerapat ‘Deer’ Singhon appeared at the Phuket City Police Station after he went into hiding for defrauding Phuket Diamond Tours.

Full story on Page 3

## Incinerators went offline – temporarily

THE already overwhelmed solid-waste incinerators operating at the Saphin Hin landfill site in Phuket Town ground to a halt this week, adding thousands of tonnes of trash to the overflowing landfill.

Though three incinerators are located at the site, one has been out of commission since 2012, leaving the other two to struggle with the 729 tonnes of trash produced per day.

Full story on Page 7

## Police hunting for traffickers along coasts

POLICE, officials and military personnel continue to chase down leads to put an end to human trafficking and smuggling in Thailand, as more mass graves are discovered.

Full stories on Page 4, 7 and 8

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## This Week



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Russians return to the island as their economy recovers. **Page 29**



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Yacht Solutions senses surge in yacht arrivals to Phuket. **Page 30**



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### Well-being

Excuse Buster Craig tells us the benefits of magnesium. **Page 33**

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# Monsoon seas claim life on lifeguard-less beach

By Kongleaphy Keam

A 20-YEAR-OLD man drowned at lifeguard-less Nai Harn Beach on May 5 as the southwest monsoon season rolls in, bringing dangerous swimming conditions to Phuket's west-coast beaches.

Without lifeguards on the beach, family members and beachgoers did their best to save Panya Lonraphat, a witness to the death told the *Gazette*.

"He was found and brought ashore by family [members] within minutes. Onlookers tried to assist with CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] for half an hour, while waiting for the ambulance, yet it was too late, as he had tragically drowned and there were no lifeguards present," said Mr Panya's brother-in-law, Jacob Ritter.

"While politicians and suppliers continue to wrangle over a budget for lifeguards at Phuket beaches, another tragic drowning took a life at Phuket's world-class Nai Harn Beach. He was visiting Phuket to celebrate the recent birth of his niece."

In response to the lack of life-saving services on the beach, the victim's family wrote an open letter to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO):

"Each year, Phuket's lifeguards



Panya Lonraphat drowned at Nai Harn Beach on May 5.

save many swimmers in distress. However, annually, the lifeguard organization renegotiates bids with the government and inexcusably during this time, zero guards are protecting the beach.

"Surf season has already begun, putting many innocent visitors' lives at serious risk. At an otherwise world-class tourist-friendly island destination, this is totally inexcusable, avoidable and a crying shame. People should feel safe enjoying the beach,

regardless of contracts and budgets. In order to protect Thailand and Phuket's image, guards need to be stationed on beaches all year long.

"Therefore, the victim's family respectfully urges General Prayut and the NCPO to correct this problem by ending the annual pattern. In using its power to expediently consider this urgent matter, we appreciate the government's kind attention and genuine concern."

## King cobra pays hotel a visit

A FOUR-METER-LONG king cobra was wrangled into submission by rescue workers as it tried to sneak into a Phuket hotel room Tuesday night.

Saiyan Thamaphan, chief of the Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation, and his team arrived at Star of Phuket Resort to find panicked tourists and locals gathered outside.

"We found the king cobra trying to gain access to one of the rooms. The people were all very frightened," said Mr Saiyan.

"I did not expect the cobra to be this big. We normally only catch small ones – I was quite frightened myself when I saw it."

It took rescue workers only a few minutes to safely remove the 40-kilogram reptile.



The king cobra was 4 meters long

"I am glad that the locals did not try to catch the snake on their own," Mr Saiyan said. "If you ever find a snake, please call us immediately. Do not try to handle it by yourself. It can be very dangerous."

—Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Drug dealer's daughter arrested for dealing

POLICE arrested a convicted drug dealer's daughter on May 9 after she was found in possession of 5,400 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills, 41.50 grams of *ya bah* powder and more than 50g of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Police had been keeping a close eye on Suphanan Chaichana, 30, after her father, Lep Chaichana, was arrested for selling drugs and sentenced to prison on March 9.

"We had been monitoring Ms Suphanan's activities as we believed she was involved in the same drug network as her father," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pinit Sirichai told a press conference on Monday.

"We finally made our move on Saturday [May 9] after we had



Suphanan Chaichana was arrested on May 9 in possession of drugs.

evidence that she was in possession of illegal drugs and dealing in Phuket Town."

Police arrested Ms Suphanan at her rental room in Soi Maechit Uthit in Rassada, where they found 0.4g of *ya ice* and drug paraphernalia, as well as another 10.5g of *ya ice* hidden inside a helmet,

said Col Pinit.

"Ms Suphanan confessed that the drugs belonged to her," Col Pinit said. "After questioning, she told police that there were more drugs, which she claimed had belonged to her father, hidden inside a house in Pa Khlok."

At the house, police found 5,400 pills of *ya bah* inside 27 plastic bags, 41.50g of *ya bah* powder and 39.25g of *ya ice*.

Ms Suphanan was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

"We are questioning Ms Suphanan to find out more information about her and her father's drug network. We hope that this will lead to more arrests," Col Pinit said. —Woranut Pechdee

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# Tour company fraudster claims death threats motivated crimes

By Kongleaphy Keam

THE 25-year-old man wanted for defrauding a Phuket tour company of about 1.5 million baht handed himself into police on April 29, claiming that the crime was made under the duress of death threats from loan sharks.

Peerapat 'Deer' Singhon, his lawyer and his parents appeared at the Phuket City Police Station after Mr Peerapat went into hiding for defrauding Phuket Diamond Tours.

A 10,000-baht reward was put out for Mr Peerapat after he left hundreds of tourists stranded on their holiday, for which he had booked and collected payments, but never informed Phuket Diamond Tours, with whom he was working as a freelance sales representative.

"Mr Peerapat confessed to us that he couldn't pay debts he owed to loan sharks, so he sold the Phuket Diamond Tours packages at extraordinarily low prices, sometimes below cost," Capt Sakol Krainara of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette*.

"He was unable to manage the money. The situation quickly spiraled out of control, leading to his debt quickly growing and loan sharks making death threats."

Mr Peerapat told police that he had gone into hiding to allow himself the time to collect evidence for his defense and other necessary legal documents.

"We know of five other people who were involved in the scam. We are currently attempting to hunt them down," said Capt Sakol.

The owner of Phuket Diamond Tours, Arinrada Sirirak, told the



Peerapat Singhon (center left) turned himself in to police on April 29. Photo: MOTs

*Gazette* that she was very glad that Mr Peerapat had finally turned himself in and confessed.

"I do not want the public or tourists to misunderstand my company. We are not a fraudulent company," Ms Arinrada said.

"These people have destroyed my company's reputation, they all have to be brought to justice."

Ms Arinrada confirmed to the *Gazette* on Tuesday that she would be taking the case to court.

"I will make this an example for other potential fraudsters. This has damaged the reputation of tourism in Phuket, as well as in the rest of Thailand," she said.

About 300 tourists bought packages from Mr Peerapat during the time period that he was conducting the fraudulent interactions, said Ms Arinrada. Of those, about 100 have already visited Phuket.

The director of the Ministry of

Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office, Santi Pawai, confirmed on Tuesday that Mr Peerapat is being charged with operating a tourism business without permission.

"Other charges brought against Mr Peerapat will be handled by the police," he said.

"Mr Peerapat will also be responsible for paying the remaining boat fees and other costs back to the tourists involved in the scam."

## Tsunami drill postponed to mid-month

THE full-scale tsunami evacuation and emergency-response drill scheduled to be held on May 8 on Koh Sireh has been postponed to May 19.

The earthquakes that shook Phuket played no part in the decision, said Santhawat Riwleung, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM).

"This has nothing to do with the earthquakes," Mr Santhawat told the *Gazette*. "Many of the local people are sea gypsies, and they have been busy preparing for a traditional festival."

"The locals were not ready. The government officers were not ready after the long holidays over the weekend, and the big event to hand over donations for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal was scheduled for that day, so we pushed the date back to May 19."

The traditional festival Mr Santhawat refers to is *Loy Reua*, a celebration held twice a year to honor their goddess of the sea. The festival is regarded as an important cultural event, and has been heralded as one of the key events to be maintained in order to preserve sea gypsy tradition.

"We will go ahead with our briefing of local residents and officials at Baan Koh Sireh School, as scheduled," Mr Santhawat said. "The session aims to educate local agencies and residents taking part in the drill of their roles and responsibilities in the exercise, and to learn how to communicate with each other."

The drill on May 19 will start at 9am and proceed as previously announced, he added.

— Chutharat Plerin



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The python was found near Bangneaw School in Phuket Town.

## Massive python found coiled up outside school

A FIVE-meter-long python was found coiled up at the entrance of a street across from Bangneaw School on May 10.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers rushed to the scene at Soi Jan Asawaksuk after being notified of the massive reptile by local villagers.

"It took eight of us to lift and bag the snake. It weighed about 60 kilograms, so it took us some time to get him off the street," said rescue worker Jessada Janpen.

The python was then taken to the jungle near the Kathu waterfall and safely released.

"There are many people in this community and a snake of this size can be very dangerous, especially when there are children around," said Mr Jessada.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Human smuggler busted with 10 illegal Myanmar migrants

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MAN was arrested for attempting to smuggle 10 illegal Myanmar laborers through a checkpoint in Phang Nga on May 6.

Ranong native Pidech Janjue, 36, had picked up the illegal workers at a fishing port in Phang Nga's Kuraburi district and was transporting them through Takuapa district to the Khok Kloi bus station. From there, the group was headed to Chumphon Province. However, police have yet to establish what kind of work the men would be hired to do there.

"Mr Pidech knew there was a checkpoint ahead, so he parked his car about 500 meters before it. At that point, he let seven workers out of his car. They were made to wait in a palm tree forest near the road," Takuapa District Chief Mani Pianthong told the *Gazette*.

"The other three were then told to lie in the trunk so the car would not be stopped by police. After passing through the checkpoint,



Officers arrested 10 Myanmar migrants for illegally entering Thailand.

Mr Pidech dropped off the workers at the entrance of Bor Hin waterfall, where they waited until he picked up the other workers."

Mr Pidech made two more similar trips through the checkpoint, bringing three workers in the second trip and the last four in the third.

"However, local residents in the area took notice of the suspicious behavior near the waterfall, so they notified police," said Mr Mani.

"After Mr Pidech returned to the waterfall with the last four workers, district officers showed up at the scene."

When Mr Pidech saw the authorities, he fled in his car, leaving the workers behind, Mr Mani said.

Takuapa district officers immediately notified local police stations of the fleeing suspect.

"Mr Pidech was arrested about 30 kilometers south by Khao Lak Police," said Mr Mani.

Mr Pidech told police that he had been hired by a man, known only as 'Bang', to pick up the workers from the fishing port and transport them to the bus station.

"Mr Pidech admitted that he was paid 2,300 baht per person," said Mr Mani.

All 10 workers were charged with illegally entering Thailand. Mr Pidech was charged for smuggling illegal workers into Thailand.

Mr Pidech could face a maximum penalty of a 100,000-baht fine, 10 years in prison or both, confirmed Lt Col Sarwawudh Soonsanga of the Takuapa Police.

All suspects were taken to Takuapa Police Station for further questioning.

## Port in-Port out Control Center open for business

THE Port in-Port out Control Center (PIPO) at the main fishing port in Phuket officially opened on May 6 as a measure to help with Thailand's crackdown on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishers.

The center is set up at the Coastal Fisheries Radio Station Phuket office near Rassada Pier in Phuket Town.

"All 26 coastal fishery radio stations across the country opened their centers today [May 6], as Thailand is now looking to close legal loopholes and enforcement issues being abused by IUU fishers," said Governor Nisit Jansomwong at the grand

opening last week.

The new regulations require fishing boats weighing 30 gross tonnes or more to report to the center 24 hours before both departure and arrival in order to prepare required documentation. Currently, there are 148 fishing boats in Phuket that fit this description.

"This goes hand in hand with Thailand taking the right steps to resolve issues with the operation of IUU fishing vessels," said Gov Nisit.

"It will also give a positive boost to our fish-product export industry," he added.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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# Nepal funds handoff fumbled

By Chutharat Plerin

CHARITABLE islanders have raised more than 4 million baht for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Nepal, which killed more than 7,500 and affected an estimated 8mn people, according to the UN.

The funds raised through the 'Phuket Together For Nepal Disaster Victims' were originally to be given directly to the Embassy of Nepal on May 7. However, only about 600,000 baht, raised through the Thai-Nepali Shree Bhagawat Dhaam Sanatan Mandir Foundation, was turned over to the embassy on May 7.

It was originally proposed that the president of the Thai-Nepali Foundation, Panuphong Limbuprasertkul, and Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong set up a joint bank account for the 'Phuket Together For Nepal Disaster Victims'.

However, Mr Panuphong's name was removed from the plan and the funds were designated to be handled by the governor, Provincial Treasury Office and



Phuket officials publicly presented the money handed to the Embassy of Nepal on May 7. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

Phuket Regional Revenue Office.

"The Krung Thai Bank account is being taken care of by government offices, while the Kasikorn Bank account that I immediately set up after the tragedy is being handled by the foundation," explained Mr Panuphong.

"We have given the first round

of money from the Kasikorn account to the embassy – and we will be closing the account now. However, for the money raised at government offices and through the other bank account, I think the Thai government needs to collect it all and then send it to Nepal in the name of the Thai people."

Governor Nisit affirmed Mr Panuphong's explanation of the changes.

"They are actually different accounts, in the same way that the Red Cross' efforts to raise money are being handled differently," explained Governor Nisit.

"The Kasikorn account number

was set up in a way that allowed for the funds to be directly given to the embassy. However, all the other donations – those being given at government offices and through the Krung Thai bank account – will be transferred to the Interior Ministry at the end of the month."

The governor explained that the funds needed to be dealt with separately to ensure that donors were able to receive tax deduction benefits from the government.

The provincial government will continue to accept donations until the end of the month, confirmed Gov Nisit.

Dornath Aryal, the Embassy of Nepal's Charge d'Affaires, graciously accepted the 600,000 baht donation collected through the Thai-Nepali Foundation.

"We should unite to help each other," Mr Aryal told the *Gazette*.

"On behalf of Nepali people, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Phuket people. Thank you very much."

Additional reporting by  
Woranut Pechdee

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Mr Prakong has urged people to file complaints if a 'cheap shop' is selling food more expensive than advertised.

## 'Cheap Shops' coming soon to offer food for 40 baht or less

OFFICIALS have designated 60 food shops throughout Phuket to be 'Cheap Shops', which sell plates of food for 40 baht.

The move follows ongoing complaints from locals and tourists alike made directly to Governor Nisit Jansomwong through his Facebook page regarding high food prices in Phuket, said Office of Commercial Affairs Phuket Chief Prakong Rukwong on May 8.

"We recently sent out our staff to inspect and collect information from food shops across the island. We set the goal at 60 shops, and those 60 food shops had to fill out our form to officially join the project," said Mr Prakong, adding that the shops are scattered throughout the island.

In order for a shop to be considered a 'Cheap Shop', certain dishes, such as *khao rad kaeng* (usually meat or vegetables in seasoned sauce on top of rice), must not exceed 40 baht and the shops must have their prices listed on the menu or in sight of customers.

"Anyone who sees one of our shops selling food more expensive than listed in their menus, please file a complaint with our office," said Mr Prakong.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Police issue summons for dangerous driver caught on camera

THE Phuket City Police are demanding that the owner of a black Fortuner SUV, whose vehicle was captured on video being driven recklessly, endangering other drivers, present himself to police.

The video clearly shows the Fortuner cutting off two men on a motorbike in heavy traffic as it merges onto the bypass road from Yaowarat Road, and then coming to an abrupt stop so the driver can confront the men. The video, posted on Facebook, was captured by

a dashboard camera installed in a car driving behind the incident.

Despite no one who was involved filing a complaint, police are taking matters into their own hands.

"According to Land Traffic Act BE 2522 (1979), we can charge the driver for this type of reckless and dangerous driving, even if no one has filed a complaint. So we have issued a summons," said Lt Col Teerawat Leamsuwan, deputy chief of Traffic Police

for the Phuket City Police.

"The owner of the car has to present himself within seven days. If he fails to do so, we will void the vehicle's registration."

The vehicle registration from the Phuket Land Transport Office names the owner as 'Wan Tuck Lung, Roger', from Singapore.

"We have yet to confirm whether or not 'Mr Roger' was the one driving the vehicle. We first need to question him," said Col Teerawat.

— Kongleaphy Keam

# Incinerators shut down for maintenance — temporarily

By Chutharat Plerin

THE already overwhelmed solid-waste incinerators operating at the Saphin Hin landfill site in Phuket Town ground to a halt this week, adding thousands of tonnes of trash to the overflowing landfill.

Though three incinerators are located at the site, one has been out of commission since 2012, leaving the other two — with a total burning capacity of 700 tonnes a day — to struggle with the 729 tonnes produced per day on the island, said Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana on May 7.

"The remaining two incinerators are being shut down for renovations," Ms Somjai said on May 7. "Incinerator B was offline from April 30 to May 16, and Incinerator C was shut down on May 13 and will remain so until May 30.

"Because of this scheduling, there will be three days of overlap [May 13-16], during which we will be unable to burn any waste."

PJT Technology was awarded the contract for working on the incinerators. The company was given 40 days to complete the task.

"We will continue to collect trash as normal, but will be forced to store it until we are able to start back-burning the landfill," said



Both of the working incinerators at the overflowing landfill site were offline for three days. Photo: Gazette file

Ms Somjai.

The 530-million-baht budget to fix the original, defunct incinerator has already been approved, confirmed Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

"We will receive the money in October and expect to have the project completed by April 2017," said Gov Nisit.

After the approval of the budget was officially announced in February, Kasem Sukwaree,

chief of the Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), told the *Gazette* he was keen to start burning off the backlog of trash that has built up at the landfill site, but expressed concern over the amount of time it will take to get the machine up and running.

"Now that the budget has been approved, we can get the original incinerator back on line. It has the capacity to burn 250

tonnes of waste a day, which will help us start back-burning off the rubbish at the landfill," Mr Kasem said.

"With the strong support of Mr Nisit, we are trying to push this project through as fast as possible. However, many of the parts necessary to fix the incinerator will need to be ordered from overseas. We expect it to take almost a year to get it operational again."

## Dolphin dies despite rescue attempts

A STRIPED dolphin spotted close to shore at Bang Tao Beach died on May 7, despite rescue workers' and experts' efforts to save the marine mammal.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers arrived on the scene in front of Sunwing Resort and Spa at about 6:30pm to find tourists attempting to keep the dolphin from beaching itself.

Soon thereafter, experts from the Phuket Marine Biological Center's (PMBC) Endangered Species unit arrived to take the dolphin to the center in Cape Panwa.

As the dolphin was weak, experts stopped at Thalang Hospital to give the dolphin saline solution. However, the animal died on arrival.

"We could not save it. It was too weak and too sick," said



Tourists attempted to keep the dolphin in the water.

Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Endangered Species unit.

Striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) are often found along the Andaman coasts of Phang Nga and Phuket. A typical pod comprises about 50 dolphins.

"This dolphin was probably separated from its pod because it was weak and couldn't deal with

the strong sea conditions," Dr Kongkiat explained.

"This type of dolphin is often dismissed from its pod and swims close to shore to prevent the rest of the pod from catching the disease."

PMBC experts are examining the dolphin to determine the cause of death. — Thawit Bilabdullar

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# Clear support for superyachts

Continued from Page 1

...a vessel's operation costs is 10 per cent of its value per year, vessels at YHM generated more than 49mn baht with an average of 31 superyachts a month.

"This excludes crew spending – which will see funds go to restaurants, bars, car hire providers, massage parlors and many other business – as well as funds used for major projects," Mr Wyatt pointed out.

"The proof that catering to the industry has a positive economic impact is easy to see. Consider the amount of development in the marine industry, as a whole, which is only about 16-years-old in Thailand. We went from zero to four major marinas in Phuket – all relatively busy with a cumulative dockage of about 900 berths. Additionally, there are boats on hardstand and others anchored around the island," Mr Myatt said.

The benefits stretch beyond direct cash flow into the economy, notes Zara Tremlett, also a marina manager for Yacht Haven Marina.

"Multiplier benefits could be much larger than the direct ones,

and include the following: Thai workforce trained to international yachting industry standards, therefore offering new employment opportunities with high level of added value; local contractors benefiting from working at the high end of the business with top-quality products, becoming recognized and recommended by the superyacht industry for other major superyacht refit projects; opportunity to develop and offer ultra high-end products and services to meet the expectations of superyacht clientele and guests, helping to position Phuket in the high-end tourism destination segment; and foreign direct investment and business joint-venture opportunities from superyacht owners – almost all high-end businessmen – and guests in Phuket and Thailand," explained a presentation given to the marine department in 2011.

Chris Gordon, founder of Sun Sunsail yacht charter and managing director of The Village on Coconut Island, took a slightly different slant in the meeting, asking that the Marine Department look at expanding what it was wanting



Mr Gordon noted that smaller cruising yachts had a great amount of potential in supporting the local economy. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

to support through the temporary charter yacht licence.

"The real benefit to Phuket and Thailand in general is the crewed yacht, which tends to run a

slightly smaller size, somewhere around 60 feet – at that size you need to employ people to look after it and it brings in quality tourists – to up to about 100 feet. That

doesn't mean we don't want the superyachts, and the big, big ones, they're fine, but they come and they go," Mr Gordon said.

"The owners of these smaller cruising yachts will base their boat in an area, and keep them there. This, of course, will bring real money to the local economy in a number of ways, from hiring local staff to general maintenance."

Mr Gordon emphasized the fact that the support for the larger yachts was of course welcome. However, pointed out that many of the owners of boats between 60 and 100 feet were 'reasonably rich' and looking to offset their operation costs, as opposed to the megawealthy who owned large superyachts.

However, Mr Chula said that the government had good reason not to shorten the length of what the country deems a superyacht.

"We have picked 30 meters as the marker for superyachts because we don't have many yachts of that size currently in Thailand, and we don't want to interfere in Thai charter businesses that are already established and operating here," Mr Chula said.

## Koh Lanta named as a possible hotspot for human trafficking



Officers and military personnel inspected Koh Lanta after it was named a potential spot for traffickers.

OFFICIALS investigated Koh Lanta on May 8, following the popular tourist island being named as a potential hotspot for human trafficking.

"We were alerted to the potential issue of people being smuggled into Thailand through Koh Lanta district after locals reported seeing a group of people believed to be Rohingya," said Koh Lanta District Chief Suriyan Narongkul.

"By the time we got there, the group had left. However, we did find 10 fake identification cards in Baan Khun Samut."

The fake Thai-ID cards were discovered in a palm plantation near Khun Samut Port, along with evidence of the group's presence.

Police now believe that the district is being used as a stop-off point for people being smuggled

into the country before they are moved to detention camps in the Deep South or to Malaysia.

The investigation follows the discovery of mass graves of human trafficking victims along the Thai-Malay border. Officials have since expanded their search for similar grave sites throughout known human trafficking corridors. So far, only one body has been uncovered at a site north of Phuket in Phang Nga.

"I have talked with local leaders in the community, as well as military officials, to ensure that everyone is keeping an eye on the entire island. It is not just Baan Khun Samut that is vulnerable to human trafficking. The whole district can be used as a corridor for the illegal trade of people if we are not careful," Mr Suriyan said.

– Kritisada Mueanhawong

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## AROUND THE nation

### Thousands fight to save Nakhon Pathom Museum

THOUSANDS gathered in Nakhon Pathom province on May 11 to oppose plans to close down the only national museum in their hometown.

Despite the sweltering heat, the crowd in front of the Nakhon Pathom Administrative Organization continued to grow once the rally kicked off at 3pm, reported *The Nation*.

People from seven districts had come forward to protect their heritage.

"We are deeply upset by the Fine Arts Department's move to take away antiques that represent our cultural roots," he said.

The Phra Pathom Chedi National Museum in Nakhon Pathom has evolved from a cache of historical artifacts from the Dvaravati period, which existed from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Buddhist century.

These items were displayed at a two-storey building near the Phra Pathom Chedi, under the Phra Pathom Chedi Temple's care, before it was finally promoted as a national museum in 1934.

Rak Pathom Nakhon Group has refused to buy into the Fine Arts Department's explanation that the antiques will be temporarily relocated to U-Thong National Museum in the nearby province of Suphan Buri.

"We just don't believe it," Dr Chatchawal declared.

Panlop Kraithong, the keeper of the Songkhram Ladya National Museum in Kanchanaburi province, separately disclosed that hundreds of historical artifacts were excavated in his hometown in 1991 and that the department took them all away.

"The department initially said it had to register these antiques. But after two decades, it has not yet returned them to our museum," Mr Panlop lamented.

The Songkhram Ladya National Museum is also targeted for closing or merging.

# Police name 'bagman' in trafficking network

POLICE obtained an arrest warrant on May 11 for a man they said was a key financier behind the entire Rohingya trafficking racket in Southern Thailand.

The suspect, identified as Pajjuban Angchotiphan, or Ko Tong, is the 50<sup>th</sup> and latest fugitive wanted in connection with human-labor trafficking in the region. He is a brother of a high-ranking local politician based in Satun, reported *The Nation*.

National Police Chief Somyot Poompangmoung has floated the idea of opening a temporary center to shelter Rohingya and other migrants in the south to cope with the large number scattered throughout the area.

Gen Somyot said he was planning to meet with his Malaysian counterpart in Phuket on Wednesday to discuss the Rohingya smuggling crisis. Malaysia is the prime destination of 'boat people' after they are smuggled to Thailand.

The Royal Thai Police commissioner said he was ready to keep transferring police of various units if they were suspected of ties with human traffickers, as well as those deemed incompetent in their previous roles carrying out the ongoing



National Police Chief Somyot Poompangmoung has floated the idea of opening a temporary center to shelter Rohingya and other migrants in the south. Photo: The Nation

crackdown on trafficking.

Recently, another 14 police have been transferred away from areas where trafficking has taken place. In all, 67 officers have been transferred.

Gen Somyot said anyone found not guilty after an internal investigation would return to

their previous post.

He promised to look into an allegation about a senior immigration policeman based in Songkhla's Sadao district accused of using a service vehicle to transport Rohingya.

Another 10 police are set to be transferred to inactive positions

while being investigated. Gen Somyot did not give further details.

Malaysia-based daily *The Star* reported that Thai and Malaysian police were expected to meet in Hat Yai on May 15 to discuss the human trafficking issues plaguing both nations.

## Prime Minister seeks three-nation talk on human trafficking

THAILAND is seeking a talk with countries involved in the transnational crime of human trafficking – including Malaysia and Myanmar – Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on May 7, reported *The Nation*.

The task of tackling human trafficking has to be jointly tackled, and it should be understood the problem did not originate in Thailand, PM Prayut said, adding that the Kingdom was just a transit point.

The proposal was made after Thailand unearthed scores of graves in Songkhla's Sadao border district and found human remains believed to be trafficked migrants who died during their journey. The site in Padang Besar



The task of tackling human trafficking must be unified. Photo: The Nation

was used as a waiting area for the migrants, mostly Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group in Myanmar, before the traffickers sneaked them into Malaysia.

"They [Rohingya] will be charged with illegal entry and after that they would be detained, not jailed," he said. "We will also provide them with food accord-

ing to their religious beliefs. This is the burden of Thailand."

PM Prayut also asked why previous governments had not tackled this issue.

Meanwhile, a total of 53 policemen have been transferred in a sudden midnight order amid a pending probe into crimes related to the trafficking of Rohingya laborers.

The policemen were based in provinces where crimes related to the Rohingya were found to have occurred, while another 15 officers have been moved to inactive posts pending internal probes into whether they had benefited from the traffickers or if it was a case of incompetence.

## Cycling licences considered as long-term measure after recent road fatalities

CYCLISTS will be required to possess a licence as part of a long-term measure to prevent road accidents, said Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) spokesman Tridoa Apaiwong.

Road safety for cyclists became a hot topic on social media after four were killed on the roads earlier this month. On May 3, a car ploughed into a group of cyclists in Chiang Mai, causing three deaths. Then another accident occurred the following day in Bangkok, injuring three riders, one fatally.

She said BMA management had met and drawn up additional measures to promote tourism, for instance introducing more bike lanes, and putting up signs and street lights



The consideration follows a string of deadly road accidents. Photo: The Nation

in the capital, reported *The Nation*.

The BMA will also seek cooperation from areas beyond its authority to provide facilities for cyclists.

As a long-term measure, the BMA will consult with the Department of Land

Transport and the Metropolitan Police Bureau to arrange for licences for cyclists. The BMA also wants to restrict the age of cyclists using the roads.

The city administrators are also planning to launch campaigns promoting safety

and raise awareness among motorists and teach them to be public minded when using roads.

Police also vowed to work closely with cycling clubs in a bid to boost safety for their members facing the recent accidents.

After an order handed down by National Police Assistant Commissioner Prawut Thavornsiri, police units plan to hold meetings with clubs in their areas to gather opinions. There will be discussions that include cycling routes and safer cycling.

Police will ask cyclists to wear proper gear and install safety equipment on their bikes, such as reflective materials and lighting. Police will also coordinate with relevant authorities to improve bicycle lanes.



# Taking on traffic

## FIRST PERSON

THE number of tourists visiting Phuket and others moving here to work is steadily increasing. As a result, more and more vehicles are being driven on the island, which adds to the ever-worsening traffic congestion.

Improvements to Phuket's infrastructure are therefore imperative, and the Department of Highways (DOH) must always be thinking ahead and working to solve the island's traffic problems.

Phuket has about 370 kilometers of road: 200km of which belong to the DOH, about 120km belong to the Department of Rural Roads and 50km belong to local authorities.

Each year, we add an average of 4-5km of road. However, we much prefer to improve and develop the roads that we already have, rather than build new ones.

According to our research, if we do not upgrade Phuket's infrastructure in the next five to 10 years, traffic congestion will become very serious at some of the island's busiest locations, such as the Central Festival intersection, Samkong intersection by Tesco Lotus, Chalong Circle, Bang Ku intersection in Koh Kaew and the roads near Phuket International Airport.

As a result, the DOH has put a lot of energy and focus into improving Phuket's roads, and budgets have been approved and awarded to carry out these improvements.

We have won approval for an underpass at Chalong Circle and Bang Ku Intersection, as well as a flyover at the Koh Kaew intersection, near the airport in Thalang and a new road that will provide a short cut from the T-junction near the airport to Pa Khlok.

We have seen a great decrease



**Samak Luedwonghad**, 48, is the director of the Phuket Highways Office, under the Department of Highways. Originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, he graduated from Mahanakorn University of Technology with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He has been the

director of the Phuket Highways office since 2012.

Here, he talks about the ever-worsening traffic congestion on the island and how quick and efficient improvements to infrastructure can help to ease island-dwellers' journeys and improve life on Phuket.

in traffic congestion at the new Darasamut Underpass near Central Festival Phuket since its completion earlier this year. We expect the underpass at Samkong Intersection near Tesco Lotus will be finished by the end of this year and that it will also have a positive effect on congestion in that area.

We are now preparing to build the Chalong Circle and Bang Ku underpasses. The projects are now under auction, which means we are trying to find a contractor to take on the projects. We expect they will break ground within three months. The other projects will begin once these are complete.

It often takes a long time to complete the projects, and often it seems as though things are not moving along very quickly. There are a few reasons for this.

For one, the geography of Phuket makes constructing and improving roads very difficult and it slows down the process. We must be very careful and precise during the construction phase to ensure that the roads are built safely and up to standard. This can also increase the price of the project.

The high price of land here is also a problem. The DOH has limited land on which to build infrastructure-related projects. Sometimes, it must expropriate land from private owners. This process is complicated and expensive, as many people – especially in Phuket – prefer to keep and use their land for their own benefit, rather than hand it over to the government. It takes time to negotiate with them.

It is important that everyone understands how necessary these roads and improvements are for Phuket, not only for smoother transportation for tourists and locals, but also to move forward the economy and improve overall lifestyle on the island.

Tourists will enjoy Phuket more if transportation were more convenient, and locals and expats can get where they need to go quicker, with more ease and less traffic.

We apologize for any inconveniences caused while these projects are undergoing construction. After the projects are complete, we hope that everyone is able to use the roads more efficiently.



Children are often driven on motorbikes without helmets. Photo: Beks Taylor

## Helmetless children

I'M A recent arrival to Phuket after spending several months in Bangkok, where I purchased a Honda CBR150 sportbike and then dared to negotiate the city's infamous traffic.

I'd been cautioned not to do so because of the potential for injury or death, but having successfully driven a Chinese-made 150cc motorcycle, which resembled a scaled-down Harley, on the streets of suburban Beijing, I decided I was up to the challenge.

I was cautioned again by my Thai friends about riding the 'windy' roads of Phuket, which I've found to be quite formidable (especially the mountain-pass road from Kathu to Patong).

One dangerous difference I've seen is the higher percentage of motorcyclists here that don't wear helmets, especially after dark, compared to Bangkok.

But what shocked me the most, although the first time I saw it I thought, 'cool', were children riding helmetless in wooden chairs perched between the legs of their parents. As I said, my first reaction was to smile and think 'cool', but on reflection the word that came to mind was 'stupid'.

Many more years ago than I care to acknowledge, when I was a firefighter/paramedic in California, a guy driving a Corvette accelerated away from a stop sign and struck my motorcycle, launching me off my motorcycle and over the 'Vette.

Fortunately, I was wearing a helmet, because the first thing that hit the asphalt after I flew

## Island View

By Gareth Dodd

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

through the air was the back of my helmet. Then my butt slammed down, I bounced, flipped again and slid face down into the middle of the intersection.

To shorten a long story, I survived without even abrasions. My only injury was desensitized nerves in the part of my butt that hit the asphalt, which took about two weeks to return to normal.

If I had not been wearing a helmet (we used to call them brain buckets), I'm sure I would have been a fatality reported in the news. And twice, as a paramedic, I responded to accident scenes where a helmetless motorcycle rider died due to head injuries.

I know wearing a helmet is the law here, but I also know the law is not always strictly enforced.

I also realize that for many Thai people motorcycles are an affordable means of transportation.

If I see an adult, Thai or foreign, riding a motorcycle helmetless, shoeless and shirtless, I shrug my shoulders and think: 'Stupid is, as stupid does. And there is no cure for stupid.'

But when I see an adult, with or without helmet, driving a motorcycle with one or more children without helmets on board, I have to wonder if they don't recognize the danger or just don't care.

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

### Can stores refuse to accept satang?

ON MAY 1, I went to the Tiny Mart which is attached to the Shell station in Kathu. I always buy snacks and drinks on the way to pick up my child from school.

I bought goods worth 105 baht. I gave the cashier a 100 baht note, four one baht coins and four 25 satang coins. The cashier said "No." Then another woman came in and said "this is not Supercheap."

I asked them if this is not legal money. They would not accept the coins.

Is it legal for retail outlets to refuse legal tender?

Ian  
Kathu

Chumpon Donlayamahakom-

torn, president of the Phuket Banker's Club, replies:

Please note that satang coins should be accepted in all retailers, according to the limitations detailed in the Currency Act, B.E. 2501, Section 11, 'Coins within limitation as to the amount prescribed by the Ministerial Regulation shall be legal tender'.

The section explains that you can use a 1 satang coin up to 5 bahts' worth; 5, 10, 25, or 50 satang coins up to 10 bahts' worth; 1 baht coins up to 500 bahts' worth; 5 baht coins up to 500 bahts' worth; and 10 baht coins up to 1,000 baht.

The shop that refused your satang, however, cannot be charged for refusing them, as there is no penalty for breaches of Section 11. This means that any retailer can legally refuse to accept satang.

## Driving with a foreign licence

SAY I have a motorbike licence from Scandinavia, Australia or Europe which allows me to drive a maximum of 125cc motorbike.

Is it legal for me to drive a bigger motorbike here in Thailand?

Bjorn Ronningen  
Chalong

Konlayut Jattutasri, chief of the Licensing Division of the Phuket Land Transportation Office, replies:

You cannot use a foreign driving licence, whether it be from Scandinavia, Australia or Europe, to drive in Thailand.

You will need to obtain a Thai licence in order to drive legally.

Please bring your licence to our

office, so our staff can compare it to a Thai licence.

The process to obtain a licence will depend on the extent of information provided on your other licence.

If your current licence is missing information which we need to process a Thai licence, you will

need to take and pass our driving exam.

The price of a motorbike licence is 155 baht.

However, if you have an international driver's licence, you can use it.

It is recommended that you bring it to our office so that we can translate it into Thai language so that our officers and police can read it if necessary.

You will not need to take an exam.

For more information about the process of obtaining a licence, please come by our office on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road near Saphan Hin in Phuket Town, call 076-214930 or send an e-mail to [nongda461@hotmail.com](mailto:nongda461@hotmail.com)

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# Russians fall victim to 'hospitality fatigue'

GOOD news for Phuket's all-important tourism industry comes with indications that the sharp downturn in arrivals from Russia in the first quarter of this year is expected to be short-lived, with a solid recovery for this important market sector projected for the fourth quarter, according to industry analysts.

The huge increase in the number of tourists from Russia to Thailand over the past decade has been nothing short of phenomenal, rising steadily from under 200,000 in 2006 to more than 1.3 million in 2013.

This influx has not only dramatically changed Phuket's tourism demographic, but also set off a great deal of discussion and debate, especially in the English-language social media. While the positive economic aspects of the so-called 'Russian invasion' continue to go largely overlooked in that realm, there has nevertheless been a great deal of stereotyping over the way Russian package tourists are said to interact poorly with their Thai hosts, travellers from other countries – and even among themselves.

Such perceptions are nothing new and constitute little more than the latest manifestation of the 'hospitality fatigue' that we have encountered with each and every quickly emerging tourist source market, the first waves of which typically reach our shores as part of package tours.

We have seen similar phenomena when other markets like the Korean and, more recently, the Chinese were on the rise.

While it remains up to the reader to decide the veracity of stereotypes, there is little doubt that a great deal of snobbery tends to be directed at package tourists by their more 'FIT' (free, independent tourist) counterparts.

In Russia's case, we also expect a lot of this negative stereotyping, at least in the expat community, mostly due to the superpower's conflicts – historical and ongoing – with neighbor states.

One of Phuket's greatest attributes as a tourist destination or second home is its increasingly cosmopolitan nature. This editorial writer had a chance to join a package tour excursion to the Surin Islands a few years back with a group of Russian tourists. While there was definitely a language barrier, some of them were fluent in English, giving us an opportunity to socialize and exchange views about the nationalistic brainwashing we were all subjected to as children on opposite sides of the Cold War.

Such interactions can go a long way to offset the kind of knee-jerk stereotyping one might fall into here.

A resurgence of the Russian inbound market after a fall in the value of the ruble and Russia's conflict with Ukraine will show that Thailand's political affairs are not a hindrance to Phuket's attractiveness to Russians. Given Russia's famously long and hard winters and its importance to the Phuket market, we should hope that projections of recovery prove to be correct and the 30,000-strong Russian expat community continues to thrive as a result.



## Something about this story stinks

Re: Gazette online, All Phuket incinerators to go offline – temporarily, May 8

Ever since the two new incinerators that were supposed to sort out the trash problems in Phuket came on line, there have been issues.

Time to chase up the money and find out where it all went wrong.

Yet again, this is a complete embarrassment and it's no wonder where the stink comes from.

Mister Ree  
Gazette forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

the punishment?

Similarly, Korea has a law that states if you run over a person sleeping in the road in the daytime it is 60 per cent the driver's fault and 40 per cent the sleeper's fault.

If the incident happens at night, the responsibilities are reversed.

Forget about the obvious question of why someone is sleeping in the road.

Curious  
Gazette forum

Condolences to the unfortunate victim. Running into a parked car is also negligent riding.

Obviously both drivers are guilty of different offences here.

Where I come from, the law is that anyone who hits a stationary vehicle is in the wrong.

You either were not looking, going too fast, under the influence, or all of the above.

The outcome of this one will be interesting.

Skip  
Gazette forum

### Pray it isn't a scam

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Only B600k of B4mn raised for quake victims handed to Nepal Embassy so far, May 9

The failure of the Phuket government, or the media, to inform those who donated more than 4 million baht to the 'Phuket Together For Nepal Disaster Victims' fund that the money would not be used as originally described is beyond shameful – it is simply a scam.

I pray – yes, I pray – that this isn't what it looks like. That this is the manifestation of the usual bureaucratic bull that continues to bog down the legal system in Thailand. However, in my heart of hearts, I can't accept this.

How can anyone who makes a donation have faith in the transparency of the situation when our trust was so overtly betrayed. A day that should have been celebrating the generosity of the people of this island and the generosity of the people of Thailand as a whole was tarnished.

Worse yet is that no government official has stepped forward to apologize, or seems to recognize the magnitude of such a betrayal.

Tina Swift  
Patong

### Where are the parents at times like these?

Re: Gazette online, Aussie lad gets head stuck on Phuket International Airport escalator, May 6

There are constantly stories in the news about children getting injured or killed because of lack of supervision.

This boy was travelling with nine other family members in an international airport and not one was keeping tabs on him.

He could have been seriously injured had it not been for the airport staff that stopped the escalator on time.

In these cases, parents should be punished or fined for child endangerment and not just write it off as a silly accident.

Very Disappointed  
Gazette forum

### A big thank you to those who help

Re: Gazette online, Massive python found near Phuket Town school, May 11

I have read so many articles lately about road accidents, beached dolphins, firework accidents and now this massive python.

In each article the first responders are always the Kusoldharm Foundation rescue. They are always there to help and calm people down.

I know a lot of these rescue workers are volunteers. I just want to say thank you for all of the hard work you do, it does not go unnoticed.

Extremely Grateful  
Gazette forum

### What's the difference?

Re: Gazette online, Soldier nabbed for bag-snatch theft in Phuket, May 5

Can anybody explain the difference between committing theft at night and committing theft in the daytime, other than the severity of

### Everyone is to blame

Re: Gazette online, Boy, 5, killed in motorbike crash on Phuket bridge, May 6

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# First-quarter growth takes off

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

HONG Kong's low-fare airline has seen significant first-quarter growth as it continues its campaign to woo both the Thai and expat market in Phuket.

The HK Express has carried close to 500,000 passengers in the first quarter of 2015, which represents a 102-per-cent growth compared with the same period in 2014. Total passengers for March amounted to 168,336, which is an increase of 96 per cent compared to the same month last year.

"North Asia continued to be a key driver of growth for HK Express," Andrew Cowen, HK Express CEO said. "The dramatic leap in passenger numbers attests to the success of our strategy to offer consistently affordable fares that make air travel accessible to everyone."

"However, the company has recognized Phuket as one of the top tourist destinations in Asia, and I am hoping to have both locals and travellers make the short leap to Hong Kong on one of the air-



HK Express continues to target Phuket's Thai and expat market.

lines' Airbus A320s."

"Phuket is one of Asia's top tourist destinations where millions of international visitors visit or stay

each year," said Atthawut Kumpitak, HK Express sales and marketing manager. "Moreover, apart from Bangkok, Phuket has a

large potential number of outbound Thai tourists, for whom Hong Kong is a dream destination."

The company has daily flights

between Phuket and Hong Kong, and no plans to decrease the frequency in the near future.

"Hong Kong is an exciting destination and one can't help but fall in love with the city when surveying it from the shores of iconic Victoria Harbor, looking out over the impressive skyline that frames it," Mr Atthawut said. "The lush mountains surrounding the city offer a contrast in landscape and to view the city and harbor from these mountainous vantage points makes for some of the most fantastic views of any city in the world."

HK Express is targeting both Free Independent Traveller (FIT) and Group Traveller markets in Phuket through regular advertising campaigns.

"We expect to welcome mainly Thai nationals, as well as those long-stay and expat community residents, mainly in Phuket and the surrounding provinces, such as Phang Nga, Krabi and even Songkhla and Hat Yai," Mr Atthawut explained.

## New Banyan Tree Phuket hotel manager 'home'

HERY Kuswoyo has taken the helm as the hotel manager for Banyan Tree Phuket, the Banyan Tree group's flagship property.

Mr Kuswoyo joined the Banyan Tree family in 2010 as the Food and Beverage Executive Assistant Manager for Banyan Tree Bangkok.

Prior to joining the Phuket team, he was the Executive Assistant Manager for Banyan Tree Macau – the group's first urban resort.

Mr Kuswoyo has extensive experience in various management roles at luxury hotels, including the Hyatt, JW Marriott, Four Seasons and The Ritz Carlton. However, the moving from place to place has taken its toll and he's ready to call Phuket 'home'.

"When we arrived in Phuket, it was like returning to Bali. There was the beautiful weather, white-sand beaches, landscape, food and especially the people!" Mr Kuswoyo said. "The respect, kind-



Hery Kuswoyo

ness and sincerity they have on a daily basis makes our job fun and easy. We simply don't feel like strangers in Phuket! We're home!"

Mr Kuswoyo also noted that the multicultural environment growing on the island, the mix of nationalities and ways of approaching the world, has been a 'big eye opener' for him and the entire family, bringing with it new sets of challenges and opportunities for growth.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

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# You can buy happiness

Happiness from some buying experiences fade while others last a lifetime

## Finance

By David Mayes

I RECENTLY read a study about buying experiences versus material things and their relative effects on happiness. Interestingly, studies show that money only increases happiness up to a certain point, and buying experiences can actually have a longer-lasting effect on happiness than buying material things, even though the 'things' will be around for a substantial amount of time.

The reason behind this is because we quickly adapt to the new material item and it just becomes part of the new normal for us.

"One of the enemies of happiness is adaptation," says Dr Thomas Gilovich, a psychology professor at Cornell University who has been studying the question of money and happiness for more than two decades.

This is why slowly increasing your wealth over time leads to more happiness than getting rich too quickly. You quickly adapt to the new levels of wealth and revert to about the same level of happiness as you had before you were rich.

Slow progress toward a worthy long-term goal gives you a constant supply of new reasons to be happy as you reach one milestone after another.

They say being rich usually only exaggerates what somebody already is. If someone is happy, kind, and caring, they will usually become a generous wealthy person who uses their newly found time freedom to do good things for humanity.

Whereas if someone was a jerk before getting rich, they usually

end up being a rich jerk.

Experiences can get the upper hand on a material purchase even if it is something as fleeting as one special day, for instance a rock concert from the artist you have loved since you were a kid, because the memory stays with you, but without the adaptation effect of seeing a material object every day.

Hearing a certain song often triggers feelings we had forgotten were inside us. The memories we build up from buying experiences, such as special holidays with our loved ones, are often the things that add the most real meaning to our lives.

Keep in mind it is not only money that needs to be budgeted toward buying experiences; many of the best ones are free but need time. Budgeting time for your

loved ones is making great use of the most valuable asset we have to buy one of the best assets in existence.

Memories with loved ones are priceless when you think about it.

So given the above, how do you practically set out to plan exactly how much of your hard-earned income to

put toward experiences rather than that new Benz? This is a very personal decision, but I would advise finding a comfortable middle ground between extremes.

I recently read a story of a professional baseball player in the United States who lives out of a Volkswagen camper van and spends most of his time in the off-season driving up and down the coast looking for waves to surf.

On the other extreme I know a rich local who has millions in real estate but has never been outside of Thailand.

I don't have any good quanti-



Think about spending money on time away with family, rather than a nice new car. Photo: Ashley Burton

tative approach to determining how much cash to use for traveling each year, but as with everything, make it so that no matter what comes to pass you are not with regrets. If you died next year, which of those things from the top of your bucket list would you be most disappointed about not yet having done?

Start to make a plan to cross a few off of your list in the coming year, if you can do so without

making it difficult to pay your kids' school fees or pay down your mortgage, that is.

When your body finally fails, as my grandfather's is starting to do at 94 years old, you are essentially left with nothing but the memories of your life's experiences. You can't take the hard assets with you, although you can leave them behind to your loved ones.

When thinking about your annual budget for purchases, don't

forget to set aside something each year (time, money or both) to add to your list of memories.

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on pensions and taxation.

## Bankers propose loan guarantee hike for SMEs

THE Thai Bankers' Association (TBA) will propose that the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) offer a 50-per-cent loan guarantee to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture sector, up from the existing 18 per cent, as it believes such a guarantee could help boost the economy.

The TCG at present takes responsibility for up to 18 per cent of the loans to SMEs.

At a meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking, it was concluded that loan guarantees to



The TBA is proposing the TCG offer 50-per-cent loan guarantees to SMEs. Photo: StockMonkeys.com

SMEs in the agriculture sector should be increased to 50 per cent of lending, while for SMEs in the general sector they should rise to 30 per cent, TBA chairman

Boontuck Wungcharoen said.

The association will submit the proposal to Deputy Prime Minister MR Pridiyathorn Devakula, who oversees the TCG, Boontuck said. The TCG currently limits credit guarantees to an SME at 40 million baht.

As long as gross domestic product grows by only 3-4 per cent a year, the country cannot escape from the middle-income trap. The private sector must increase its competitiveness together with help from the government, Boontuck said.

- The Nation



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## 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 to 7pm every evening.

### May 23-24. Social Media Mastery, Two-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](http://www.bangkokcriterium.com) and keep following the *Gazette* for the latest information.

### May 30. Facebook Marketing For Business – Increase Sales and 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. Presented by Simon Wetherell, as seen in Business Buzz 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

### June 1. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June.

The day commemorates three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of Buddha.







# 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.

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

**Online:** [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
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## YOUR Phuket

### Central Festival donates to Nepal disaster victims



Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, vice president for property management and GM for Central Festival Phuket, hands a donation to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

### Attitude in what you sketch



Weerachai Pranweerapaiboon, CEO of Attitude Club, led a team of sketch artists in raising funds for charities on May 9 at Lime-light Avenue Phuket.

# Fire stops at Amari Phuket



Pierre Andre Pelletier, vice president and area general manager for Amari, South Thailand (left, front row), led a team of hotel employees to perform fire exercises and drills with Patong Municipality under the instructions of Surapol Sarikkapan (right, front row).

## Wailing hard at Saxophone Pub's grand opening



NEW JAM: Saxophone Pub owners (L to R): Sakol Wongkampu, Watchara Jaruariyanon, Apimuk Chareonkit and Suntorn Singmanee.

## Working smarter with less energy, fewer costs



Treepop Paojeen (L), director of engineering for Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket, is presented with an award from Areepong Bhoocha-oom, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Energy.

## TAT driving for low-season swingers

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) prepares a low-season campaign to promote golfing in Phuket.



Anupharph Thirarath (4th from left), TAT deputy governor of domestic marketing, joins Anoma Wongyai (2nd from right), director of TAT Phuket office, and Phuket golf course representatives to talk about the best ways to tee up for the low-season.

## Regent Phuket Cape Panwa reaches out to Aged Care Home



Regent Phuket Cape Panwa presented much-needed supplies, as well as gifts, to the Phuket Aged Care Home, which accommodates more than 80 senior citizens, on May 7.



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PROPERTY FOR SALE  
of the week



**SUNSHINE**  
PROPERTIES

See page 17

PROPERTY SERVICE  
of the week



See page 18

PROPERTY FOR RENT  
of the week



LAND & HOUSE PARK  
CHONLADA PROJECT

See page 18

JOB of the week



"The ETF investment specialists"

See page 19

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## Properties For Sale

**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. Fully furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornhol land@hotmail.com

**LAND + HOUSE FOR SALE**

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

**OCEAN VIEWS, KATA**

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

**HUGE FIVE-BED BIG POOL VILLA**

This huge five bedroom villa with massive feature pool in Rawai is greatly reduced for urgent sale at 12.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.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.

**STUDIO FOR SALE**

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

**NICE HOUSE CHALONG**

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

**CHERNG TALAY LAGUNA**

Landplots 400sqm till 1,000 sqm. Ask for more information at laplphuket@gmail.com

**CONDO KATHU FOR SALE**

30.15sqm. Fully furnished. 1 bedroom. Living room. Kitchen. Aircon. Tel: 087-508 3516.

**BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE**

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

**OCEANFRONT VILLA**

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



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**QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA**

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

**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. Please call 098-464 9220.

**LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE**

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: vodorod12@mail.ru

**KARON BEACH CONDO**

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

**ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE**

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

**KATA HOUSE SALE**

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

**PATONG 2-BEDROOM CONDO**

Large 98sqm 2-bedroom condo for sale. Freehold. Fully furnished. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

**LAND FOR HOTEL**

1.5 rai, 50m from beach, close to Amora Hotel. Plan for five-storey hotel with 108 rooms. For sale at 28 million baht. Please call 061-261 3486.

**3-BED HOUSE LARGE GARDEN**

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

**FAMILY POOL VILLA IN RAWAI**

450sqm. Very peaceful and secure cul de sac. 3 bedrooms. 2 decks. 2-3 car park. 5 minutes to Rawai pier. Close to all amenities. Walk to beach. 9.9 million baht. For more information, please call 083-642 1300 (English & Thai). Email: adgareau@yahoo.com

**NAKA ISLAND**

Unique 4-bedroom beachfront house, panoramic views to the south, 10 mins to Ao Por pier. 240sqm on 2 floors, 750sqm plot, separate house for staff. Tel: 084-846 1270 (English).

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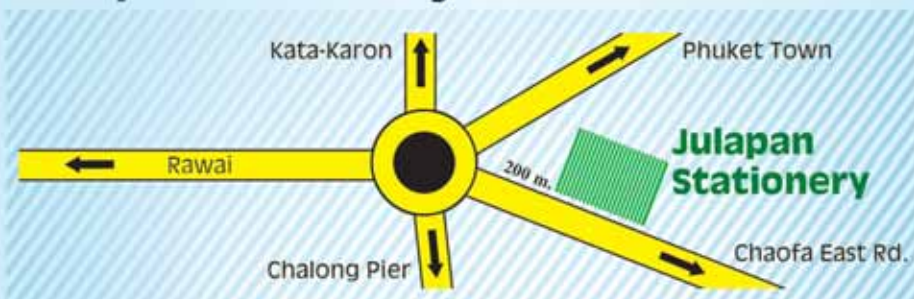


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# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Rent

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

Long-term rent: 12,000 baht per month, 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, fully equipped. Email: pakarang394@hotmail.com

### PRIVATE HOUSE IN THALANG

New, fully-furnished two-bedroom house in Thalang area. 10 mins to Bangtao Beach. 15,000 baht per month on one-year term. Tel: 081-892 8165 or Email: panjamar@hotmail.com

### 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

### BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

1 & 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 089-668 3639. www.BoutiqueRoomPhuket.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Long term, quality furnishings & fittings, near Heroines Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large kitchen/diner, lounge, utility room, good garden, purpose built office with separate entrance, full inventory. 35,000 baht monthly. Tel: 087-978 5804.

### 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

## 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



### STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

Please contact 086-4769612  
email: annano1@hotmail.com

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

### KATA LUXURY BEACHFRONT APT

One bedroom with pools, spa, gym in quiet area at beach. 25,000 baht per month. Discount price, available now! Email: asiasail@yahoo.com Check on website for details, photos and video, see http://kata.sala.com

### PHUKET TOWN CONDO FOR RENT

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

### HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

### LUXURY HOTEL ROOM FOR RENT

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

## Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

## Property Wanted

### 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

### FREEHOLD ONLY

House, land, business premises, preferred in Rawai, Nai Harn area, cash buyer. For more information, please call 087-278 5037.

### 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 Services

### CHALONG AREA HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms. Quiet area. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 4311. http://palaigreenweebly.com

### BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND



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

### POOL VILLA RAWAI



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

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## Accommodation Available

### NAITHON BEACH PALACE



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

### LONG-STAY APARTMENT

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

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 or 2 bedroom apartment of 76sqm. 270 degree beach and mountain view, living room, kitchen, 2 balconies, 9th floor. Rent at 39,000 baht per month, or buy for 9.5 million. Tel: 081-080 8831. For pictures, contact jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

### LONGTERM RENTAL PATONG

Starting from 13,000 baht per month, including cleaning, utilities, Wifi, 24-hour security, gym/pool. Fixed rate. For more information, please call 081 083 1505 (English). Email: danex01@gmail.com, www.oscarpatong.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. Good for family. Available from May 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM

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

**PATONG LUXURY APT.** Paradise Hotel Complex. 150m to beach. Large bedroom, kitchen, light. For more information contact Airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net



## Phuket 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  
**Diao@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

### 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).

### 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

### VIDEOGRAPHER

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

### COOKS AND MAIDS

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

### 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

## 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

### 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

### 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. Please call 081-893 7720.

### 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



**senior portfolio analyst**

A unique opportunity to join our asset management boutique, providing cutting-edge managed ETF portfolio solutions in Europe and Asia. We are looking for a highly-motivated senior portfolio analyst. The employee will be supported by our junior portfolio analyst.

**remuneration:** 70-100k baht/month + annual bonus + health care allowance

**working place:** Phuket, occasional travel around the Asian region and to Europe

**applicants should have the following skills:**

- a minimum of three years' experience in business or finance;
- be highly familiar with MS Excel;
- speak and write excellent English (native level if possible);
- a university degree in business, finance or mathematics/statistics;
- CFA Level 1 or higher would be a positive

**the role consists of:**

- carrying out in-depth analysis of Secure Wealth's five model portfolio strategies. This involves technical analysis, macro / top-down / fundamental analysis, volatility and correlation analysis of positions within the five portfolios
- working closely with our Managing Director, providing investment ideas and suggesting portfolio changes. Ongoing, detailed monitoring of portfolio risk
- supported by our junior portfolio analyst
- supporting our managing director and salesforce in meetings, when presenting our products to private banks and wealth management firms

Please send your curriculum vitae to:  
**Kongsin Aiyarak (Airi), portfolio assistant:**  
airi@securewealth.com  
**www.secure-wealthmanagement.com**

"The ETF investment specialists"

### 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).

### 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).

### FRONT OFFICE MANAGER WANTED

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

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

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

### RAWAI

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

### KARON

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



## Business Opportunities

**GUESTHOUSE / CAFE KARON**

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

**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

**OFFICE SPACE LAGUNA**

Plaza del Mar. 4-fully-furnished offices. Suite plus boardroom. Rent entire unit or individual office. Tel: 080-045 54 21. Email: nicole.morze@gmail.com

## Golf Stuff

**15,000 BAHT**

Wilson fat shaft-full set of irons and drivers, etc, with large Wilson golf bag with 8 outer pockets. For more information, please call 081-082 5004 (English). Email: arcottrell70@hotmail.com

## Household Items

**CONTENTS LUXURY PENTHOUSE**

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

## Business Products &amp; Services



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

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

CALL NOW:

081-868 7676 (English).

080-525 3135 (Thai)

DINODAYCARECENTER

**FISHING GEAR: 15,000 BAHT**

3x 'Lamiglas' 4'6" deep sea jigging rods never used. 50-100lbs, 2x Penn No.49 deep sea fishing reels with braid line, excellent condition. 1x Penn No.113 Senator fishing reel, 1x Penn Long Beach No.66 fishing reel, 1x Berkley SW Drop Shot 6' 15-37kg fishing rod. 1x Mitchel Boat Rod + Saltfest reel with braid line. Assorted spools of monofilament and braided lines. Email: r.felton65@gmail.com

**COFFEE MACHINE**

Philips Seaco Intelia, 8,500 baht. Bean to cup in one touch. Perfect coffee. Email: r.felton65@gmail.com

**LEGAL SERVICES**

Legal services. Court interpreter. Translation & Notarial services ATT. Please call 089-873 6533. Email: phuketinterpreter@gmail.com, info@suwatchana-law-office.com

**STAMPED CONCRETE**

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

## Club Memberships Available

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Family membership 490,000 baht including transfer fee and yearly fee paid (420,000 baht net). Tel: 091-647 6216. Email: jm.conasiam@gmail.com

**LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

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

**GOLF !!!.....GOLF !!!**

Lifetime family membership at Phuket Country Club, Kathu. 540,000 baht, included. Tel: 086 282 0700.

## Pets

**CHICKENS FOR SALE**

Live China golden pig chickens/chicks, vaccinated. Please call 083-833 9950.

**GUARD DOG WANTED**

Puppy or young dog. Tel: 087-383 4452.

## 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

**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: pietriji@gmail.com

**GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE**

Bar and Guesthouse for sale in busy area near Centara Karon. 9-year lease, fully equipped. Price: 1.4 million baht. For more information, please call 081-797 7282 (English & Thai), 094-578 4564 (English & Thai). Email: jack\_filtech@hotmail.com

**A GO GO BAR FOR SALE**

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

## Wheels &amp; Motors

## Saloon Cars

**2012 PORSCHE CAYENNE S HYBRID**

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

**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

**HONDA ACCORD 60,000 BAHT**

Black, 1.8L, auto, aircon. CD player. Good condition. Reliable car. 60,000 baht. Tel: 084-844 0554 (English & Thai). Email: gregory.sclater@yahoo.com

**2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT**

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-983 4815.

**FORD EVEREST**

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

**FORTUNER 2.7L 2WD**

September 2011. White / beige, like new, 80,000 km, LPG, Western owner, Green book, 860,000 baht, tax + insurance paid. Tel: 084-625 5090.

## 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. Please call 089-588 4550.

## Pic k-ups

**2010 RANGER DIESEL FOR SALE**

4x4 auto. Loaded. Runs, drives, looks great. New service. Very reliable. 400,000 baht. Tel: 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

**ISUZU SLX 3.0L**

2003, Dual Cab, manual, Carryboy, second owner, 111,000km. 230,000 baht. For more information, please call +61-04-8800 5408.

## Motorbikes

**BIG BIKE FOR SALE**

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

**HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY**

2008. Copper black. 19,500 km. Many extras. No accident. Only 675,000 baht. For more information, please call 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 (English & Thai). Email: somthawin\_pw@hotmail.com

**HONDA MSX 125, NEW (200KM)**

2 Honda MSX 125s - year 2013. Only used around the property, only 217km. Offering 2 sets of tires. Price: 59,000 baht. 2 sets of motorbike price: 110,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-893 5270 (English), 095-526 7897 (English & Thai). Email: gilles@govao.com

**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



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

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**Owen Easton 42 Catamaran (2012)**  
Twin 30hp Yanmar Diesels  
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Marcus Overman Tel: +66 81 968 1437  
Mark Heath Tel: +66 81 787 9408

**Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 52.2 (2002)** USD\$220,000

**Luc Bovet Custom 52 (2003)** | 190,000 euro  
**MUV 12 (2011)** | 6,900,000 THB  
**Pershing 92 (2011)** | 4,250,000 euro  
**Beneteau First 44.7 (2004)** | USD\$135,000  
**Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)** | GBP 1,699,000  
**Princess 366 (1996)** | 4,250,000 THB  
**Cranchi Endurance 41 (2012)** | USD\$250,000  
**Beneteau Oceanis 423 (2004)** | USD\$190,000

#### YACHT GULFCRAFT 31 KHE SC 31

Quick sale, Thai register, excellent condition. Twin Suzuki DF 225, 200hr only. With trailer. Price new: 5.9 million baht. Asking price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: Lemcloe@gmail.com

#### SEA RAY 330 SUNDANCER

Sport cruiser (2008), twin-petrol 275hp. Mercury 8.1L. Horizon Engines with only 300hr, aircon, generator, etc. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

#### POWER TEC OUTBOARDS

Coming soon with a two-year warranty for pleasure use. 2.5hp - 14,950 baht, 3.5hp - 16,950 baht, 5hp - 24,650 baht, 6hp - 27,250 baht, 9.9hp - 42,150 baht, 15hp - 47,750 baht, 25hp - 56,950 baht and 40hp - 74,950 baht. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

#### KANTER 54 PILOT HOUSE (1993)

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

#### YACHTSMAN HYPALON TENDERS

Stock Clearance: HYS 280 79,000 baht includes VAT (2 pieces). Light-weight aluminium hull RIBs. Good quality at very competitive prices. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

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

#### 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. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

#### 5.6M AVON 'ADVENTURE'



Semi-rigid tender. Sale: 360,000 baht, high quality British manufacture (Zodiac), Yamaha 2-stroke 85hp with very low engine hours. 56lt in built fuel cell. Comes with trailer, cover, anchor, mooring lines and additional fuel tanks. Rigged for single point lift (ex yacht tender). Ideal for island hopping, exploring, wake boarding, picnics on quiet islands etc. Email: r.felton65@gmail.com

#### RIVIERA 48 FLYBRIDGE (2000)

2 x Diesel 660hp. Caterpillar CAT 3196B. Must sell as new boat has arrived. Asking only 9 million baht. Please call 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

#### DEAN 440 CATAMARAN (2002)

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

#### 21M CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE

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

#### SR MARINE BOAT MANUFACTURER

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

#### 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).

#### THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

#### Cryptic Crossword



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

**Normal spelling:** lower case.

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

**Letters left out:** underlined.

#### Across:

8. PATRIOT: *apt*-riot 9. BARNDANCE: bar-N-dance 13. ACTED: *cadet*  
14. SAMBA: as[rev]-M.B.-a 15. LICENSE: *silence* 16. HERETIC: *there-I/C*  
17. GREEN: naive 18. ASPEN: *panes* 20. RAPID: *pair-D* 22. TENDER: considerate 23. CORONA: glow 25. CONCAVE: co-N.C.-a-ve  
27. TRIGGER: R.R.'s horse 30. APPEAR: seem 31. BEARDS: b-E-ards  
32. LITHE: lit-he 35. VERDI: *drive* 36. PAENG: pa-E-ng 37. MACHINE: *niceham* 39. RETRACT: Re-tract 41. ABLER: *rea(B)* 42. TITLE: *letit*  
43. MALLEABLE: *lablemale* 44. HEROINE: her-O-in-e

#### Down:

1. MATTER: metrat 2. PREDATED: *edparted* 3. CONSECUTIVE: con-secut-I've 4. PARAMETER: *amerepart* 5. INCLINE: Inc.-line  
6. WATCHALONG: watch-a-long 7. SCAN: S-can 10. FATHER: farther  
11. IMAGINE: 1-*ingame* 12. HERNIA: *inhera* 19. PROTEST: *potters*  
21. PROSPER: pro-reps[rev] 24. FRESHMARKET: cool-merchandise  
26. CHARITABLE: *chair-table* 28. GENERALLY: gen-*really* 29. FRAGILE: *ifregal* 30. ADVERT: advert 32. LOCATION: *icantool* 33. ELEVEN: el-even  
34. SPATIAL: *palisat* 38. INTENT: aim 40. TRAP: part[up]

# Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



## Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

**Built: 1976**

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



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

**Specs:**

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

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

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

**Contact Tony Scragg** at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)

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# The ‘OSU VIII’ is Oh So Beautiful

Legendary long-term Phuket resident Eric Smulders and partner Khun ‘Oe’ hosted 40 guests for the maiden voyage of *OSU VIII* in Phang-nga Bay last month.

The gorgeous new Leopard 51’ power cat, imported directly from the builder in Florida, is berthed at the Boat Lagoon where she makes a ‘WOW’ addition to the ever-expanding fleet of top-end yachts now home ported in Phuket.



Twenty on the foredeck is a drop in the bucket for ‘OSU VIII’. The other score were scattered throughout the vessel.



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Phuket

A photograph of a modern, two-story detached house at dusk. The house has large windows and a carport where two cars are parked. The interior lights are on, and the exterior is lit with warm lights.

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A circular award logo with the text 'RUSTED BRAND 2013' and 'Platinum Award 8 080u'.



### Words from the wise

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”

– Dalai Lama

#### Medium

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

#### Hard

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

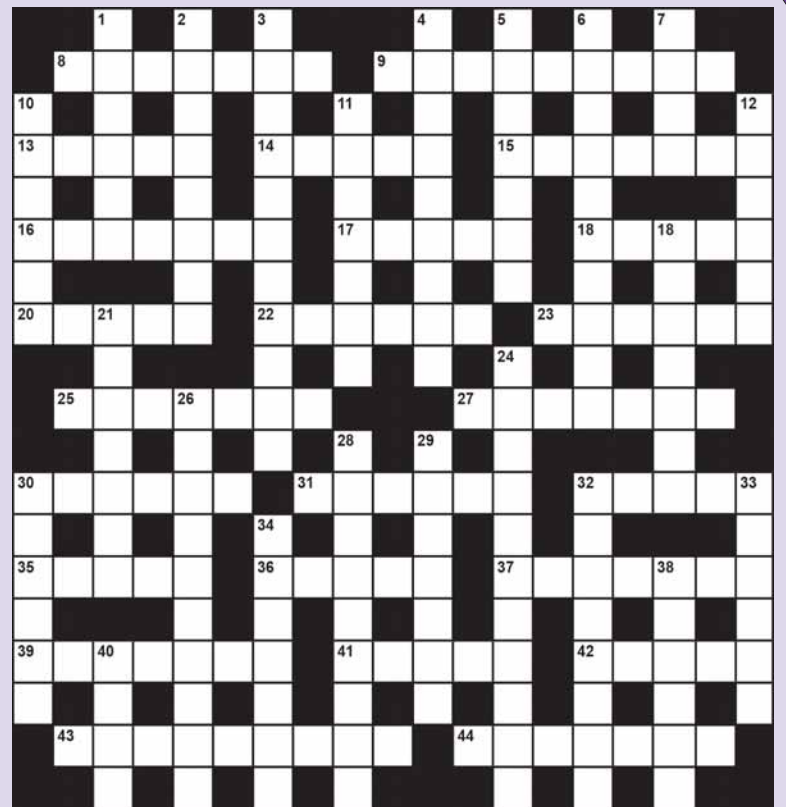
**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## COFFEE break

### Cryptic Crossword

#### Across

8. Could be apt, riot caused by Nationalist (7)  
 9. Hoedown music group to prohibit new ball (4,5)  
 13. Cadet possibly was in play (5)  
 14. As back, Doctor, a dance? (5)  
 15. Grant permission for silence, perhaps (7)  
 16. Dissenter may be there in charge (7)  
 17. Naive environmentalist (5)  
 18. Panes broken by tree (5)  
 20. Pair changed date quickly (5)  
 22. Considerate offer (6)  
 23. Cigar glow round star (6)  
 25. Depressed cove about North Carolina article (7)  
 27. Start things off with Roy Rogers' horse (7)  
 30. Seem to come to light (6)  
 31. Determinedly opposes bards out East (6)  
 32. Set fire to, he is supple (5)  
 35. Drive out a composer (5)  
 36. Expensive in Thailand, causes pang out East (5)  
 37. Nice ham cut by the device (7)  
 39. Take back concerning treatise (7)  
 41. Born in real surroundings, more competent (5)  
 42. Let it change the heading (5)  
 43. Possibly label male as pliable (9)  
 44. Brave woman, circle in, in here! (7)



#### Down

1. Met rat, possibly be of importance (6)  
 2. Happened before Ed parted, possibly (8)  
 3. Against sect about turn, I've following (11)  
 4. A mere part could be the criterion (9)  
 5. Bank incorporated family (7)  
 6. Pay attention to a hunger in a Phuket temple (10)  
 7. Son is able to look carefully (4)  
 10. To reproduce farther not right (6)  
 11. Just think! One in game destroyed! (7)  
 12. In her a different rupture (6)  
 19. Complaint about potters (7)  
 21. Professional reps go back to do well (7)  
 24. Cool merchandise in local food bazaar (5,6)  
 26. Philanthropic Chair moves 'Submit' (10)  
 28. Normally, information really wrong (9)  
 29. Easily broken if regal arrangement (7)  
 30. A short commercial (6)  
 32. I can tool around the place (8)  
 33. Number the Spanish still (6)  
 34. Referring to space, pal, I sat out (7)  
 38. Aim to be camping! (6)  
 40. Invert part of snare (4)

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



Monday's new moon in your sign is the best of the year for you, and is helpful for starting projects, adopting positive habits and making commitments. However, where money is concerned things may not go as planned. Don't be too rash with your spending to avoid any problems. However, a budding romance or friendship could show promise.

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



As Mercury begins a rewind phase from Tuesday, the following three weeks can bring delays, but also an opportunity to experiment with what works best for you. Nothing is set in stone and your natural flexibility can make it easier for you to erase early attempts and make more attempts. However, someone's ideas may conflict with your own.

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



Even though Monday's new moon encourages new activity in your social circle,

the focus will rapidly shift to more behind-the-scenes issues regarding life and living. It's that time of year when the cosmos encourages you to take a more relaxed schedule so you can reflect on what's best and recharge. In love, one tie could also be highly charged.

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



Get a head start with a plan at the beginning of the week, as chances are good that progress can be made. Though you might experience a few delays, they could prove a help rather than a hindrance. While social affairs look positive, you may still need to sidestep someone's edgy approach to a fab idea of yours. Believe in yourself and ignore their criticisms.

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



Good advice can be a boon this week, helping you make sense of a jumble of information and ideas. If you're overwhelmed by any facts, someone's insights could be invaluable. Although Mercury rewinds from Tuesday, the coming three weeks could be the ideal time to test drive a plan and see how it works out for you.

## YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

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



Monday's new moon can be an excellent opportunity for a fresh financial start, especially if you're keen to clear obligations. On another note, are you resisting the idea of change? That's perfectly fine. As if your current set up works, why fix it? Use the weeks ahead to research your options and see what suits you.

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



Finances may be a focus over coming weeks as Mercury regresses from Tuesday, enticing you to set right any problems. If an issue has been bugging you, now is the time to get the necessary information and sort it out. From Friday keep an open mind, even if what others are suggesting seems somewhat uninspiring at first.

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



It's a busy week with others in your life keeping you on your toes. Whether it's work colleagues, friends or family – it seems you're set to be in demand. Even so, reserve the right 'not' to commit to anything for now, as Mercury's retrograde phase can be a sign of unexpected change. Over the weekend try to relax – and don't try too hard.

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



Although there's a chance to make progress this week, you might encounter some disruption to plans. Mercury begins its backward dance from Tuesday, which could disrupt the smooth flow of events. Even so, it's worthwhile making a start. Over the weekend, a positive attitude could give someone a much needed confidence boost.

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



A playful approach to work, romance and other areas of life could make the difference between a pleasant week or a routine one. The focus

on your leisure zone hints that making use of your creative abilities could bring excellent results. Though busy over the weekend, don't be pressured into doing more than is necessary.

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



Changes to family dynamics are possible as Mars encourages action over complacency. You'll feel more motivated to get a move on, but will need to factor in other people's ideas – as some might not agree with you. Over the week ahead a compromise should be possible. The weekend might also see a spicy love tryst get even more heated.

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



A promising start can see you making financial as well as other key plans. Though Mercury begins its second retrograde phase of 2015, you can accomplish much by being willing to go with it even so. Indeed, you might even accomplish more. Later in the week complications could arise perhaps due to others being overly stubborn or manipulative. Handle with care.



# Independent through diversity

## SPONSORED

PATONG Bay Group's 20 years of experience developing hotel and entertainment business in Patong ensures investors in Patong Bay Hill apartments-hotel will enjoy a 7 per cent return over 15 years, according to the group's chief marketing officer.

Kriangkrai Keesin said the Patong Bay Group is not reliant on rental income from the new four-and-a-half star apartments-hotel for survival because of income from its existing five hotels, two discotheques, four nightclubs, an entertainment complex, two seaside restaurants and a shopping plaza.

Mr Kriangkrai said that because guests would find it worthwhile to use Patong Bay Group's other facilities, he could charge 4,000 baht to 5,000 baht per night while other hotels of similar class charge 5,000 baht to 6,000 baht a night.

"This strategy means a higher occupancy rate and income not solely generated from either apartments-hotel or restaurant," he explained. "A restaurant patron could become a hotel guest and a hotel guest a restaurant patron."

The preview opening of Patong Bay Hill is scheduled for July 1 with the grand opening set for December 1. This enticing development covers a huge 30 rai of a 60 rai plot solely owned by the company. Situated high on a hill, it offers stupendous views of the Andaman Sea and Patong beach.

Altogether, 13 buildings are being constructed to accommodate a total of 366 units. One hundred units are being set aside as a hotel and the remaining apartments-hotel, units are for sale at a starting price of 3.9 million baht for the smallest, which is all of 60 square meters.



Patong Bay Hill apartments-hotel will enjoy a 7 per cent return over 15 years, explains Kriangkrai Keesin.

Buyers of these fully-furnished units not only enjoy a 7 per cent return over 15 years, but would be purchasing something truly dreamlike on a popular Thailand resort island.

The developer is already going through the lengthy process of joining a top fidelity club with the aim of gaining full international recognition.

Mr Kriangkrai said foreigners

have been more enthusiastic about Patong Bay Hill than Thais.

"Lots of foreigners have flocked in because initially we targeted the European market, but later shifted to Australia and after that to Singapore, Hong Kong and China," he explained. "They are all here – Singaporeans, Malaysians, French and many others."

Patong Bay Group is also shrewdly bracing for further

global shifts by building up the American market just in case the Chinese one slides.

"Americans come and stay in our hotels practically every day, and looking back it is clearly evident that it was American soldiers who built up Patong's fame because they came here to relax during Vietnam War breaks," Mr Kriangkrai said.

While the company plans to

build villas and a convention center on the remaining 30 rai of land at this beautiful site, it will not start right away because it still has to work out the details of the basic outline.

Patong Bay Group is also planning to buy another plot of land on Kamala Beach. Mr Kriangkrai confirmed that talks are well underway for the purchase of this key plot near Patong Beach.

## Central government to give boost to marinas, reviews canal dredging

THE Marine Department director-general has vowed to renew efforts to find the best solution to the congested Koh Kaew canal, which links two of Phuket's prominent marinas to Phang Nga Bay.

The extension of the Koh Kaew canal, which leads to Royal Phuket Marina and the Boat Lagoon, was reported as being completed on December 28, 2014, allowing easier passage for big boats and yachts to the area. However, Gulu Lalvani, chairman at the Royal Phuket Marina, told members of a public meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday that the canal was still in need of dredging.

"I really want to see Phuket as the number one yachting paradise in the region," Mr Lalvani said. "Two of the four marinas in Phuket are served by Klong Koh Kaew [Koh Kaew canal]. And the two marinas have more berths than the other marinas in Phuket. And that canal needs dredging."

Mr Lalvani pointed out that the canal entrance to the marinas was a first impression for some tourists



Mr Lalvani spoke out about the need to dredge.

and that its current condition was not living up to Phuket's desire to be a top yachting destination in Southeast Asia.

Marine Department Director-General Chula Sukmanop confirmed that he would assign a team to look into the matter and see what is the best solution.

"I will have my technicians investigate and determine what can be done," Mr Chula said. "They will

make a case study and report back to me. I will take care of it."

The dredging was approved at a public hearing in January last year and the six-month project started in March.

The 12-million-baht canal dredging project stalled in May last year after villagers claimed the method of dredging was endangering mangroves, marine life and residents' livelihoods.

However, the project was resumed a few weeks later, after it was decided that it would be more harmful to abandon the project.

– Chutharat Plerin



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# Soft currency, cushy market



Across the Land

By Amy Koh

THE Year of the Goat (Sheep/Ram) was heralded February 19 and signaled the start of the Chinese Lunar New Year. After a disastrous Year of the Horse – two major airplane crashes, unrest in Ukraine, ISIS kidnappings and beheadings, a military coup in Thailand – the Year of the Goat is much welcomed.

For a start, The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has donned full gear promoting 2015 following the military coup with its new national tourism promotion: Discover Thainess. This campaign will emphasize the priceless treasures of Thailand, which gives the nation its charm, makes the Thais unique as a people, society and culture, and underpins the Kingdom's competitive advantage in tourism.

This massive effort by the TAT will no doubt bring it closer to its target of 29 million tourists in 2015.

While all this effort is going on, the Thai baht remains strong against most popular currencies, especially the Euro, Norwegian krone and Russian ruble. Unfortunately this has an effect on both sales and rentals in the island's property market.

The market has been soft for the past month or two, and with the weather warming up in Europe, this summer may be an even slower one on the island.

In stock market lingo it's been more of a docile 'sheep' market rather than a 'ram' market.

For property owners looking to dispose of their property, this is probably the best time to do so as the proceeds of their sale in Thai baht would probably convert to an advantageous currency exchange.



In general the Thai baht is still strong, despite being at a five-year low against major currencies. Photo: epSos.de

The only snag here is due to the strong Thai baht. There is unfortunately more supply than demand in the market, which translates to there not being that many buyers. Even if there were buyers, the abundant 'choices' available would make it extremely competitive to achieve the sale.

For motivated owners keen to dispose of their property, especially those whose property has been in the market for more than

12 months, a good idea would be to spruce up the property with a fresh coat of paint or even a good deep clean.

Alternatively, invest in some new bright throw pillows for the sofa or living area, bed-runners for the beds or colorful paintings to brighten up the walls and hallways. This would give the property a totally new look, and with professional photography the property will show well. In this

new age, the first impression of your property is through the photographs on a website.

When a prospective buyer is browsing the internet, he or she will no doubt see many properties, but the property that gives the best impression will probably result in an inquiry followed by a viewing.

Therefore, to invest in a professional photographer's services may very well be worth any owner's money and time. The

fees for a professional photographer in Phuket averages from 10,000 baht and above depending on the photographer and the hours involved. The result would be high resolution photos of the property to be used to market the sale of your property successfully.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket. To contact Amy or for more information, visit [www.engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket](http://www.engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket)

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## Contractors set for second-half boost from government projects

LEADING construction firms, confident that the government will open bidding for infrastructure projects worth 193.2 billion baht during the second half of the year, expect their revenue and net profit to grow by between 10 per cent and 15 per cent for the full year.

"We target a share of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of new government contracts subject to bidding this year. This will drive net-profit growth to achieve our target," Ch Karnchang president and CEO Plew Trivisvavet said at a press conference last week.

The listed construction company currently has a backlog worth 100bn baht, which will generate revenue of 34bn baht to 35bn baht this year.

Ch Karnchang also expects to win new contracts from the both state and private sectors worth between 35bn baht and 40bn baht



Ital-Thai was awarded the contract for Phuket's first underpasses.

by year-end, which would drive stable growth for the long term, he explained.

Italian-Thai Development president Premchai Karnasuta told a shareholders' meeting on April 8 that the company – also listed on the Thai bourse – targeted a share of just under 30 per cent of the government's 2015 projects.

"We believe the government will launch more infrastructure projects in the second half of the year, with most of them for motorways, the double-track rail system and mass-transit rail systems such as the Green, Orange, Pink and Yellow lines. This will boost the turnover of all contractors this year," he added.

– The Nation



# I did it all for the gnocchi

By Sylvia Joy

TUCKED away in a small soi off Rassada Road in Phuket Town, just after Krungsri Bank, you will discover one of the island's many hidden gems.

Unlike the ever-changing coffee shop and restaurant scene in town, Spaghetti & C has been around for longer than I can remember. Nee, the owner, has been serving up some of the best Italian dishes in town for years.

If you get the chance to talk to her, Ms Nee is a very kind, sweet woman – always remembering her regulars and welcoming newcomers – but more often than not she is in the back, cooking up a storm to bring you some real homestyle Italian food.

For appetizers, Spaghetti & C serves up caprese salad and some wonderfully flavorful bruschetta, but the cream of the crop is the parmigiana (baked eggplant with tomato and mozzarella).

If you are an eggplant lover, this baked dish comes straight out of the oven and into your heart with its savory tomato sauce and stringy cheese.

Sadly, there are only a handful of places in town where you can get a proper pizza. Thankfully, though, Spaghetti & C is one of them.

This place is perfect for all pizza lovers, especially those on a budget. A medium *margherita* pizza is only 100 baht, and nothing to scoff

at. And if you happen to have an extra 30 baht lying around you can upgrade it to a large.

Just like with the parmigiana, the pizza's sauce is incredibly flavorful and the cheese is more abundant than if you went to a fancier, more expensive place and ordered the same thing.

Sure, it's 'elegant' to have little dots of cheese on a giant crust and five or six basil leaves thrown on top, but we all know what most people love on their pizza... and most everything else.

The most expensive pizza price on the menu is a mere 170 baht, and includes such varieties as *Salmone*, *Quattro Formaggi*, *Napoli* and *Diavoli*.

For main entrees, Ms Nee offers pasta, such as traditional carbonara and pesto in addition to lasagna, *tortelloni* and ravioli. The most expensive item on this list is only 160 baht, and that's for salmon and ricotta ravioli!

Included on this list of pasta is the sole reason why many loyal patrons go back time and time again: gnocchi.

With three varieties offered – tomato-mozzarella, blue cheese and four cheese – you will realize that the gnocchi at Spaghetti & C is no doubt what you have been yearning for.

If you have ever attempted to cook gnocchi yourself, you will know just how easy it is to over or undercook it. But Ms Nee has it down to a science, and with her excellent sauces and no-fear



Spaghetti & C owner, Ms Nee



Spaghetti & C's gnocchi combined with Ms Nee's no-fear attitude with cheese makes this dish a favorite.

attitude with cheese, it is hard to stop your heart from melting along with every bite.

I recommend using her home-made chili olive oil to drizzle on everything. It gives the perfect amount of heat without taking away any of the flavor.

Not a fan of tomato sauce? Not a problem. Spaghetti & C

offers an amazing dish called *Scaloppine al Limone*, which is two thin fillets of chicken lightly breaded and fried to perfection, with the most wonderful, savory, creamy lemon sauce you could ever imagine – and it comes with fries.

You will not be disappointed with this dish, and from that mo-

ment on, you will always order it, or at the very least convince the person you are with to order it just so you can dip your food into the sauce.

Whatever your Italian food desire is, you can find it with Ms Nee at Spaghetti & C in Phuket Town. Great food, good prices and happy stomachs.



The Scaloppine al Limone's sauce is absolutely incredible.

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# Powwow with Red Cloud

## Books

By James Eckardt

THE history of wars are told by the victors.

We have Caesar's Gallic Wars, nothing by Vercingetorix. Entire libraries are devoted to the white man's wars against the American Indians, whose leaders remain largely mute.

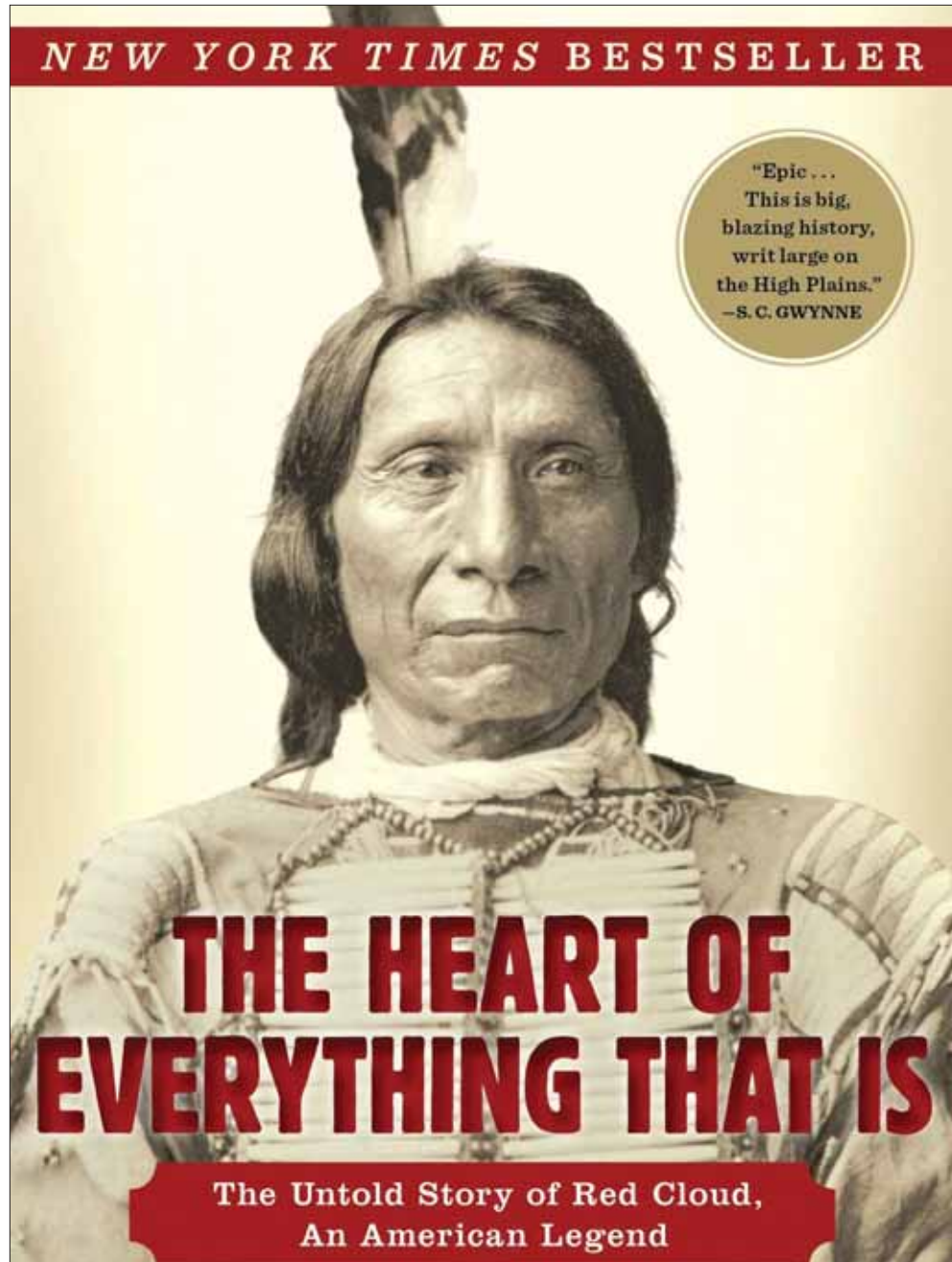
The exception is Red Cloud, the war chief of the Sioux. His war in 1866-1867 resulted in victory, withdrawal of the United States Army and the burning of three forts along the Bozeman Trail through Wyoming to Montana. He left behind an autobiography, dictated to a friend in 1893, which was only recovered and published a century later.

This is the core source for *The Heart of Everything That Is* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2013, 414pp), subtitled "The Untold Story of Red Cloud, an American Legend". The authors are a war historian team, Bob Drury and Tom Clavin, who provide 17 pages of scholarly notes and an eight page bibliography though, as they maintain, 'we are primarily interested in telling a good yarn'.

They have succeeded splendidly. They first provide a detailed historical-cultural background to Red Cloud's successful campaign against white encroachment on his land and traditional way of life: happily feasting on game and massacring enemies.

The Sioux originated in the Carolinas or the Gulf of Mexico and made their way up the Mississippi to the Missouri. Armed with muskets and mounted on horseback, the western branch moved across the High Plains to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, displacing the tribes that got in their way, the Crows and the Shoshone, and allying themselves with the Cheyenne and the Arapaho.

Red Cloud was born in 1821 and grew to early fame as a warrior and buffalo hunter. He maintained his band in the lush hunting country of the Powder River valley, far away from the diseases and



A page turner with remarkable immediacy and the narrative sweep of a great Western.

whiskey of the whites. It was only when the whites came to him along the Bozeman Trail, to the gold fields of Montana, that he gathered together a war party of 3,000 – uniting even warring tribes like Tecumseh did a half century earlier – and

stuck back.

He was outnumbered and outgunned. Behind their forts, the US Army had Colt revolvers and Spencer repeating rifles.

Aside from a few muskets, the Indians were armed with lances, war-clubs

and bows and arrows. So Red Cloud avoided direct battle. Instead, he imposed guerilla tactics and a strategic vision, put into action by the martial discipline of tribal warrior societies, the Strong Hearts of the Sioux and the Dog Soldiers of the Cheyenne.

He was aided by the stupidity of the blundering whites. His raiding parties picked off stray soldiers, stole horse herds and pillaged supply trains.

When punitive columns set off in pursuit, they found nobody. When Red Cloud was ready, he pounced in ambush, overwhelming his enemies and leaving behind their naked and horribly mutilated bodies.

The authors are very good at battle scenes: "Two thousand warriors rose as one. A trembling war cry borne by the wind echoed through the hills, a curdling primal scream... The Indians rolled toward the soldiers like a prairie fire. From the left, Cheyenne horsemen charged from clusters of dogwoods and cottonwoods. From the cutbank on the right, Lakota and Arapaho on foot scrambled from the tall grass. Arrows blackened the sky, killing and wounding both friend and foe. Fetterman's commands could barely be heard amid the shrieks and shrill whistles."

Thus 80 troopers of Civil War hero Captain William Fetterman met their doom. They had been led into ambush by a few taunting Sioux warriors, including a young Crazy Horse who mooned them in contempt.

A decade later, the same tactic led to the Custer massacre at Little Big Horn. By then, Red Cloud was out of the fight, settled down in a reservation, living in a house and sending his children to school. He had met President Ulysses S. Grant and toured the teeming cities of the East, and knew the game was up. The buffalo were gone and the whites were there to stay.

"The white man made me a lot of promises, and they only kept one," Red Cloud would say. "They promised to take my land, and they took it."

## You've seen the Sean show, now read the book

HANDSOME Sean Jindachot has become one of the hottest actors on television in Thailand thanks to his sparkling lead role in the hit series "Lae Ratee" on GMM One, but his appeal also reaches into the bookworm crowd.

Last year Sean wrote an autobiography called *The Present Perfect* (Phrua Wan Nee Dee Tee Sud Laew), in which he recounts people he's met and things he's experienced.

"It's not a motivational kind of book, but it offers some truths about life," he writes in the introduction.

It's certainly motivated readers though, and there will soon be a second edition.

Don't give all the credit to Sean's good looks and his popularity on the small screen – he's quite a good writer and not just a celebrity publishing a book on a whim.

It was Wongthanong Chainarongsingh, the founder of *A Day* magazine and the publishing firm it spawned, who spotted Sean's gift with words while following the actor's Instagram posts (@seanjindachot), which are mainly about what he's doing every day. Duly impressed by his turns of phrase, Wongthanong offered to put more of the same in book form, and soon they had a best-seller on their hands.

Where does Sean pick up his writing talent? Here's something Wongthanong and Sean's fans might not know – and a lesson for all young aspiring scribes: he's an avid reader. His five favorite, most inspiring books are all best-sellers, SEA Write Award winners or classics. They include *Pan Maa Baa* by Chat Kobjitti, *Prachattipattai Bon Sen Kanan* by Win Liewwarin and *Sing Mahatsajan Thammada* by



Sean Jindachot released his first book and is considering writing a second. Photo: The Nation

Roundfinger.

Asked about his plans to write another book, Sean says he cer-

tainly will – sooner or later.

"I've already got an idea, but the book definitely won't be com-

ing out this year. Not too long, but not too soon," he says.

– Soopsip / The Nation



# Russians returning

## Ruble recovery heralds return of island's second largest market

By Alexander Korablinov

WITH the Russian economy showing signs of recovery and the ruble stabilizing, Russian tourists are once again expected to throng Phuket.

Over the past five years, Russia has been the second largest source of tourists to Thailand. The fall in Russian tourist arrivals hit the Thailand's economy very hard, but there is hope that the numbers will pick up by the end of the year. Phuket, though is more than just a tourist hot spot for Russians, for many it is a home away from home.

Viktor Borisov, a former academician in the Russian far-eastern city of Khabarovsk, has a second home in Phuket, a place where he spends more than six months every year. He is part of a community of Russians on the island that is estimated to be around 30,000. An entire industry has developed to service the Russian community on the island from day-care centers to restaurants to Russian media.

"Many people have enough cash flow from other sources from Russia or overseas to invest in the tourism business, including buying hotels, boats and restaurants," says Alexander Dashevsky, a businessman from Sakhalin Island.

The 44-year-old man, who is a co-owner of a construction company in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, tried his hands at operating a full-time business in Phuket.

"We bought a glass-bottomed speed boat and hydrofoil and came here in October 2011," Mr Dashevsky said. "We were trying hard to get all the proper documents for business, but we got our tourist licence only at the end of January 2014."

After they invested nearly 13.5



The Thailand Authority of Tourism promotes traditional Thai weddings to Russian market. Photo: Gazette file

million baht, Mr Dashevsky said his partner had a change of heart and wanted to exit the firm. Now Mr Dashevsky is looking at importing salmon from the Russian

Far East and exporting fruits and cosmetics from Thailand to Russia.

Other Russians complain about the immigration laws and the red tape for foreigners to start businesses in Thailand.

"I have been waiting years to get licences to export flowers to Russia," but it is a painful procedure, much like in Russia, where palms need greasing," Mr Borisov said.

Thunjira Wattaporn, a Thai diplomat who is originally from Phuket and served in Russia, says the authorities need to make the business climate friendlier to help those servicing Russian tourists.

"At this time, with our political crisis, this is not on a list of priorities," she says, but adds that many people servicing Russian tourists are freelancers and are not paying Thai taxes despite what would be

considered employment in the country.

"These young people should be educated on our rules here," she adds.

The difference in Russian and Thai etiquette has often led to misunderstandings between locals and Russian expats. Ms Wattaporn believes the cause of

the problems is the language barrier.

Mr Dashevsky says that more Russian people need to adjust to Thai culture.

"Some of the Russians are very rude to other people, because they live the same way in Russia and they cannot understand cultural differences. And then when I speak with Thai people they are really amazed why I can speak English and smile."

He says the best part of living on the island is the Thai culture, the people and their smile.

"Phuket is a geographical crossroad, making it very cosmopolitan," Mr Dashevsky says. "I want to give my son time and freedom to live in a different society other than Russia. He has a Thai babysitter and he can hear Thai, English and Russian and he is starting to speak all the languages."

— *Russia Behind The Headlines*

Phuket is a geographical crossroad, making it very cosmopolitan. I want to give my son time and freedom to live in a different society other than Russia.

— Alexander Dashevsky



Phuket taxi drivers protest Russian tour operators on Bang Tao Beach in 2013, claiming that they were stealing business. Photo: Gazette file

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# Call Phuket home

## Yacht Solutions ramps up for superyachts

By Tamsin Edenbrow

RENOWNED marine services provider Yacht Solutions opened its second office in Phuket on May 1, anticipating a surge in the number of high-end yachts and superyachts seeking to call Phuket home or use the island as a base for charter operations.

Interest in Phuket from yacht owners from around the world is increasing year on year and in Thailand the government is actively supporting this industry, notes managing director Gareth Twist.

"Phuket is strategically and geographically well-positioned in Asia, and has the scenery and infrastructure to attract yachts of all sizes," he says. "In addition to being home to some of the best cruising grounds in the world, the marine infrastructure in Phuket is constantly being improved."

"All of the Phuket marinas have been upgraded and expanded, and this is helping to firmly establish Phuket on the superyacht cruising map and will also help to attract more and larger vessels to the region."

With Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkam Wattanavrangkul supporting the marine industry and working toward easing restrictions on a number of marine-related issues, Yacht Solutions has created teams of in-house yachting experts to help serve the anticipated increase in yachts and superyachts to Phuket.

"We have expanded our workforce and now have our own in-house teams, offering servicing for yachts of all sizes," says Rob 'Doc' Taylor, head of technical services. "We have dedicated departments for air-con, electrics, carpentry, finishing, paint, engineering and shore support."

"Bringing all the departments



Managing director Gareth Twist (center) is prepared for the high-end yachting industry in Phuket to come full bloom.

under one roof ensures we can offer a complete yacht service to our clients at competitive prices and at the specific time required. With in-house teams, we can react more quickly to our customers' needs and ensure work is always of the highest standard."

The second office will be based at the new Phuket Yacht Haven office development, located in north Phuket.

"In addition to this, any work which needs to be completed out of the marina, such as fabrication, painting and engineering, can be undertaken in the new 540-

square-meter Yacht Solutions' workshop located in central Phuket," adds Rob. "This dedicated work space ensures all teams can be mobilized quickly and service yachts in all marinas."

Yacht Solutions is also looking to further expand its local yacht servicing teams, adds Gareth.

"We are looking for many more craftsman, especially engineers, and we will be speaking with some universities and technical colleges about taking on some engineering interns to train them in marine engineering," he explains.

"By employing more in-house

teams, we are strengthening our commitment toward the marine industry in Thailand and hoping to attract more yachts to Phuket for servicing and work."

Master carpenter and shipwright Nick Adam will be joining Yacht Solutions in July and will be bringing with him professional tooling and machinery to set up a full carpentry workshop in Phuket.

"Nick will head up the carpentry and finishing division. He is an expert in his field and has worked in the US, Caribbean, South America and the Mediterranean. He is a superyacht interiors specialist,"

Gareth notes. "It is fantastic what is happening in all the Phuket marinas. All of them are developing and expanding as a result of the buoyant yachting industry here."

"Yacht Solutions will be actively promoting Phuket as a marine service center to yachts around the region and highlight the work we can do here and the expert teams we can offer," he adds. "With the government, local businesses and the marine industry working together, we can further develop Phuket into Asia's premier yachting destination and bring more quality business to our island."

## Growing use of social media in the yachting world

THE increasing use of social media as a means to find customers, promote services and connect with colleagues continues to increase across many industries. In the superyacht world it has been a slow uptake, but more companies are now finding their voice and posting, sharing and liking.

Now, a new social networking site has been launched specifically for the superyacht industry. It already has several hundred people jumping onboard, including superyacht owners, captains, architects, designers, crew and journalists.

SuperYachters.com is the brainchild of Lomond Yachts founder and CEO, Douglas McFarlane.

"I was often asked if I knew someone who could provide a particular product or service. I wanted to connect those people

together in a way that was quick and easy," explains McFarlane.

The community was quickly formed and in a short space of time, brokers started showcasing their yachts, designers posting their ideas, crew highlighting their availability and journalists publishing their articles.

The service is like a combination of LinkedIn, Pinterest, Facebook and Twitter rolled in together, and provides profiles of members who subscribe.

Posting a press release or article is a simple task and links and videos can be posted to enrich content. The power of the software platform is that articles can be shared widely by the community on their own social media networks, thus vastly extending the reach of the product or

service update.

"I have set up SuperYachters LinkedIn groups, Twitter accounts and Facebook pages and automated some features in order to help make members' posts travel farther."

"As a community we encourage others to be supportive too, as they also want to showcase other superyachts or products and services on their social media."

To extend the service further, there's a dashboard and content provision service called LondonLinking.com, which takes the effort out of creating content and publishing. Experts are available to profile your business and ensure your branding, tone of voice and style of posts are created every day on Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook.

"Social media and social networking are



Superyachting gets social.

here to stay and judging by the response we've had, tools and services like these are a welcome addition to the superyacht community," McFarlane says.

— Lomond Yachts / Press Release



# Minds in the sky



By Stephen Fein

THALANG Technical College (TTC) has launched Thailand's first vocational program to prepare students for a wide range of careers in the aviation industry and help support the growing need for skilled staff at nearby Phuket International Airport (HKT).

TTC Deputy Director Kochakorn Butsaraporn, who administers the school's aviation program, told the *Gazette* that TTC is proud to be the first government school in Thailand to offer a study program designed specifically to meet the needs of those seeking careers in the aviation industry.

"The idea actually came from Phuket Airport, where there has been a shortage of skilled, certified personnel to work in many

aspects of the airline industry," Ms Kochakorn said. "Officials there approached us about two years ago and asked us if we would consider opening an aviation industry program to address these needs and help young people find jobs."

Of 45 applicants for the program, 27 were accepted. Most of the students are from Phuket and other parts of Southern Thailand.

There are two terms per academic year and the tuition is 27,950 baht per term. The training staff for the program includes 10 industry experts, some from Don Mueang Airport (DMK) in Bangkok, and others from HKT.

All students will get on-the-job training at HKT.

Those involved in aircraft maintenance and repair, for example, will receive instruction from experts at KASE Aviation, which offers these services to several carriers at HKT, as well as Don Mueang and Chiang Mai (CNX).

Courses of study include both three-year *bor wor saw* [upper vocational] courses that provide certificates in education, and two-year *por wor chor* [lower vocational] programs that lead to a technical diploma for graduates.



Thalang Technical College has started advertising its new vocational program for careers in aviation.

Serving as a senior adviser in the TTC program is former Thai Airways International pilot Watana Thinphanga, as well as his friend and colleague Suchard Raksangob, founder of Phuket AirPark.

Mr Suchard grew up in Germany and is fluent in English and Thai. He has been tasked to teach students some basic German. The

two top students will be eligible for grants from the German government to continue their studies in Germany.

Mr Suchard said the timing was right to open an aviation program at the school, especially given its proximity to the airport and the continuing growth of the airline industry around the globe.

"It is actually cheaper now to fly most places than get there by other forms of transport, such as bus or train – not to mention the time saved," he said.

"It is an ongoing trend, so the future looks bright for those who want to get certified to enter the industry, which will continue to expand."

## Thailand launches newest air carrier



The goal of the airline is to provide direct flights from Narathiwat to Jeddah for Hajj. Photo: Al Jazeera English/Wikimedia Commons

THAILAND'S newest carrier, Fatonee Airline, was launched on May 2 during a ceremony at the Park View Hotel in Pattani's Provincial Capital District.

Up In The Air was the only reporter to attend the event, which had some 600 of the most prominent Thai Muslim Malay businesspeople present.

The executive board said the primary goal of the airline is to provide direct flights from the greatly underused Narathiwat International Airport to Jeddah for Muslims seeking to undertake the Hajj or lesser pilgrimages such as the Umrah, which can be conducted year round and is not subject to quotas on Thai nationals like the Hajj.

The executives are currently negotiating with Bangkok-based

charter carrier Business Air to acquire their first Boeing 767 200ER aircraft and have already been promised four weekly slots at Saudi Arabia's largest airport.

Asked if the board had considered the possibility of a Narathiwat to Hat Yai to Phuket flight, Fatonee executive Pornchai Phettongkham explained that the landing and takeoff costs of a 290-seat Boeing 767 would make the flight cost prohibitive for that aircraft.

However, he said, the Fatonee board was well aware of the demand for flights from the Deep South to Phuket and that they would definitely consider a flight from Narathiwat to Phuket with a stopover in Hat Yai using a smaller turboprop aircraft, such as an ATR, in the future.

– Stephen Fein

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# Tom Rhodes to spice up Phuket

THOSE looking to add a double-dose of spice to their lives, gastronomically and satirically, need travel no farther than the Spice Box Indian restaurant on Boat Avenue on May 30.

That's where and when internationally renowned American stand-up comedian Tom Rhodes takes the stage to dispense his unique blend of razor sharp and often irreverent comedic commentary.

Beginning at age 19 when he won 'The Funniest Person in Central Florida' contest, Tom has built a 30-year career that includes stand-up specials, a sitcom, a travel show, a late-night talk show, several live CDs and DVDs, his critically acclaimed podcast Tom Rhodes Radio and as a travel writer for the *Huffington Post*.

Along the way, Tom became the first comedian to sign a one-year

development contract with Comedy Central that led to a one-hour special 'Viva Vietnam', a comedy travel log. He has logged multiple

nightly performances in New York's Gotham Comedy Club, The Comic Strip, Caroline's, The Comedy Cellar, Stand Up New York and opened for Ray Charles at Tramps jazz club.

Tom has wowed audiences at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles and on 'The Strip' in Las Vegas. He has entertained international comedy lovers in China, Singapore, Malaysia and Bangkok.

His podcast, Tom Rhodes Radio, was named one of the Top 10 of Best Podcasts of 2011 by Matador Network and was praised as the best newcomer in The Onion AV's Club (December 2012).

Since 2013 Tom Rhodes Radio joined Bill Burr's and Al Madrigal's

**/ A mostly natural intellect with a knack for reporting the harsh realities of life with a dark and absurdly optimistic cynicism. /**

– *The New York Times*

**/ Brash, abrasive, but exceptionally funny! He's not to be missed. /**

– *Edinburgh Festival*

**/ A mostly natural intellect with a knack for reporting the harsh realities of life with a dark and absurdly optimistic cynicism. /**

– *Evening News*



Tom Rhodes started his comedy career when he was 19 and has since graced stages around the world.

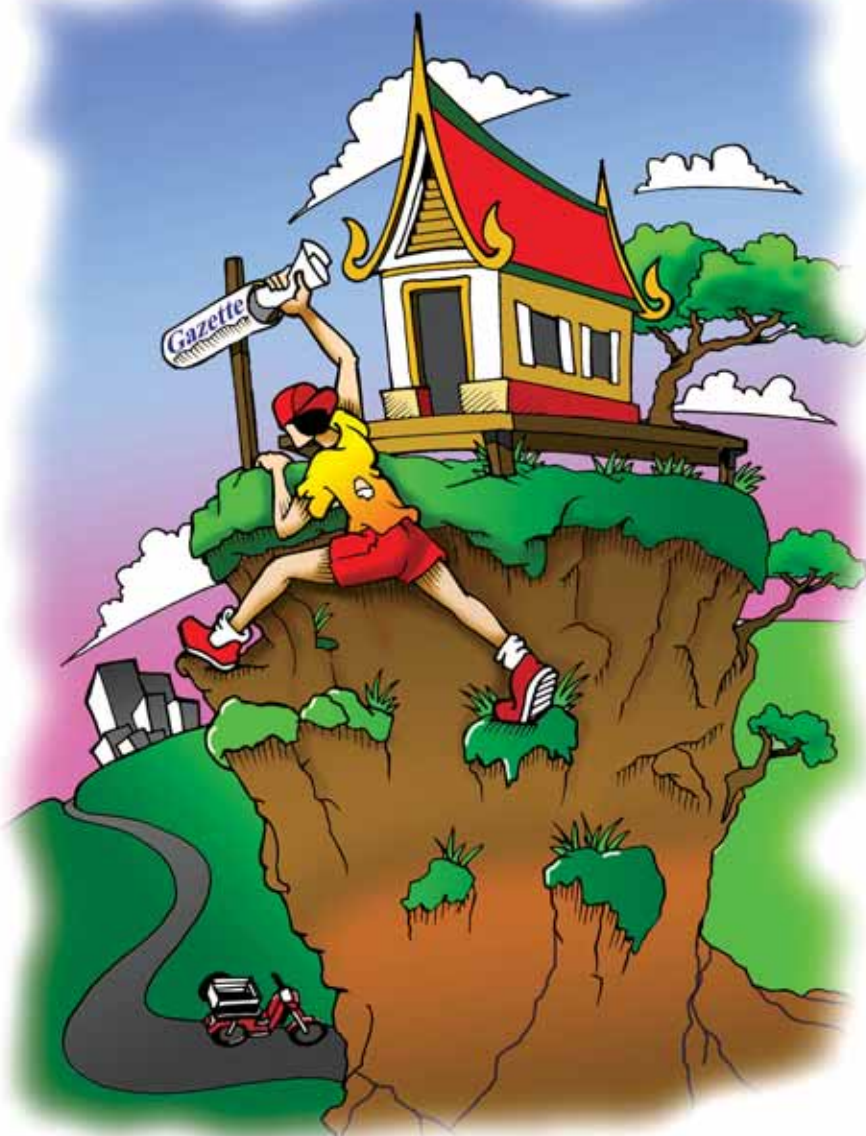
All Things Comedy Network. Tom has been a guest on The Joe Rogan Experience, The Adam Corolla Show, Marc Maron's WTF, Aisha Tyler's Girl On Guy, London Real,

The Artie Lange Show, Ron & Fez Show and NPR Snap Judgment.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Tickets @ 700B each, includes a free

drink. Can be bought at Villa Market – Chalong, Boat Avenue and Boat lagoon, Les Diablos – Boat Lagoon and SpiceBox, Cherng Talay. Limited seating, grab your tickets now!



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# Powerhouse magnesium



## Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

GUESS which mineral deficiency makes you twice as likely to die as people with healthy levels? According to a study published in *The Journal of Intensive Care Medicine*, the answer is magnesium.

Many people have heard of the benefits of getting enough magnesium to relax muscles

(reduce muscle cramps) and promote sleep, but

did you know

magnesium is re-

sponsible for more

than 350 essential

biochemical reac-

tions, including energy

production digestion and

elimination, muscle function, bone

formation and new cell creation?

Magnesium also assists in the

proper functioning of the

heart, kidneys,

adrenals, brain

and nervous

system. It helps

protect cells

from oxidative

damage that

leads to free

radicals and ag-

ing.

What a pow-

erhouse mineral

and most of us

are not getting

enough of it.

Recent govern-

ment-supported

studies showed

that 68 per cent of Americans

don't consume enough magne-

sium on a daily basis. Another

study out of the UK revealed two

out of three women over 40 are

deficient in magnesium.

Why are we not getting

enough? Our ancestors weren't

going around popping magnesium

pills. The obvious answer is our

bodies need much more

modern, Western, highly-pro-

cessed and refined diet is severely

lacking in magnesium and under

stress our bodies need much more.

Most magnesium is stored in

the tissues, so leg cramps, foot

pain or muscle 'twitches' are usu-

ally the first signs. Insomnia,

irritability, anxiety, heart palpita-

tions, angina, constipation,

headaches, migraines and

fibromyalgia are possible symp-

toms of magnesium deficiency.

Chronic fatigue,

diabetes, obesity,

osteoporosis, high

blood pressure,

post menstrual syn-

drome, menstrual



**Why are we not getting enough? Our ancestors weren't going around popping magnesium pills. The obvious answer is our modern western highly-processed, refined diet is severely lacking in magnesium and under stress our bodies need much more**

RDAs are general guidelines and do not take into account unique situation like stress levels, which require higher magnesium amounts.

Some people may need two to three times this amount to restore levels to optimal.

For all of us, consuming plenty of magnesium rich foods is criti-

cal, so add as many of the following to your daily meals as possible:

1 cup of steamed spinach (or Swiss chard) has roughly 157 milligrams

1 ounce (28 grams) pumpkin seeds 150mg

100 grams of mackerel has about 98mg

1 cup cooked brown rice has about 86mg

1 ounce almonds is 80mg

1 avocado is 65mg

1 ounce dark chocolate is about 60mg

Another option, which I do, is use magnesium salts such as Dead Sea and Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) in a foot bath or full bath – which most know is a great way to relax and soak up magnesium.

Another point to know is good vitamin D levels are critical for magnesium uptake. Exposure to sunlight is essential in helping the body absorb vitamin D and for-

tunately there is no shortage of sun here.

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



Get a much-needed uptake of magnesium from the sun or by eating avocado (inset). Photos: Liz West / Gazette file

## With southwest monsoon season come illnesses

MONSOON rains are beginning to arrive in much of Thailand, and those with weak immune systems, including children and the elderly, are the most likely to fall sick.

Thailand has seen a growing number of cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever in recent years, with babies and children aged 1-14 years old most at risk. In Thailand, the disease is most prevalent from May to August, some of the rainiest months of the year, and is primarily transmitted by the Aedes mosquito. Since dengue virus in Thailand causes hemorrhaging, it is commonly known as dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Symptoms occur five to eight days after catching the virus, when the patient will suddenly develop a raging fever with a body temperature of often more than 38.5 Celsius. In many cases, especially in children, the patient will also have convulsions. Although the patient will not have a runny nose or cough, rashes may develop and

there may be bleeding from the skin.

In the 'critical period' that follows, one of every three cases of DHF sees a blood circulatory problem, which coincides with sudden lowering of the fever. In these cases, the patient will go into a shock-like state. Without treatment within 12-24 hours, the patient may die from shock and/or bleeding.

Patients who do not reach the shock-like state will make a speedy recovery. Patients who do go into the shock-like state can recover within two to three days as long as they are treated in a timely, proper manner.

Visit your doctor immediately if you suddenly become exhausted, vomit repeatedly, vomit blood, pass black stool, suffer from



Don't hesitate to see a doctor when feeling unwell. Photo: The Nation

severe stomach ache near the cartilage or lower-right of the abdomen, sweat profusely, and experience a slow pulse rate. There is currently no anti-dengue fever vaccine available. The only treatment is to treat the symptoms and take very good care of the patient during the critical stage.

Influenza is another disease that coincides

with rainy season.

One of the most threatening aspects of the flu is that it can develop into pneumonia and cause complications like myocarditis, encephalitis or exacerbate existing congenital diseases, especially in high-risk groups.

Symptoms include body aches, extreme tiredness and dry cough. Because colds and

flu share symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Special tests that usually must be done within the first few days of illness can be carried out.

The influenza vaccine is the most effective measure for helping to strengthen the immune system. Individuals are advised to receive vaccination before the rainy season.

According to the Ministry of Public Health, the groups most at risk of contracting the flu are as follows: women who are more than four months pregnant; people weighing more than 100 kilograms; the mentally-ill; people with any one of seven diseases, namely chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, diabetes, and cancer in patients being treated by chemotherapy; people aged over 65 years old; people in the medical profession; and children aged between six months and two years old.

– *The Nation*



# JSA swimmers splash in success

## Two team members qualify for 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

By Wayne Wraith

WHEN the JSA Swim Academy at British International School Phuket first took to the pool in August 2013, the team had five international swimmers on scholarship, four swimmers from the school's Flying Fish club team and high hopes.

During the August to December 2014 swim season, the team's nine swimmers (five girls and four boys) competed in the Thailand Nationals, Hungarian Nationals, World Championships, African Championships, Dubai International, Singapore Nationals and ASEAN School Games and set a total of 69 national and team records.

Heading into 2015 the team, which has grown in numbers (nine girls and eight boys), have already racked up new national and international age-group records and two have qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"So far this year we've broken 41 national records," said Coach Simon Jones. "I now have 19 international swimmers in the program and will be up to 25 in August with new swimmers coming in. We have a very unique situation here. The school supports my swimmers on the academic side by giving them a little more time for school work, tutoring, and training to allow them to attain a high level of

achievement in academics and sports.

"A lot of schools try to combine scholarship with athletics, but are not as committed as we are and that's because of Headmaster Neil Richards," Simon added. "Neil strongly believes that sports builds character and the discipline that will help our students achieve their goals during their lifetime."

The JSA swim team truly reflects the international flavor of BISP. Its roster includes student athletes from the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Hungary, the Netherlands, the Seychelles, Namibia (Africa) and Phuket's own 17-year-old Phiangkwan 'Eing' Pawapotako.

"Eing is our best female swimmer," Simon said. "She made the finals in the 200-meter breaststroke at the 2014 Asian Games and has already quali-

fied for the 2016 Olympics in the 200m individual medley (IM). She has until next June to qualify and I expect her to qualify in five events."

The swim team's other 2016 Olympics qualifier is Malaysian Wong Fu Kang, 16.

"Wong has qualified in the 100m breaststroke and recently broke the Malaysia record," Simon explained. "I expect him to qualify for two events in the Olympics."

Simon said two other strong swimmers who may qualify for the Olympics are Filipino Roxanne Yu, 18, who recently

**/ We have a very unique situation here. The school supports my swimmers on the academic side by giving them a little more time for school work, tutoring, and training to allow them to attain a high level of achievement in academics and sports. /**



Phiangkwan 'Eing' Pawapotako has qualified for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

graduated from BISP and has a scholarship in the United States to Miami University, Florida, and 15-year-old Hendrik Faber of the Netherlands.

Roxanne has established several national records and Hendrik has Holland's fastest-ever times in the 400m, 800m and 1500m

freestyle, the 200m butterfly and 400m IM.

Next up for the BISP swim team is the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA or International Swimming Federation) World Championships in Singapore.

"I'll be taking Eing, Wong,

Roxanne, Raine Gavino (Philippines) and Chantgal Liew (Singapore)," Simon explained. "Between the five of them, they will compete in 15 races, plus the 4x100m medley, 4x100m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relays. Hopefully, we'll be in 15 finals and have 15 medalists."

## Thalang lights up Laguna in Phuket Cricket Group semifinal

THE Thalang Cricket Team (TCT) made light work of a depleted Laguna cricket side in the Phuket Cricket Group semifinal on May 10. After dismissing Laguna for only 114 runs, TCT passed the total in the 22<sup>nd</sup> over with seven wickets still in hand.

The coin toss fell the way of Laguna's captain Stuart Reading.

Both teams had made some adjustments to their sides. Laguna were a man short on their team sheet without regular all-rounder Arif Mushtaq, Sam S and Thai player Karn.

But Laguna had regained key bowling all-rounder Iqbal Malik and crafty tail-end batsman Kishore Sadarangani. For TCT, Craig Murphy was a late withdrawal with an injury and was replaced by medium pacer Anthony Dupont.

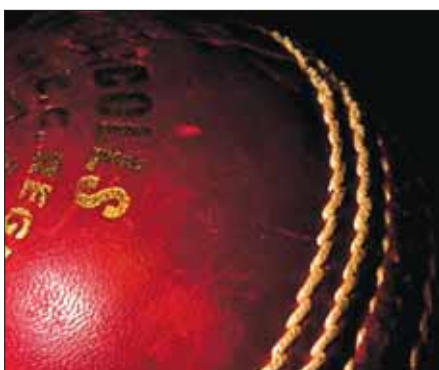
Neil Culpan bowled the first over of the match which produced two leg-side boundaries to Laguna's Manish Sadarangani. From that point onwards the runs dried up quicker than the outfield. At the 10 over drinks break Laguna were 0-32. After the break Laguna attempted to hit themselves

back into the game and lost both opening batsmen in the process.

Laguna were 45-2 (12.3 overs) before Iqbal Malik strode out to the crease. Malik looked at ease out in the middle until Simon Wetherell ran around the boundary line to take a juggled catch just a whisker from the boundary rope. Laguna's Damien

Clowes and Nadeem Yousuf looked to consolidate the innings and with the handy addition of a fist full of wides from TCT bowler Pao, Laguna were 79-3 after 20 overs.

Just two balls after the break and the batting pair had a running mix up. A direct throw at the bowlers end from TCT's wicket keeper Andrew McMillan saw the end to Clowes seven (23) and brought dangerous batsman Ali Khan to the crease. Ali



Thalang Cricket Team took down Laguna last Sunday. Photo: Luke Hayfield

plundered 107 runs against TCT the last time the sides met and it only took 5 deliveries before he had the umpires calling for a replacement ball after dispersing TCT's paceman Neil Culpan over the fence and into the rubber plantation.

With the next delivery Culpan had the last laugh after Ali slashed hard again and was well caught at third man by TCT's captain Bill Stahmer. Laguna were 90-5 (22 overs) when Garry Lane was introduced into the bowling attack. Lane picked up the wickets of Sameer Khan and Roly Cooper in his first two overs while Martin Hill chimed in with 1-1 from his two overs up the other end.

Playing one man short, Laguna were 92-8 with their last pair at the crease. Their tail wagged on for another four overs before

Lane picked up his third wicket and ended Laguna's innings at 9-114. Reading finished on 18 not out while Lane was the pick of the TCT bowlers with 3-13 (3.5 overs).

TCT's opening pair didn't waste any time with the run chase racing along to 0-17 in two overs. McMillan hit 12 runs from Iqbal Malik's short pitched over before Malik found his length in his second over and the edge of McMillan's bat. TCT 23-1 (3.4 overs). Fresh from 48 not out against the Village team 2 weeks ago, TCT's Stahmer eight runs (13 balls) looked in fine touch before a strong throw from the deep found him short of his ground attempting a third run.

At 37-2 (seven overs) TCT had a partnership of 38 runs between Justin Thomatos 19 (34) and Neil Culpan before Thomatos sliced a catch to point with the score on 75-2. Laguna's bowlers toiled hard for their team, creating a few chances that were dropped. Neil Culpan 41\* (46) and Simon Wetherell 22\*(23) took TCT past the required 115 run target and into the grand final.

— Andrew MacMillan



# Rio's road to rushing Olympic preparations

By Stephen Eisenhammer

WITH less than 500 days until Rio de Janeiro hosts the Olympic Games, construction of several venues has not started and some major contracts have not even been tendered, setting the stage for a last-minute rush that will likely drive up costs.

It may seem like a familiar script for major sporting events. As the start date nears, the headlines invariably focus on delays and the scramble to get ready on time, and yet the games end up going ahead without major hitches.

Rio 2016 may, though, end up being one of global sport's closest calls yet, resulting in a race against time that would inevitably inflate the current US\$13.2 billion price tag and add to the burden on Brazil's struggling economy.

At around this stage in the run-up to the 2012 London Olympics, almost 80 percent of venues and infrastructure had been completed. In Rio, only about 10 percent of 56 Olympic construction, overlay and energy projects have been finished.

While the latter figure excludes 11 existing stadiums that need no renovation, the figures highlight a gulf in preparations that could put Rio in the same league as Athens in 2004, where only half of the venues were ready five months before the start.

In the Greek capital non-essential parts, such as a roof for the aquatics center, had to be scrapped. Worryingly for Rio, a quarter of projects have still not started and don't even have fixed time frames or cost estimates.

"There's still a lot to be done," said Michael Payne, who worked at the International Olympic Com-



Rome wasn't built in a day, but 500 days out, there is concern about Rio. Photo: Reuters

mittee (IOC) for over 20 years and helped Rio put together its bid, adding that a last-minute scramble was probably inevitable.

In Brazil, any hike to the overall cost will be hard to stomach for a country in the midst of an economic slump and a fiscal austerity drive. Public anger over issues including the inflated costs for World Cup stadiums brought more than a million people to the streets in 2013.

A giant corruption scandal at state-run oil company Petrobras, which has implicated several construction firms delivering Olympic projects, adds to the possibility of delays.

So far companies and the gov-

ernment say the scandal will have no effect, but a number of smaller engineering firms have gone bankrupt as a result. Curtailed access to credit markets means cash flow could become a major headache for builders.

Brazil's government, as with all Olympics hosts, has guaranteed to finance any cost overruns.

Costs tend to surge during a last-minute scramble ahead of big events as contractors can demand higher prices for urgent work.

For Athens, the final push, with three shifts being worked at every venue, meant the initial budget doubled to US\$11 billion. Economists say the debts the country took on to complete the games contrib-

uted to Greece's financial decline.

For sure, Brazil could better absorb an expanded Olympics bill. This is partly because more than half the money is coming from the private sector through partnerships. The total budget estimate, even with huge infrastructure projects like a subway extension and port regeneration, is also only half a percent of gross domestic product. In Greece the final cost was nearly five per cent of the country's GDP that year.

"The longer you wait the more expensive it gets," said Bent Flyvbjerg, an Oxford University professor who specializes in major construction projects.

- Reuters



Australian law clogs investigations. Photo: Lauren Nelson

## Aussie anti-doping body working with 'hands tied', says AOC president

AUSTRALIA'S anti-doping agency, heavily criticized after a two-year investigation into the use of banned peptides, was being forced to operate "with its hands tied behind its back", the country's Olympic chief said on May 9.

Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) President John Coates said the failure of the government to enact legislation to coerce athletes to testify to doping authorities was severely hampering their work.

A clause in a bill which would have compelled athletes to answer questions from the Australian Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) failed to pass in the upper house of the country's legislature in 2013.

"We are left with an act that excuses individuals from answering questions or giving information if the answer or the information might tend to incriminate them," Coates told the AOC AGM.

"When it comes to investigating most of the nine anti-doping rule violations which are not based on the presence of a prohibited substance in an athlete's sample, ASADA has been largely left with its hands tied behind its back."

ASADA decided last month not to appeal a decision to acquit 34 professional Australian Rules footballers of drugs charges and handed the case over to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

- Reuters

# Don't fix it unless it's broken, say F1 technical heads

FORMULA One does not need to rip up the rule book and try to fix something that is not broken, team technical heads warned on May 8 as the sport discusses possible changes for 2017.

"I think we should leave it alone, in the main," Team Williams' head of vehicle performance Rob Smedley told a news conference at the Spanish Grand Prix when asked what might top his wish list.

"We should perhaps think about stopping tampering with it rather than thinking we are going to create a new set of rules and that is going to fix everything.

"We do have to seriously think about not changing anything... the racing is very good."

Smedley, whose former Ferrari team have called for a revolution in the sport, said every rule change ultimately favored those with the biggest resources and led to big gaps in performance.

Mercedes technical head Paddy Lowe, whose title-winning team have enjoyed the dominant engine since the introduction of the new V6 turbo hybrid last year, agreed the sport should tread carefully.

"In terms of rules changes, it's not absolutely clear we need to change the cars radically," said the Briton. "Performance will increase anyway through normal development."

Formula One is mulling an engine overhaul, with an increase in output to 1,000 brake horsepower to make cars harder to drive and more impressive.

McLaren's acting chief executive Jonathan Neale said it would be "foolish to mess around with the immense amount of good work that has been done on the power units" even if some adjustments were needed.

"It's a much more efficient package, it's got some great technology, it's still matur-



A meeting was held on Thursday to discuss possible car changes. Photo: Reuters

ing in the sport and the price can come down if it's left to mature," he added.

Neale suggested a 'step-change' in the aerodynamics regulations might help.

Lotus technical director Nick Chester said the cars' performance had already improved significantly on 2014 - perhaps by as much as two seconds.

"Do we really need a huge change of regulation?" he asked. "A huge change of regulation is going to open up the grid again, there'll be bigger differences between teams and obviously it's going to add a lot of cost."

"I think we shouldn't forget that show's actually not bad at the moment."

- Reuters



# Sore losers don't get re-matches, says Mayweather

By Mark Lamport-Stokes

TWO days after saying he would be open to a re-match with Manny Pacquiao, unbeaten American Floyd Mayweather Jr reversed course on May 7 while describing the Filipino as 'a sore loser'.

In an interview with Showtime, which was broadcast on May 9, Mayweather expressed his disgust that Pacquiao had blamed an injured right shoulder for his defeat by the American in the so-called 'Fight of the Century' in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, the former eight-division world champion, lost a unanimous decision to Mayweather on Saturday in the richest prize fight ever.

"I'm not going to buy into the bull\*\*\*\*... and I don't want the public to buy into the bull\*\*\*\*," Mayweather said.

"He lost. He knows he lost. I lost a lot of respect for him after all of this."

Asked by Showtime whether he had noticed Pacquiao being hampered by his shoulder during their 12-round bout at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, Mayweather

replied: "Absolutely not."

Barely one hour after the contest ended, Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, said the 36-year-old southpaw had been troubled by a previous injury to his right shoulder.

On Monday, an MRI scan in Los Angeles confirmed the Filipino had a torn rotator cuff and on Wednesday he underwent surgery.

Earlier last week, Mayweather said he would be willing to give Pacquiao a re-match next year, telling ESPN's Stephen A Smith that he would delay his proposed retirement from the sport.

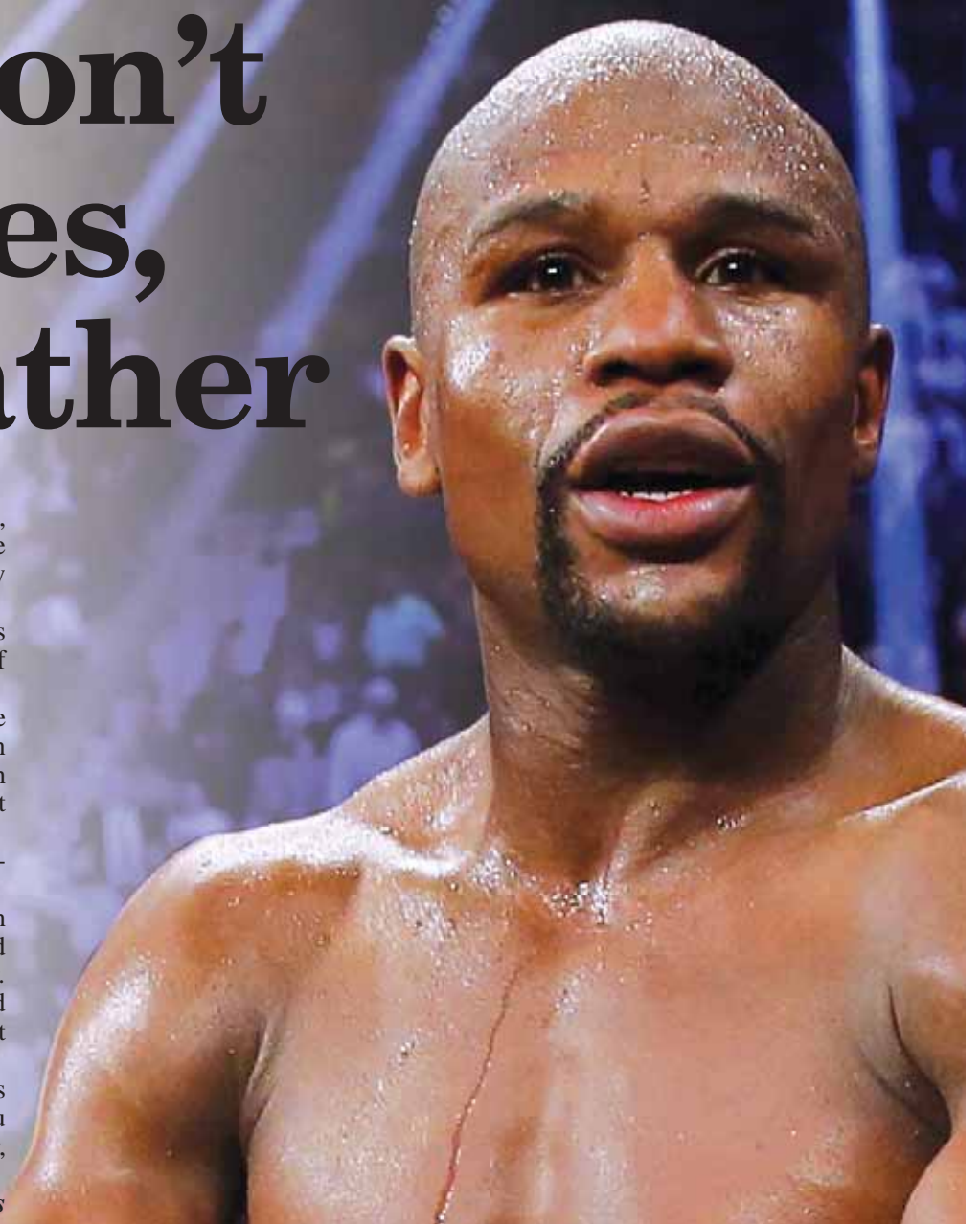
"I will fight him in a year after his surgery," Mayweather told Smith in a text.

Mayweather has one fight remaining on his Showtime contract and has repeatedly said he intends to quit after a bout in September.

On Thursday, however, the 38-year-old American made a complete U-turn on what he told Stephen.

"At this particular time, no, because he's a sore loser and he's a coward... If you lost, accept the loss and say, 'Mayweather, you were the better fighter'."

— Reuters





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