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INSIDE TODAY

May 23 - May 29, 2015

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■ 'IT DAMAGES OUR REPUTATION WHEN THEY AREN'T THERE'

Guards back

■ Lifeguards return to beaches, but no solution for annual contract conundrum

By Kongleaphy Keam

THERE is no solution in sight for the Phuket lifeguard contract conundrum, which annually leaves the island's beaches without essential life-saving services as the southwest monsoon season starts in Phuket, bringing dangerously large waves and deadly rip currents to many of the island's popular west-coast beaches, confirmed officials.

However, after almost two months and a number of deaths at Phuket beaches, lifeguards did resume their posts this week, following the signing of a new 10-month contract earlier this month. Nonetheless, the contract is set to expire in 2016, at about the same time as the annual southwest monsoon season again descends on Phuket.

This reoccurring beach-safety issue sparked an open letter to the National Council of Peace and Order (NCPO) by the family of 20-year-old Panya Lonraphat, who drowned at Nai Harn Beach earlier this month.

"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," said Mr Panya's brother-in-law, Jacob Ritter.

Guards left the sands at sunset on March 26 and returned their equipment to the Phuket



Volunteer lifeguard, Daren Jenner, joined guards as they returned to the beaches on Wednesday.

Provincial Administration Organization, following what has become an annual contract debacle.

At that point no company, including the Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC) had stepped forward to bid on the 22-million baht govern-

ment concession.

The president of the Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC) proposed two solutions...

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English teacher in coma after motorbike crash

AUSTRALIAN expat Louise Warren is in a coma at Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Intensive Care Unit following a motorbike crash in Patong.

Ms Warren was left in critical condition following the accident with a 10-wheeled truck on Soi Banzan, behind Jungceylon shopping mall.

Full Story on Page 2

Fruit seller shot dead by nephew in family feud

A GUNMAN who shot his fruit-selling aunt in the head in Phuket Town turned himself into police Monday.

Santipap Kosuk, 28, surrendered to Phuket City Police following the fatal shooting, after stashing his homemade gun and ammunition in a shoe box near Surakul Stadium.

Full Story on Page 3

New task force created to tackle damaging IUUs

A 'SPECIAL Navy Team' was put into action in Phuket last week to combat the severe economic and ecological damage caused by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels (IUU).

The new task force follows orders from the National Council for Peace and Order to improve Thailand's approach in dealing with IUUs, with the hope of reversing the yellow card issued by the European Union.

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This Week



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Play the demand side in the energy market – invest in oil. **Page 12**



Property

You say, FazWaz? We say, what's up Thai condo market? **Page 27**



Environment

Come together at the Phuket Town co-working space. **Page 29**



In Focus

Pity the poor pangolin as it struggles with poaching. **Page 31**



Gardening

When it comes to good grass, it's all about variety. **Page 33**



Sport

Young Phuket tennis player dominates in Bangkok. **Page 34**

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Aussie English teacher in coma after accident

By Kongleaphy Keam

AUSTRALIAN expat Louise Warren is in a coma at Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Intensive Care Unit following a motorbike crash in Patong on May 15.

Ms Warren, working as a teacher at Patong Language School, was initially in the care of Vachira Phuket Hospital but was then transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket Monday, confirmed a nurse at Vachira Hospital.

"Her heart had stopped twice, but we were able to get it started again. She was in stable condition and ready to be transferred to Bangkok Hospital," said the nurse.

Ms Warren was left in critical condition following the accident with a 10-wheeled truck on Soi Banzan, behind Jungceylon shopping mall.

"It's still unclear what exactly happened. However, there's no sign of the motorbike and truck colliding. Nonetheless, something did happen, and Ms Warren ended up under the truck's wheels," said Maj Teerasak Boonsang of the Patong Police.

"She was rushed to the hospital before police arrived



Louise Warren was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Photo: Facebook

at the scene."

Police are searching for any CCTV evidence that may show the accident, Maj

Teerasak confirmed.

"We have yet to press any charges at this point, but are continuing our investigation."

One killed, 31 injured in Krabi bus accident

A BUS en route from Phuket to Narathiwat flipped on a wet road in Krabi last Friday, killing one passenger and injuring 31 others.

The body of 26-year-old Marina Sama-ae, a nurse from Narathiwat, was trapped inside the bus when police arrived just after midnight, said Capt Prasan Khongkaew of the Ao Luek Police.

"The bus was turned over on its side, so we had to bring it upright in order to reach the body," said Capt Prasan.

The bus driver, 62-year-old Chob Jamren, and 30 of the 51 passengers sustained minor injuries.

Mr Chob and 13 passengers

were taken to Krabi Hospital for treatment, while the remaining 17 injured were taken to Ao Luek Hospital.

"The bus was on its way from Phuket to Sungai Kolok in Narathiwat province when it started raining heavily in Klong Hin, in Krabi's Ao Luek district, causing the road to become slippery," Capt Prasan explained.

"Mr Chob lost control when the wet road narrowed from four lanes down to two. The bus flipped and crashed on the side of the road."

Mr Chob has been charged with reckless driving causing injury and death. – **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



The body was recovered on Sunday.

Body found floating off Koh Khai

KUSOLDHAM Foundation rescue workers recovered the body of an unidentified man Sunday afternoon, found floating off the coast of Koh Khai, 20km east of Phuket.

"We are unable to identify the nationality of the man, but we believe he was 30 to 40 years old and was approximately 160 to 170 centimeters in height," Lt Col Panya Chaichana of the Phuket Marine Police told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"We believe the man died three or four days prior to his body being found."

Phuket City Police are checking to see if the man fits the description of any missing person reports filed on the island.

An initial investigation showed that the body had no suspicious wounds, however it was taken to Vachira Hospital to confirm the cause of death.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Woman killed crossing road

A 78-YEAR-OLD woman was killed by a pick-up truck as she attempted to cross Phuket's busy Thepkasattri Road Sunday.

Sian Phetlamul had just disembarked from a local *songtaew* after visiting relatives and was crossing the road on her way home, her relatives told police.

"The truck driver, 27-year-old Sutjai Sriphut, was driving from Phuket Town with his mother-in-law to pick up vegetables and fruit from Nakhon Sri Thammarat," said Maj Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

"As he was driving, he noticed Ms Sian near the side of the road, but did not realize that she was



The 27-year-old truck driver was charged for the death.

going to cross it until it was too late."

Mr Sutjai immediately pulled over and called rescue workers and police. He was charged for reckless driving resulting in death.

– **Thawit Bilabdullar**

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Swiss national dies in collision with six-wheeled truck

A SWISS national was killed in a car crash on Kata Hill early Monday morning.

Gaetano Pensovecchio, 39, was removed from his pick-up truck and rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

"The pick-up truck being driven by Mr Pensovecchio was ascending Kata Hill toward Chalong when it collided with a six-wheeled truck," explained Lt Chatri Choowichian of

the Karon Police.

The driver of the other truck, Amorn Bamrue, 36, suffered only minor injuries in the accident.

There were no witnesses to the accident, police confirmed.

"We have yet to charge Mr Amorn at this point. Whether or not we follow up with criminal charges will depend on CCTV footage and what further evidence comes to light," Lt Chatri said. — **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Police will check CCTV footage for evidence.



Rescue workers and police survey the scene on Patak Road.

Family feud drives man to kill fruit-vendor aunt

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GUNMAN who shot his fruit-selling aunt in the head in Phuket Town turned himself into police on Monday.

Santipap Kosuk, 28, surrendered to Phuket City Police for the fatal shooting of his 46-year-old aunt, Sriroong Kosuk, on May 18.

Mr Santipap stashed his home-made gun and ammunition in a shoe box near Surakul Stadium before he called his father and asked him to contact police.

"I didn't like her. She was always arguing with my parents and causing problems for our family," Mr Santipap said.

Witnesses told police that a man matching Mr Santipap's description had passed by Ms Sriroong's fruit shop several times before he parked his motorbike and approached her.

"He walked up to her and fired a single bullet into her face. He then fled the scene," Maj Rachan Panwai of the Phuket City Police explained to the *Phuket Gazette*.



Mr Santipap claimed that he shot his aunt because she always argued with his parents.

Ms Sriroong was rushed to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Hospital and then transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

"I left the stall for five minutes

to go to the grocery store, then my friends called me, saying that my wife had been shot," said Sornsiri Natesawang, 37. "I was shocked. I have no words for this."

Mr Santipap was charged with

premeditated murder, illegal possession of a firearm and corresponding ammunition, and illegally carrying a firearm in public, confirmed Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Kraithong Chanthongbai.

Finnish man hit and killed by car while crossing road in Chalong

A FINNISH man was hit by a car and killed while crossing Patak Road near Chalong Circle in the early morning hours of May 16.

A damaged Honda CRV was parked in the road, and the body of a 26-year-old man, named by police as Joonas Hotti, was found nearby when police and rescue workers arrived at the scene.

"The Honda driver was heading from Chalong Circle toward Kata-Karon when he hit Mr Hotti, who was crossing the road trying to reach Patak Villa, where his friend was staying.

"The driver has been charged with vehicular manslaughter," Lt Chollada Chokdeesrijun of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette*, declining to name the driver.

The Finnish embassy has been informed of the death, confirmed Lt Chollada.

Mr Hotti's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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No migrant holding center for Phuket, insists Gov

TOP Phuket and Navy officials have voiced support for the government's move to find islands on which migrants can stop over on their way to their destination.

The move follows an order from Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to survey two islands off Ranong for temporary holding locations for migrants, reported *The Nation* on May 15.

However, Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Command, noted on that islands south of Ranong would not be suitable for a center, as most of them are part of national parks.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong concurred, and added that Phuket would also not be an appropriate location.

"Although Phuket is not a place where migrant boats should stop, we will not neglect this issue. We will work with Marine Police and other officers to find a solution," he said. — **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Ghost boat of starving Rohingya found, repaired, returned to sea

By Woranut Pechdee

THE Royal Thai Navy secured a ghost boat full of Rohingya refugees that was adrift off Koh Lipe, south of Phuket, on May 14.

The captain and crew had abandoned the vessel, leaving it to drift in the Andaman.

"The ship had more than 300 starving people on board, including women and children. Since they departed Myanmar, more than 10 of them have died," said Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command.

"According to their statements, the engine in the boat had broke about 20 days before and the captain abandoned ship, leaving them helplessly adrift."

The ship was recovered after the Air and Coastal Defense Command 491 received a report of the vessel from a fishing boat. A helicopter was dispatched to locate the boat.



Supplies were given to the refugees and the boat engine was fixed. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

"Once we located the boat, we brought them food, water and medicine. We then contacted Internal Security Operations

Command in Satun to have them fix the engine," V/Adm Sayan said.

"After the boat was fixed, we

let them resume their attempt to reach wherever they were going, as Thailand was not their final destination."

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Top military brass reveals Rohingya 'help-on' policy

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DEPUTY Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan explained to the press in Phuket that Thailand would be proceeding with a clear 'help-on' policy when dealing with Rohingya and Bangladeshi entering the country.

"We will never push away these people. However, if they do land in Thailand they will have to face the same laws that apply to anyone illegally entering the country," Gen Prawit said, following a closed-door meeting with Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy Admiral Kraisorn Chansuvanich, Royal Thai Police Commissioner Gen Somyot Poompanmoung, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej and other high-ranking officials.

"What we will do is provide them with the basic necessities, such as food, water and medicine, so they can continue on their journey – their final destination, which is not Thailand. "We will even help –fix their boat engines, if that is what they need."

Gen Prawit vehemently denied that the 'help-on' policy was simply pushing them away.

"How can they say we push them away? This is wrong – we are both being humane and following the laws of Thailand. Basic human rights and needs are essen-



Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan address the press following a closed-door meeting.

tial," Gen Prawit said.

In an exclusive interview with the *Gazette* following the meeting, V/Adm Sayan explained that his understanding, in accordance with Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, was that Rohingya would not be treated as asylum seekers.

"We have no permanent shelters for Rohingya in Thailand. What we currently have are places they are being held as due process is carried out in the legal system," V/Adm Sayan said.

"There is such a large number of them, and we cannot simply accept them all.

"However, we are doing our best to help them. For example, more than 300 Rohingya were left adrift in a boat with a broken engine recently, and we found them, provided them with food, water, medicine and fixed their boat."

V/Adm pointed out that Thailand wasn't alone in facing this type of situation and insisted that media coverage was essential for

providing transparency.

"It is important for the media to show what Thailand is doing and how our actions are humane. We are helping them," he said.

"Other countries seem to want to blame Thailand for the choices it is making, but Italy and other countries around the world face the same issues – there are many problems with migrant people wanting to enter the European Union, but being denied.

"The key is not to place blame, but to search for a solution."



The migrants on Koh Ree.

'Illegal migrants' found foraging in Thai national park

MORE than 100 suspected Rohingya were found on Koh Ree in Mu Koh Surin National Marine Park on May 14.

The group – consisting of 89 men, 15 women and two children – was searching for food in the sea when they were spotted by local sea gypsies, who then notified park officers.

When officers arrived, they found the group of people, but no boat and no evidence of a camp having been established in the area.

"We believe that they had not been there for long. We think they might have been dropped off on the island and were to be picked up again later," said Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command.

"Park officers always keep a close eye on this area, as Mu Koh Surin is near the Thai-Myanmar border and Myanmar islands, and traffickers and migrants often stop over on these islands on their way to their final destination."

The migrants are being held at Phang Nga Immigration while officers determine whether they are victims of human trafficking or if they entered Thailand illegally of their own accord, V/Adm Sayan said. – **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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Lifeguards back on beaches

From Page 1

“One option would be for the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization [PPAO] to create a long-term contract for us. However, we understand that this isn’t really possible, because they are given the budget annually,” said PLC President Prathaiyut Chuayuan.

“The other option would be for them to stop requiring the 5-percent deposit. Each year we are required to deposit 5 per cent of the concession.”

Mr Prathaiyut pointed out that the PLC didn’t have the capital to make the deposit until the contract had expired and last year’s deposit was returned to the company.

Though neither solution tabled by Mr Prathaiyut looks like it will become reality by next year, officials are searching for another solution.

“It’s about the renewal process, budget and management – it will take time to solve,” Watcharin Pathomwatanapong, chief administrator (*palad*) for the PPAO told the *Gazette*. “However, the PPAO is trying find a solution and will be talking to the governor about the problem.”



Lifeguards unpack and prepare their equipment at Surin Beach on Wednesday.

With lifeguards back on the beaches today, after nearly two months of being off-duty, the PPAO has 10 months to make a change.

“I understand that Phuket is a

popular tourist destination because of its beaches, and that it damages our reputation when there are periods of time when there aren’t any lifeguards on

duty,” Mr Watcharin said. “However, we need orders from top government officials to change the current system.”

The bidding for the new con-

tract was opened up almost six months prior to the contract ending. However, with only the PLC showing any interest and their ‘hands being tied’ when it comes to providing the deposit, no progress is made, explained Mr Watcharin.

“We don’t have enough officers trained in basic water rescue skills to protect the beaches when the lifeguards leave,” Mr Watcharin said. “So we are trying to talk with hotel operators near key tourist beaches about whether or not they would be able to help us by providing lifeguards. It is also possible that the local tambon administration organization (*OrBorTor*) or municipality could help.”

Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong told the *Gazette* that he supported the PPAO taking pro-active steps toward ensuring that the island’s beaches remained guarded year round.

“We will meet and talk with representatives of the PPAO and see what solutions we can develop,” Governor Nisit said. “We will do our best to make tourists feel confident in their safety while visiting Phuket.”

High-voltage power-line project sparks strong reactions

MORE than 100 locals from Thalang villages filed a complaint at Phuket Provincial Hall on Friday over the potentially negative effects a high-voltage power line project could have on their communities.

The project would see land expropriated to have 500 kilovolt poles installed in Pa Khlok and Baan Para and would require many villagers to relocate their businesses, wrote Donloh Srimoh and Natcha Eung Amnuayporn, who spoke for the group at Provincial Hall, in the complaint.

“This will affect hundreds of families. We do not want to hinder Phuket development, but the land we do business on would have to be expropriated in order to complete this project,” said Mr Natcha.

“How can we earn money during this time? Though we would get money from the expropriation, it’s not as much as we

make at work.”

Mr Natcha also noted that the project would take a toll on the environment and villagers’ health.

“Nobody wants to live near high-voltage power lines, and the construction will require many trees to be cut down.

“We are also worried about the health of locals and safety of our children,” he said.

In the complaint, villagers offered seven alternatives for the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) to consider regarding the project.

1. Update the old power lines so that they have high-temperature, low-sag conductors that can handle a higher voltage.

2. Install more poles along the same line as the current poles, rather than building a new line elsewhere.

3. Void the previous 115KV lines and

switch to 500KV lines only, but in the current spot.

4. Build a 500KV power plant in the north of the island that can convert electricity to from 500KV to 230KV and 115KV and send it through the current power lines.

5. Create an underground high-voltage line. It is safer and will improve the appearance of Phuket.

6. Create an underwater high-voltage line which will run from the mainland in Phang Nga to Koh Kaew.

7. Develop a solution that does not affect people in the area.

The villagers noted that they had also filed a complaint at Thalang Police Station against the PEA.

An officer at Provincial Hall, Prajiat Aksornthamkul, accepted the letter and told the group that he would inform



Locals protested the project.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

“The Governor’s Office has already sent the letter to the PEA so that they can clarify the project details, especially about the land expropriation. We have not heard anything from them yet,” he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Chalong songtaew turf war goes nowhere

TWO *songtaew* operators were called to a meeting at Chalong Police Station last Thursday after the Chalong-Phuket Town operator filed a complaint against the Kata-Karon-Phuket Town service for breaking an agreement regarding pick-up points.

Somchai Kongsamret, a representative from the Chalong-Phuket Town *songtaew* co-operative, told the police that the Kata-Karon-Phuket Town *songtaew* had been picking up passengers where they were only meant to drop off them off.

However, a spokesman for the Kata operator, who asked not to be named, claimed that they were simply following the requests of passengers wishing to be dropped off, even though the driver had already informed them of the



A local bus, also known as a songtaew.

songtaew’s destination.

Furthermore, the spokesman said, people board their *songtaew* while the other passengers are disembarking, without checking the destination.

According to the agreement between the *songtaew* operators, the designated inbound drop-off/pick-up points for the Kata-Karon-Phuket Town service are the KL

Mart convenience store in Chalong, the Chalong Tesco Lotus, Wat Chalong, Dibuk Clinic and the Darasamuth intersection.

However, outbound to Kata-Karon, the *songtaew* is only allowed to pick up new passengers at the KL Mart bus stop and drop them off in Kata, without any other stops in between.

“We called the two representatives to the station so that they could discuss the terms that had been broken,” said Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol.

“While we are waiting for the Phuket Transport Committee to consider a new arrangement between the two operators, I would like to ask that they follow the conditions of their former agreement,” Mayor Samran said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Navy battles illegal fishing

By Woranut Pechdee

A 'SPECIAL NAVY UNIT' was put into action in Phuket last week to combat the severe economic and ecological damage caused by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels (IUU) that are taking advantage of legal loop holes and poor enforcement in the region.

The joint task force will be operating 12 boats and one helicopter, as they attempt to reign in vessels such as *Taishan*, which had fled from the navies of New Zealand and Australia, as well as the global conservation organization Sea Shepherd, before mooring near Phuket earlier this year.

The ship was seized after it off-loaded its cargo in Phuket and falsely reported 182 tonnes of illegally poached Antarctic toothfish – valued at about 179mn baht –

as 82 tonnes of grouper – valued at about 15 million baht.

"All of the agencies involved will be working closely together, and will be regularly reporting to, and following the policies of, the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing (CCCIF)," said Vice Admiral Sayan Prasong-samrej, who chaired the grand opening at the Phuket Marine Biological Center last Friday.

The Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, Phuket Marine Police, Phuket Marine Office, Phuket Custom House, Fishery Department and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources will all be working together, confirmed V/Adm Sayan.

The new task force follows orders from the National Council for Peace and Order to improve Thailand's approach in

'All of the agencies involved will be working closely together, and will be regularly reporting to, and following the policies of, the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing (CCCIF)'



The Special Navy Team was launched at the Phuket Marine Biological Center on May 15.

dealing with IUU fishing vessels, with the hope of reversing the yellow card issued to the nation by the European Union (EU) in April.

The EU gave Thailand six

months to implement a tailor-made action plan to combat the issue.

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha exercised his powers under Article 44 of the provisional

charter to establish the CCCIF on May 6.

New regulations require fishing boats that are 30 gross tonnes or larger to report to the center 24 hours before departure and arrival.

Officials hunt culprits behind nail-dropping, wheel-popping crime

ISLAND officials are searching for the culprit – or culprits – who left more than 100 nails in the bicycle lane at Saphan Hin, resulting in three punctured bicycle tires last week.

A group of cyclists noticed the scattered nails when one of their bikes' tires deflated while the group was riding on the path on May 12.

"We didn't think anything of it that first day, then two more bicycle tires were punctured the next day. We stopped our ride and ended up finding 143 nails in the cycle lane," said Sukanya Sairayah, one of the cyclists.

The cyclists called Phuket City Deputy Mayor Kawee Tansukatanon, who also serves as the president of the Phuket Bicycle Club.

"When I got the call, I told the cyclists that I would send a municipality employee to clear all of the nails from the road," said Mr Kawee.

"However, the cyclists told me to just send a broom and they would do it themselves."

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, which is responsible for Saphan Hin's CCTV cameras, is checking footage from May 12 and May 13 to see if any suspects can be identified.

The cyclists took the nail-dropping debacle as an opportunity to raise concerns with the deputy



The cyclists pick up the nails that had been dropped in the bicycle lane at Saphan Hin.

mayor about cars parking in the bicycle lane and endangering bikers in Saphan Hin.

"I would like Phuket City Municipality to address the issue of cars parking in the bicycle lane. It forces us to ride in the street," said Ms Sukanya.

"Sometimes, cars come flying through and scrape our bikes. It is getting more and more dangerous as there are now more cyclists riding at Saphan Hin, especially in the morning."

Mr Kawee confirmed to the *Gazette* that municipality officials are handing down warnings to vehicles that park in the bicycle lane.

"For now we are just warning people not to park in the cycle lane until we can figure out a better solution, which we hope will be soon," said Mr Kawee.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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AROUND THE nation



Mr Lebohang was arrested in Bangkok. Photo: The Nation

Lesotho man arrested over scam scheme, email hacking

POLICE have arrested a Lesotho man for allegedly hacking the email account of a Pattaya hotel and conning four foreigners into paying large sums for supposed room reservations, the Technology Crime Suppression Division (TCSD) told a press conference on May 15.

Police arrested Matete Lebohang at a prison in northern Bangkok recently when he visited an inmate, *The Nation* reported.

Col Somphorn Daengdee, a deputy TCSD commander, said Mr Lebohang hacked into the email of the unnamed three-star hotel and told the foreigners to wire him a total of 300,000 baht.

Two Thai women, Apple Mingman and Thanyaluck Khotephoothorn, who police alleged were accomplices to Mr Lebohang, were arrested earlier, said Col Somphorn, another deputy TCSD commander.

A foreigner of unknown nationality was also wanted for his role in the racket, he said.

Police said at the press conference that foreign con men often befriend or marry Thai women to use them to open bank accounts to help them commit such crimes.

Con men often use these women to withdraw victims' money from cash machines to avoid detection by banks or ATM cameras, they explained.

Alleged human-trafficking kingpin arrested in South

A SOUTHERN man alleged to be a suspected human trafficking kingpin was in police custody on Monday after a brief manhunt along the Thai-Malaysian border as part of the ongoing crackdown on the trafficking of Rohingya and other migrants.

Pajjuban Angchotephan, also known by the alias of Ko Tong (Big Brother Tong), was flown from the South to be paraded at a police conference at Don Mueang airport, reported *The Nation*.

Royal Thai Police commissioner Somyot Poompanmoung dismissed reports that police had a secret negotiation with him prior to his surrender.

Mr Pajjuban's request to be released on bail was rejected and he is being detained at the Provincial Police Region 9.

A former local politician in Satun, Mr Pajjuban claimed that he had contacted deputy police chief Lt Gen Chakthip Chaijinda to arrange his surrender after learning about the allegation against him from the news.

News reports quoted several senior police officers as saying police were trying to coordinate with the Malaysian authorities to hunt down Mr Pajjuban, who they said had fled Thailand from his home province of Satun.

In related news, a senior officer at Khiansa Police Station in Surat Thani has been transferred pending an investigation into an allegation he had benefited from



Pajjuban Angchotephan has been arrested for his alleged involvement in human trafficking. Photo: The Nation

Rohingya smuggling.

Police have obtained warrants for Mr Pajjuban's wife, Thassanee, and a police officer based in Ranong, Lt Narathorn Samphan.

A closed-door meeting on the suppression of human trafficking was held on Monday at a naval auditorium in Phuket.

The attendants included civilian authorities from Phuket, Phang Nga, Satun, Krabi and Ranong

along with naval officers and military and police personnel.

Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, speaking after the meeting, said that to comprehensively tackle the problem all countries involved in the overall smuggling process needed to address the issue and work out the solutions together (see pages 4-5).

He said the Ranong governor had informed the meeting that the

two prospective sites in this province to be used as temporary shelters for the migrants were not suitable, and the Police Immigration Bureau remained capable of housing the existing migrants.

Thailand is currently hosting more than 1,000 Rohingya and other migrants, he said, adding that there were now 28 suspects in custody, out of a total of 65 people wanted under arrest warrants.

Yingluck pleads innocent to dereliction of duty charges

FORMER prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra pled innocent to charges of dereliction of duty and malfeasance related to the controversial rice-pledging scheme on Tuesday.

The Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Office prohibited the former prime minister from leaving the country after it released her pending trial, reported *The Nation*.

Public prosecutors charged her with violating Article 157 of the Criminal Code and the corruption suppression act by committing nonfeasance and malfeasance while holding the post of prime minister for failing to stop alleged massive corruption in the rice-pledging scheme.

Her alleged inaction allegedly caused 500 billion baht worth of damage to the state, the court was told.

Ms Yingluck arrived at the Supreme Court at 8:40am for the plea-entering session. She was accompanied by her team of lawyers and

former deputy commerce minister Nattawut Saikaur, former deputy prime minister Plodpasop Suraswadi and former Pheu Thai MPs Korkaew Pikulthong and Prompong Nopparit.

Supreme Court Vice President Weerapol Tunsuwan, the judge advocate for the case, and eight other judges chaired the bench.

The presiding judge read the charge against her and asked how Ms Yingluck would plead. With her face showing no emotion, Ms Yingluck pleaded innocence.

She asked the court's permission to submit her written defence by July 3.

The public prosecutors then told the court that they would produce 13 witnesses while Ms Yingluck's lawyers said they would produce at least 20 witnesses.

The court allowed Ms Yingluck to submit her written defence by July 3 and scheduled July 21 and 28 for both sides to check lists of evidence and witnesses.



Ms Yingluck is greeted by her supporters. Photo: The Nation

Bomb explosions injure 22 in Yala province

A TOTAL of 39 explosions rocked the Deep South province of Yala last weekend, injuring 22 people, said a spokesman for Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc).

"There were 36 to 39 bombs from Thursday to Saturday," said the spokesman. "Most victims suffered minor injuries, but two

remain in the hospital. No fatalities were reported."

The first bombs went off on the night of May 14 in the provincial capital, also called Yala. Many were planted near electricity posts, apparently to cause blackouts, but failed, according to investigators.

Security measures were increased on Monday, the first day

of the school year in the country. The southernmost region of Buddhist-majority Thailand is predominantly Muslim, reported *The Nation*.

The conflict has been ongoing for more than five decades but has become increasingly violent over the past decade, killing more than 5,000 since 2004.

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Feeding Phuket

FIRST PERSON

I WILL admit that living costs in Phuket are higher than in other provinces, especially prices of food in restaurants.

However, I believe most restaurants do their best to keep their prices as reasonable as possible. Cheaper prices will bring in more customers, and a lot of customers are good for business.

Those that purchase fresh ingredients every day will want to sell all of their food so that they don't have to keep it overnight. It is wasteful – financially and otherwise – to have raw ingredients go bad.

Even though these businesspeople try to keep prices of meals in their restaurants down, Phuket prices are still higher than most other provinces in Thailand.

There are quite a few reasons for this, and they all affect each other.

First, rent in Phuket is expensive because land prices are expensive. A lot of people come here to work, and if they do, they must be willing to pay higher rent to stay. Goods and services will therefore be more expensive, as Phuket residents need to be able to make enough money to cover rent.

Also, Phuket is a well-known tourist destination. Foreign tourists who come to Phuket can afford higher prices, so vendors and businesspeople will naturally want to charge more.

Lastly, when the minimum wage increases, as it does, prices will increase as a result.



Prakong Rukwong, 56, from Songkhla, is the chief of the Office of Commercial Affairs in Phuket. He graduated from Ramkhamhaeng University with a bachelor's degree in international economics, and also earned a bachelor's degree in law from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. From there, he continued on to earn a master's degree in economics from Chiang Mai University.

Here, he talks about why Phuket's food prices are higher than other provinces.

During the past five years, the prices of meals have increased 5 to 15 baht, which is about 14 to 40 per cent. Fifteen baht may not sound like much to some people, but, if you think about it, 15 extra baht per meal can quickly add up.

Unlike restaurant prices, the prices of groceries are controlled by the Department of Internal Trade and are standardized throughout the country. They tend to stay stable. Right now, however, grocery stores in Phuket are not doing well. They are having to compete with convenience stores, which are open for longer hours and offer products for cheap prices.

Water prices are the same. They do not change much, as there are many competitors in the water industry. These prices are on par with other provinces in the country.

If someone chooses to live in Phuket, he or she must be able to cope with a higher cost of living.

This does not mean that all restaurants on the island are expensive and not all accommodation has higher rental cost. There will still be places where one can find cheap food or rent.

We want to make this clear to everyone here, which is why we have brought dozens of restaurants on to be 'Cheap Shops', which will sell plates of food for 40 baht or less.

This way, people can know where they can find affordable food on Phuket.

We want to provide this option for those that have a hard time affording anything more expensive.

Our office cannot do much about restaurant prices. They are allowed to price as they wish as long as they list the amount clearly on the menu or where people can see it. It is then up to the customers whether or not they want to eat there.

If someone ever feels as though they are being overcharged for a meal, they can inform us by visiting our office on Montri Road in Phuket Town, by calling 076-212017 or by visiting <http://pcoc.moc.go.th/wappPCOC/83/>. The website is in Thai language.

There are so many restaurant options on Phuket that cater to all different budgets – enjoy it.



A chair vendor gives a thumbs up in the days of the sunloungers.

Goodbye, Phuket

Island View

By Jan Yde

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

IN 1997, we travelled to Thailand for the first time – to Bangkok and Hua Hin. It was love at first sight. We fell in love with this beautiful, wonderful country, the warm and heartfelt people, the beautiful beach and the food. The sun and heat made us so happy, as we are used to being in the cold.

We have been back in Thailand every year. We extended our stay from 14 days the first years, to now visiting for three weeks to a month. Some of our friends are retired and they are there for two months at a time.

In the past several years, we have come to Patong, Phuket, and stayed in a small, nice hotel: Baan Pron Phateep.

We stayed there with about five Danish couples and also a few Swedish friends. In total there were six couples ranging in age from 40 to 80 years old – but still going and enjoying life.

We all very much enjoyed our stays. We would go on the beach during the day and lie on the sun loungers, take day tours, go out to eat in the evening.

Yes, we spent a lot of money in Thailand every year, and we have done so with pleasure.

We were pleased to be able to come back this year. The first of our crew arrived in early January, and my wife and I came on February 2.

Through the autumn season at home, all we heard were rumors that the sun loungers had been removed from the beach. However, we thought – and hoped – that they would be returned. This was not the case.

Our friend who arrived in Janu-

ary reported that there were in fact no sun loungers on the beach. He decided to invest in one, which he had to carry from the hotel to the beach every day and back again.

We did the same when we arrived, and it went fairly well, albeit was a little awkward to lug our sun loungers from the hotel to the beach – something we have not experienced anywhere else in the world. We are all getting older and cannot lie on mats on the ground, and we must also have a parasol to protect our skin from the sun. Little did we know that it was also prohibited to bring our own sun loungers to the beach – until we were met by police.

The island has lost its charm and its cozy places. We will not come back, and many other tourists we have met have told us they will not come back either.

When we and our friends at the hotel made it known that we would not come back because of what we have experienced this year, our Thai friends were upset. We will miss them, and the Thailand that we knew from before. We now see their frustration – not the joy we saw before.

Thank you for so many good years. We have had so many good Thai experiences since 1997. Now, we will go to Bali, the Philippines and elsewhere to enjoy our winter and be treated as tourists should.



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NCPO fights Thai hydra of corruption

THE National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has taken swift action to show the European Union (EU) that it intends to do more to tackle the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices in Thailand and its territorial waters.

Whether or not real order can be imposed within just six months on the huge hydra of corruption and human misery that is the Thai fishing industry seems doubtful, but is worth a try.

Issues of democratic development aside, it is not difficult to feel pity for the challenges faced by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha and his fellow NCPO members, as the international community continues to put more and more pressure on the country to get its act together – or suffer the consequences.

News of the EU's yellow card (see page 7) on the IUU issue comes on the heels of a series of widely-publicized embarrassments for our Land of Smiles.

In February, the International Civil Aviation Organization that oversees safety in international air transport, issued a warning about safety concerns with Thai commercial carriers after its audit of the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), leading several countries to restrict flights from Thai carriers to their countries.

That embarrassment was followed by the uncovering of a bone-chilling international human rights issue earlier this month, when authorities exhumed the remains of dozens of ethnic Rohingya and Bangladeshi human-trafficking victims from a jungle prison camp in Songkhla's Sadao District, on the border of Malaysia.

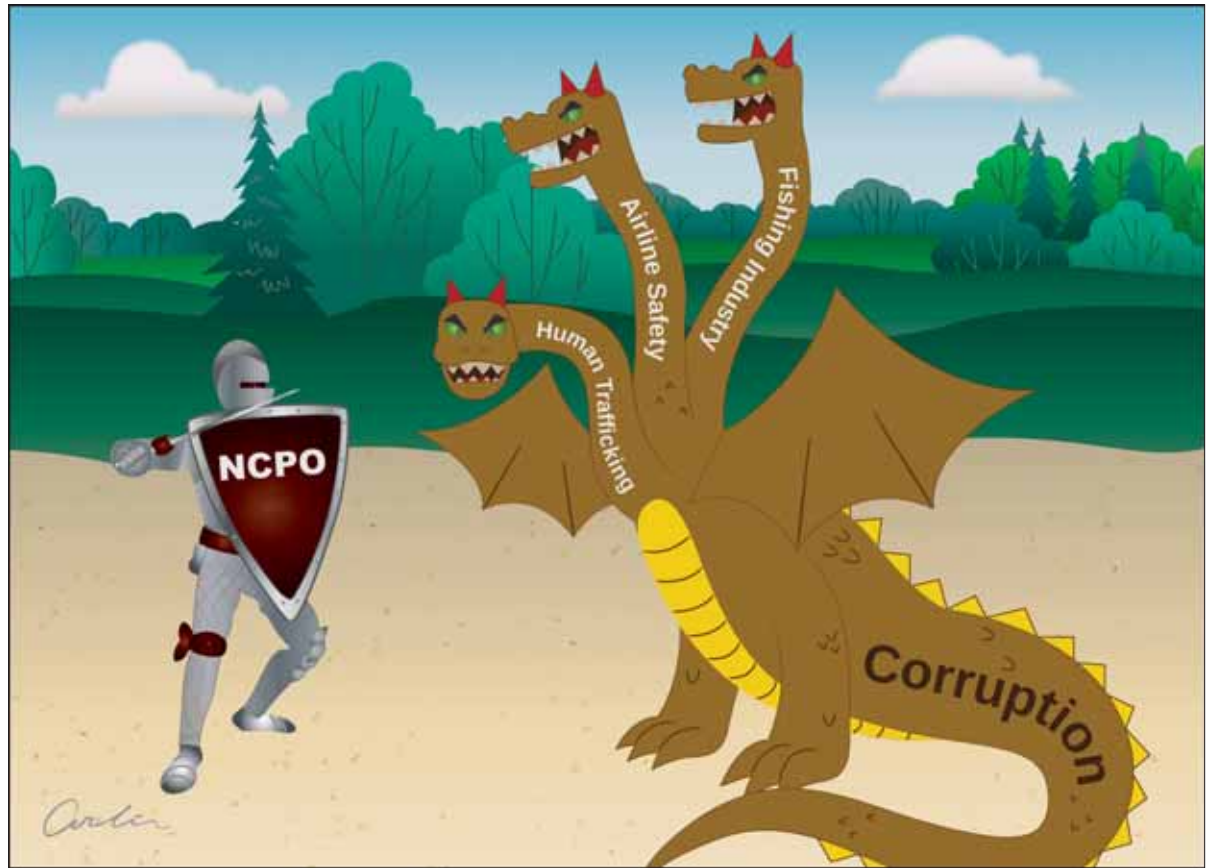
One might expect an unelected, highly-nationalistic governing body like the NCPO to react in an aggressively defensive fashion, as one former elected premier, Thaksin Shinawatra, did with the International Monetary Fund in the aftermath of the so-called 'Tom Yum Kung' financial collapse that started in 1997.

Much to the contrary, the NCPO has accepted most international criticism as justified, taking concrete steps to address the issues – almost all of which are legacies of Thailand's so-called 'culture of corruption', which dates back decades and has proven impervious to those who are officially in charge here at any given time.

In the case of the DCA, the NCPO admitted that changes were needed after years of neglect by a number of governments more interested in profiting from the expansion of the industry than keeping up with technical advances to ensure safety.

In the case of the ongoing Rohingya tragedy, the NCPO did not prevent media access or try to cover up the facts, but rather offered to host an unprecedented international summit on the issue, scheduled for May 29.

This action, which has drawn support from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, goes a long way to differentiate the military-led NCPO from its counterparts in Myanmar – the ultimate source of the Rohingya exodus problem – who have suggested that they will not be attending the summit.



Not a fan of forced chain smoking on the road

Often times while I am driving my motorbike, I get stuck behind a bus, delivery truck or old pick-up, which expels mass amounts of black exhaust in my face and is not so pleasant to breathe in, not to mention the effects it has on the environment.

I am curious as to how thoroughly they inspect vehicles annually. Do they do an emissions check?

I can't imagine that these vehicles are up to standard, either that or they are severely overdue for an oil change.

Sometimes I feel like it's the equivalent of forcing me to chain smoke on the way to work.

Alex Wainwright
Cherng Talay

Where can I get late-night eggs and bacon?

As a longtime expat on the island, I have often wondered why there are not any 24-hour breakfast joints.

I am not just inquiring for those who cannot wake up when breakfast is normally ordered and consumed, but also for those of us who wake up early and want a good meal before 8am.

For many, breakfast is a comfort food, or the go-to meal when you can't think of anything else to eat. Not to mention for the romantics, the vision of meeting someone at a bar and inviting them to sneak away to a 24-hour diner or restaurant and getting to know each other over cups of coffee and a plate of pancakes.

A person can dream...

Steven Winters
Kathu

Time to get this under control for good

Re: Gazette online, Lifeguards

Letters to the Editor

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

return to Phuket beaches tomorrow, May 19

Phuket, get this lifeguard situation under control!

We have stunning beaches, rapidly developing infrastructure – you should see the roads in Ghana – and a world class culture of hospitality.

How can we continue to allow all this to be marred by the regular deaths of locals and tourists on our beaches as we allow lifeguards to walk off the sands just as the seas transform – bringing dangerously large waves and rip tides.

I beg that somebody address this bureaucratic nightmare and seemingly careless attitude presented by paper pushers behind desks who are only following the letter of the law instead of taking the initiative to save lives.

Tina Swift
Patong

No point in justifying atrocious actions

Re: Gazette Online, Family feud leads to fatal Phuket fruit vendor shooting, May 19

Who are these crazy people?

Outrageous and tragic acts like this do a great deal of harm to the image of Thais as a people.

Of course, every society has its odd-balls and psychos, but there simply aren't that many people in Phuket to explain the number of violent deaths – or so it seems.

However, when reviewing the estimated violent crime stats for the United States in 2013 (provided by the FBI) there seems to be a little more than one violent crime to every 319 citizens.

Perhaps I'm just a hippie hiding in the Far East in a fog of

spiritualism, but that also seems unfortunately high.

The scariest part is that the estimated 1.15 million violent crimes in 2013 was actually a marked decrease from the 1.32mn in 2009.

Lest I rant too much, and miss the point entirely, the issue with reports of these types of violence, especially when the 'confessed motive' is translated from Thai to English, is the lack of understanding and context.

The reports appear to become simplified and then lose the nuances that can create a better understanding of why such a violent act occurred – though there is no justifying such atrocities.

Not in Phuket. Not in the Far East. Not on our Earth.

Sprite of the Mountain
Patong

Use brain power, not engine power

Re: Gazette online, Woman killed crossing Phuket road, May 20

Why don't local drivers use their brain power and not their engines?

Anticipation is critical while driving, especially in Thailand.

Advanced learner drivers in the UK have to give a running commentary while driving during instruction – they must say what they see ahead of their vehicle, then explain what they anticipate they should do if there should be a problem ahead.

Another point: Vehicles pass you at enormous speed, then brake lights instantly activate.

Worse is when their vehicle is off balance manoeuvring a bend in the road.

Keep away from these inexperienced or uncaring so-called 'drivers', they are accidents waiting to happen.

Stan
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

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Living high-end with Chanintr

SPONSORED

CHANINTR Living has launched a month-long sale at its classy imported furniture outlet in Phuket, providing islanders and visitors the chance to grab quality furniture at a knocked down price.

Chanintr Living was established in 1994 and has several outlets in Bangkok and Singapore, as well as one multi-brand location in Phuket.

The reputable dealer's current sale, from May 15 to June 14, is offering pieces of high-end furniture for discounts of a minimum of 50 per cent depending on the item, said Warrawan Foedisch, Chanintr Living Phuket's general manager.

Although this dealer mainly imports luxury furniture from the United States, it also brings in high-end kitchen designs from Europe. Among the American brands it has successfully sold here are Baker, Barbara Barry and Ethnicraft. Premium European brands popular here include Bulthaup from Germany and Minotti from Italy.

"You can leave wardrobes out because today's clients don't seem to need them as most opt for the built-in variety. Of the loose furniture, it's mostly for living, dining and bedrooms, and we are able to sell all three categories," said Ms Warrawan.

"The focal point of a house is the living room, which is the owner's face, so everyone wants something attractive to receive guests.

"A dining table is also an important element for when they have guests over for dinner. The bedroom, though, depends on the owner's personality."

Furniture import tax has come down to 20 per cent from 30 to 40



Numerous pieces of imported furniture are being showcased at Chanintr Living on the bypass road in Phuket.

per cent levied when Chanintr Living opened its doors back in 1994.

"The dollar hasn't appreciated a lot and our clients can accept it – when we started out it was 25 baht to the dollar now it's over 30," said Ms Warrawan.

Last year's lengthy political protests did not affect this leading retailer of luxury furniture in a meaningful way.

Ms Warrawan said that the only effect was clients postponing purchases, but in the end –

as they had either already bought or were taking transfer of a house – they all came back.

"We have a lot of clients at Outrigger Laguna... actually it's evenly split here between Thais and foreigners, perhaps slightly

more foreigners because they seem keener on furniture."

For more information on brands and sale items, visit chanintrliving.com or call the Phuket branch at 076 61 2887.



Get visual with Pinterest



THIS week I thought we would cover something that would be of benefit to many businesses in Phuket.

We are very fortunate that we are surrounded by scenic beauty, which is one of the reasons Phuket has a thriving tourism industry, plus a lot of adventure and outdoor activities.

And what better way to promote your business than to highlight and showcase the visual images that make the island so inviting.

By sharing with people our unique surroundings, and beautiful and graphic photos of what is naturally appealing, we can instantly build an image and brand that is unique and makes it very difficult for competitors to match.

Many people are familiar with Facebook and Instagram, but Pinterest is a relatively new addi-

tion to the social media household names. Pinterest also has a different consumer base, which can be helpful if we want to target a variety of audiences.

The main purpose of Pinterest is to share photos, which for many Phuket-based businesses is the perfect medium.

Users have 'boards' on which they can pin pictures they like or are interested in. They can also re-pin other people's photos as well, which helps promote the image and share it with others.

Pinterest has 70 million active users, and the vast majority (80 per cent) are women. So we can use a different approach to target what will appeal more to the ladies in this particular forum.

To get the best results when pinning pictures they should be inspiring, educational, visually appealing or entertaining. This will help get more interest and will lead to images being shared and going viral, hence more people being exposed to the images.

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Investing in our energy



Finance

By Don Freeman

LATE last year, legendary oil and gas entrepreneur Thomas Boone Pickens said during a CNBC interview:

"Energy is cheap in America. We still have the cheapest energy in the world...Take advantage of it, play the demand side."

Since then, Pickens has repeatedly stated in public appearances that he believes oil will rise to US\$70 a barrel this year and to \$90 a barrel next year, as domestic United States inventories have reached their highest levels ever and are starting to be drawn down.

My own technical charts are showing an energy sector that's bottoming as oil moves off a sound technical bottom and prices are already higher after hitting a six-year low in March. Moreover, oil production in the US has declined due to those six-year lows while bankers there remain nervous about extending credit in the oil patches for more capital investments or drilling.

On the other hand, and while the US oil market is becoming more balanced between supply and demand as well as independent from foreign (aka Middle East) oil, production elsewhere still runs well ahead of consumption with continued uncertainty over Saudi production levels and Iran oil (e.g. sanctions) along with other geopolitical concerns (Russia, Yemen and so on).

With the above considerations in mind and based in part on recent regulatory filings that identify what Pickens has invested in or sold during the first quarter, here are a few energy investment ideas or niches (where there are also exchange traded funds) that retail investors might want to consider:

Domestic US Producers. Large cap Range Resources Corp (NYSE: RRC), the first US oil producer in the Appalachian and Mid-continent regions along with small cap Parsley Energy Inc



Although US oil companies have idled hundreds of rigs, Pickens has invested in Helmerich & Payne, Inc. Photo: Richard Masoner / Cyclelicious

(NYSE: PE), a producer in the Permian Basin in West Texas, were recently added to Pickens' holdings. In the States, overall rig count has been slowly declining at a less-severe rate and there is already talk from some US domestic producers about adding rigs - something that is more likely to occur if oil prices clearly stabilize over \$60 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or improve above the \$65-\$70 range in the second half.

Oilfield Services & Drillers. Although US oil companies have idled hundreds of rigs, Pickens has invested in mid cap Helmerich & Payne, Inc (NYSE: HP), a contract driller of oil and gas wells. However, risk adverse investors

need to keep in mind that some oil producers are still negotiating with their service providers for additional service pricing cuts - meaning profits for oil field service stocks could remain limited for some time with shares in this sector not yet hitting bottom.

Oil Tankers. Pickens has bought shares in two small cap Bermuda based crude tanker operators, DHT Holdings Inc (NYSE: DHT) and Frontline Ltd (NYSE: FRO), which operate 40 vessels between them. Rates for the world's biggest oil tankers have been rising this year as shipments have accelerated from both Saudi Arabia and Iraq amid record Chinese imports via supertankers.

Refineries. Pickens sold stakes

in several refinery stocks because refiners generally benefit when oil prices decline since that reduces their costs and encourages more driving. However, and thanks in part to their efficiency, US refineries continue to export large volumes of both gasoline and diesel to new markets around the world.

Natural Gas. Pickens has long been a champion of natural gas as a fuel of the future because its cleaner and cheaper than diesel. However, natural gas has largely failed to gain a foothold in the American transportation market (trucks and buses) where diesel predominates, but important carriers like UPS and FedEx are making major investments in the fuel.

Moreover, the US is on the verge of exporting its first major shipment of liquefied natural gas while tougher clean air and coal regulations, along with general environmental concerns, make the fuel a good alternative for power plants around the world.

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

CIMB to provide more support for SMEs

CIMB has set a strategy to provide more financial support to small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) in Asean countries.

As for the credit risk, Zafrul Aziz, chief executive officer of the Kuala Lumpur-based bank, said recently that CIMB may not know all about individual SMEs, but it knows about what are promising industries.

He was giving an exclusive interview to a group of Thai media on the sidelines of the Asean Business Club Forum in Singapore.

CIMB, positioning itself to be a leading Asean bank, plans to take advantage of increasing intra-Asean trade and investment.



CIMB will look for lending opportunities in health care. Photo: Ken Teegardin

Major Thai banks such as Bangkok Bank, Kasikornbank and Siam Commercial Bank have been moving aggressively to support businesses related to trade between Thailand and neighboring

countries.

CIMB will look for lending opportunities in the healthcare and restaurant chain industries.

"We will avoid commodities," he said.

Commodities such as oil palms and rubber sheets have been facing lower prices.

CIMB's SME portfolio was small as it had spent the past several years aggressively pursuing new businesses. Now it is focusing on consolidation and cost-cutting.

According to the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), SME research working group, SMEs account for more than 96 per cent of all enterprise and 5 to 85 per cent of domestic employment in Asean countries.

Their contribution to GDP is 30 to 53 per cent and to exports is

19 to 31 per cent.

There is still a significant gap in SME's access to finance in emerging Asean countries, such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

SMEs in Singapore are in the best position to access funds, followed by those in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

The ERIA report also called for the promotion of innovative and alternative financing sources, such as the domestic and regional networks of equity funds, venture capital funds, angel capitalists and crowdfunding platforms.

-The Nation

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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. Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket

Wine tasting with live music, tapas, salad and sushi buffet, fruits, and 6 glasses of white and red wine. Only 899 baht! Saturday, 30 May 2015, from 7pm to 9 pm. Please call or e-mail to reserve your ticket. All welcome.

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 with

EVENTS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS
A PHUKET GAZETTE HEADLINE EVENT

stand up comedy night!

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

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

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

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

"Highly recommended, if you want a fast thinking razor sharp and above all - irreverently funny show"

FREE DRINK

SpiceBox

Phuket Gazette

Comedy Club

IGTV

Everyone needs a little laughter in their life. Get your dose at SpiceBox on May 30th with renowned stand-up comedian Tom Rhodes.

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

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

May 30. Facebook Marketing For Business – Increase Sales

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.

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

Now on

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

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

NOW AVAILABLE ON
KHAO LAK CABLE Channel 50
And local cable networks across Thailand

YOUR Phuket

Dinner party for the Embassy of Switzerland

The Swiss Society of Phuket bid farewell to Ambassador Christine Schraner-Burgener at a cocktail and dinner party at Andara Resort and Villas on May 14. Ambassador Schraner-Burgener is to take over at the Swiss Embassy in Berlin.



GUTEN TAG: Ambassador for Switzerland to Thailand Christine Schraner-Burgener.

Donation for Nepal earthquake victims



FOR RED CROSS: L to R: Somsiri Anongkanatrakool, assistant director of the Relief and Community Healthy Bureau, and Pariya Chirabanhu, senior vice president of Haad Thip Public Company Limited.

Banking blood



Nattawit Meegul, assistant hospital director for Bangkok International Hospital Phuket, chills out on the gurney while marketing officers Chompoonuch Yodsri (left) and Karn Kokittirat (right) enjoy the show.

Serenity Resort welcomes Two Chefs to Rawai



GRAND OPENING: (L to R) Urs Aebi, general manager for Serenity Resort and Residence; Adam Goodman, chief operating officer for Two Chefs Group; Henrik Ojelind, co-owner of Two Chefs Group and Billy Agren, co-owner of Two Chefs Group.

Dr Youth turns one



FIRST ANNIVERSARY: (L to R) Viyada Komarakul Na Nakorn, Thai singer, and Dr Youthana Onganantapong from Dr Youth Medical Laser Clinic give out gift vouchers to lucky winners Chanok Kaewsrinual and Pimchanok Boukaew.

Letting the devil out with glitter and a boa for burlesque night



PINK AS PUNCH: VIP Ladies join the event at Les Diablos in the Boat Lagoon. Catch the party on PGTV.



Olivier Payen was not about to be left out!

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

May 23 - 29, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net

*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

PROPERTY FOR SALE
of the week



SUNSHINE
PROPERTIES

See page 17

PROPERTY FOR RENT
of the week



LAND & HOUSE PARK
CHONLADA PROJECT

See page 18

JOB of the week

Zeavola
Step back to simplicity

See page 19

BOAT & MARINE
of the week

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 21

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- ✓ See your ad also on PGTV – 10 times a day, every day, all week! (just 500 baht per week!)

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Terms and Conditions:

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- 2) Ads must be placed in person or on the Gazette Online.
- 3) Ad Power Card discounts not available for this promotion.

THE NATION
Classifieds

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Questions?
Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

The Gazette Online is always on top in **Google!**

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

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

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

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

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

22 RAI - 400,000 BAHT PER RAI

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

KAMALA NEW HOUSE

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

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

QUICK SALE HOUSE

2 bedrooms. Near Laguna. Fully furnished. Only 2.2 million baht. Please call 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.

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.

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

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

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095-415 1000
SunshinePropertiesPhuket.com

MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

Everything must go. Nai Harn Beach. 2 rooms. For only 800,000 baht. Include 5 massage beds, 3 foot massage chairs, 2 facial massage beds. 5-year lease. Tel: 089-592 6916.

QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA

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

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

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).

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



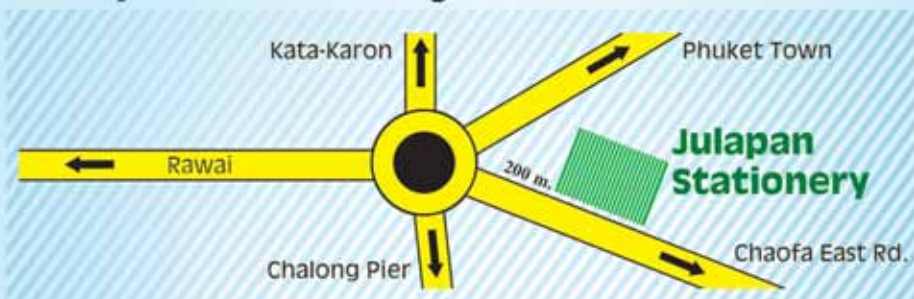
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Properties For Rent

House for Sale / Rent



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

NEW 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

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

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

SHOP HOUSE FOR RENT

2-storey, 2-unit shop house for rent near Karon Circle. Tel: 076-344922, 083-102 5928. Fax: 076-341870. Email: kkiran23@hotmail.com

CAPE YAMU VILLA

900sqm, ultimate luxury villa, amazing sea views. 195,000 baht per month. No agents. Tel: 082-420 3270.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Only 20,000 baht per month, lease for 5 months, in secluded resort, near Lauguna, has all. Please call 089-594 4067.

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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

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

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE

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

KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, WiFi, cable, cleaning lady, secure, clean. 16,000 baht/month. Tel: 083-645 3546.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

We manage & rent in south Phuket, and are looking to add quality properties. Also managing whole condominium complexes. Email: assetmanagementphuket@gmail.com

NEW MAI KHAO BEACH HOUSE

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

THAI POOL VILLA NAI HARN

2-bedroom villa in Soi Naya, available July 1st. 37,500 baht / month, yearly rental. Tel: 081-270 5126, 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com, http://sites.google.com/site/mervyncrocker/home

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

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

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



STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

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

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

BEACH HOUSE CHALONG

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT - PATONG

Condo0minium, pool, security, 46sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: tham ad17@yahoo.com

NAI HARN PENTHOUSE

For rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 118sqm. Long term: 35,000 baht / month. Tel: 087-882 96 04. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

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

2-BEDROOM CONDO RAWAI

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

2-BEDROOM BEACH HOLIDAY APARTMENT

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

LUXURY HOTEL ROOM FOR RENT

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

Accommodation Available

NAITHON BEACH PALACE



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

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

LOCH PALM VILLA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, garden leads to golf course. Contact Andy Parkhouse. Tel: 081-945 5240. Email: andy@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

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

PATONG LUXURY APT.

Paradise Hotel Complex. 150m to beach. Large bedroom, kitchen, light, airy. For more information, please call 086-276 7608.

Property Wanted

FREEHOLD ONLY

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

30 RAI JUNGLE WITH STREAM

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

LOOK FOR RENTAL

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

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Please refer to our website for further details about the positions: www.sirenfleet.com

Interested candidates can send a resume and a cover letter to employment@wwdas.com

TUTOR TEACHER FOR 5 YEAR-OLD

Tutor / Teacher wanted for 5-year-old Australian/Thai child, to teach K3 Math, Reading, as well as Thai language. Monday-Saturday, 4 hours per day. Tel: 093-418 9529. Email: Shayne.Michia@gmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

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

ENGLISH TEACHERS

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

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

COOKS AND MAIDS

Vacation villas in Patong looking for full-time and part-time Thai staff to work in holiday villas in Patong. For more information, please call: 080-699 2436 (English), 081-133 6477 (English & Thai) or send resume to email: kokakat@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER

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

GUEST RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

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

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

THAI RECEPTIONIST

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



VACANT POSITIONS



Zeavola Resort Phi Phi Island SLH member

The Zeavola is the only five-star resort on Phi Phi Island and is highly successful. In order to improve our performance further, the Zeavola Family is seeking applications from dynamic and talented individuals who share our passion for providing excellent customer service. You should be highly motivated, confident and enthusiastic about assisting the team to reach new levels of service quality and financial success.

Vacant island-based positions

- Activity Manager / Dive Instructor
- Food & Beverage Manager
- Reservation Manager
- Asst. Chief Engineer
- Sous Chef
- Bar Supervisor

Profile:

- ▶ At least a vocational certificate or Bachelor's degree
- ▶ At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong English communication skills and computer skills
- ▶ Strong analytical and problem solving skills and execution of work

Fringe Benefits:

- ▶ Good salary + sharing service charge
- ▶ Group insurance, social security, workmen's compensation
- ▶ Duty meals in the staff canteen / Officer check at hotel restaurant as per position category
- ▶ Private dress / uniform laundry
- ▶ Transportation from/to Phuket / Krabi - Resort for round trip by ferry
- ▶ Accommodation as per your position at resort

Thai nationals and foreign applicants will be considered. Please send your CV to hr@zeavola.com or call Khun Supattra Petnikom and Khun Preecha Onkong at 075-627000 for an appointment.

Human Resources Department

Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand
Tel. 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 and Fax. 075-627025

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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

SECRETARY

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

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. Please call 087-268 8159. Email: wedding@same.com

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

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. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to :info@propertyinphuket.com

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

LOOKING FOR MAID

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

VIDEOGRAPHER

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

HOTEL STAFF

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

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

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 recruit@phuketfit.com, www.phuketfit.com

ANIMAL CAREGIVER WANTED LIVE IN

Starting March 1. Full time. Position involves handling sick animals, dog walking, grooming & medicating, cooking meals & running errands. Occasional after-hours & nights expected. Animal experience essential. Email: jellinecastro@yahoo.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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- ▶ 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

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

Business Opportunities

HEALTH PRODUCT MARKETING

Wheatgrass Powder Co (food supplements) from India are seeking an importer in Thailand. Can be done from home, office or shop. Starting cost 9,000 baht; income potential 20,000 baht per month. Tel: +91-0982-200 2042, +91-0772-190 4904 (English). Email: gwg.ceo@gmail.com, www.girmewheatgrass.com

GUESTHOUSE / CAFE KARON

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

RESTAURANT IN CHALONG

For sale. Chalong. Good location. Fully furnished. Woodfire pizza. New 3 + 3 year lease. Cheap rent. For price call 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

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 send email to tracy_j_cooper@hotmail.com, http://ipadiscount.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 4474. Email: nicole.morze@gmail.com

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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. Please call 089-026 4172, 087-278 626. Email: pietrij@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. Tel: 081-797 7282 (English & Thai), 094-57 8 4564 (English & Thai). Email: jack_filtech@hotmail.com

KATA RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

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

Pets

CHICKENS FOR SALE

Live China golden pig chickens / chicks, vaccinated. For more details, please call: 083-833 9950.

Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE

Life membership at Loch Palm Golf, Kathu. 500,000 baht, including 72,000 baht transfer fee. For more details, please call 089-871 5355. (English/German) Email: natalithai@gmail.com

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

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

Life membership at Phuket Country Club Kathu. 550,000 baht, including transfer fee. For more details, please contact Khun Ann, Kurt Tel: 084-722 1520.

Household Items

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Teakwood kingsize bed. Sofa. Dining table. Computer desk. Good price. For more information. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

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084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

HONDA CRV 2.4 4WD



2007. One owner. Only 63,000km. For sale: 535,000 baht. For more details, please call 089-970 8281.

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.

URGENT CAR SALE

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

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

FORD EVEREST FOR SALE



Looks and drives great. 500,000 baht. Please contact Pete. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 01. Tel: 081-895 7908 (Thai). Email: rungtiwap@asianwind.biz

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

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

2012 PORSCHE CAYENNE S HYBRID



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

BMW 5 SERIES

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

Motorbikes

HONDA SPACY FOR SALE

Automatic 110cc motorbike. Like new, 2 years old, 25,000 km. Price 25,000 baht. For more information, please call 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

BIG BIKE FOR SALE



2013 Kawasaki Z250, 5,300km, black-gold color. For sale: 120,000 baht. For more details, please contact Prim. Tel: 091-245 5564.

HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY

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

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. Tel: 081-893 5270 (English), 095-526 7897 (English & Thai). Email: gilles@govao.com

Rentals

CAR RENT 10,000 BAHT / MONTH



Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. With delivery service. For more information, please call 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

Pick-ups

2010 RANGER DIESEL



4x4 auto. Loaded. Runs, drives, looks great. New service. Very reliable. For sale: 380,000 baht. For more information, please call 083-645 3546.

PICK-UP WANTED

Hilux, Ford Ranger or Isuzu. 2006 or later. Please contact by email: mark_313@hotmail.com

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

**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

**KANTER 54 PILOT
HOUSE (1993)**

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

**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

**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

**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

**RIVIERA 48
FLYBRIDGE (2000)**

2x 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

**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

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Boat of the moment

Owen Easton 46 Catamaran (2012)
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**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

**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

**3.1M YACHT
TENDER DINGHY
FOR SALE**

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

AZIMUT 43S 2009

Realistically priced, full options, 275,000 euro. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

**BRAND NEW 2015
SEADOO RXPX 260**

On sale: 2015 Seadoo RXPX 260; 1500cc, 260hp. Hot promotion. Very special price for this moment. Reduced from 590,000 baht to 539,000 baht, with warranty. Only 4 units left. Samud Sakorn. Tel: 081-754 7599 (English & Thai). Fax: 034-426403. Email: csutivas@gmail.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

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE**Mumby 48
(2013)**

Asking \$325,000 USD

Silver Tern is one superb, serious blue-water cruiser. She is a professionally built Tim Mumby aluminium catamaran, and includes an extensive cruising inventory. Current owner is very keen to sell. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact our team at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:

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M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530

E info@multihullsolutions.asia

www.multihullsolutions.asia



SAIL | POWER | NEW | PRE-OWNED

Leopard 38 (2009)

Asking \$249,000 USD

Laidaeng is Thai registered, ready to go into charter or to be used privately. With a spacious saloon and galley up, along with her hardtop bimini over the cockpit, she is a comfortable blue-water cruising catamaran. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

Shuttleworth 40 (2000)

Asking \$180,000 USD

Wider Wake is a fast, safe regional cruiser that has recently enjoyed a total refit including paint job and is looking immaculate. A great entry-level cruising catamaran. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

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

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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined>.

Across:

9. SUMPTUOUS: *sumsupout* 10. REPRESSED: Re.-press-Ed.
12. USER: *ruse* 13. CLAUSE: *clueas* 14. ERITREA: *tire-are*
15. AVALANCHE: *havecanal* 17. PORTRAYED: *partyrode* 18. EMIRATE: *meitear* 19. ABSENT: A.B.-sent 20. SLAV: slave 23. PRECIPICE: *epicprice* 25. PRESEASON: *personage* 26. PAYS: P-say 27. MAIDÉE: *deema1* 29. SWOLLEN: *wellson* 32. ROADRACER: *roa-Dr.-ace-r* 34. PROFESSOR: *ofpressor* 35. HANDIER: *hinder* 36. CURATE: *cur-ate* 37. INCA: Inc.-a 38. SEABATTLE: *letsbeata* 39. DEGREASED: *degreesad*

Down:

1. OSCULATE: *catlouse* 2. IMPERATIVELY: *imprivatly(E)* 3. FOLLICLE: *foilcell* 4. ASSUME: *amuses* 5. PREEMPTS: *pesterpm* 6. APPEARANCE: *air* 7. DEVILRY: *delivery* 8. ODDANDEVEN: odd also even 11. SIRAY: *si-ray* 16. ACACIA: A.C.-A.C.-1-a 19. ALE: a-el[up] 21. LISTLESSNESS: *sensestill(SS.)* 22. REMOTE: *meteor* 23. PAPERCHASE: *apespreach* 24. INACCURATE: in-a-C-curate 25. POE: Op.[up]-E 28. DIRECTED: *credited* 29. SHORTAGE: *rageshot* 30. NORMANDY: *nor-Mandy* 31. ARTISAN: *isarent* 33. APNEA: *anape* 34. PARADE: *apadre*

Looking for a boat?See more classified ads at **www.phuketgazette.net**

Book now: 0935 92 7558

Tamborine man beats a rhythm for Chang

CHANG is putting on concerts throughout Thailand as part of the 'Chang Music Connection' concert.

On May 9, there was 'The Rock Connection' by Modern Dog. The show took place at Jatujak Weekend Market.

Check online to see where you can catch the next show.



Modern Dog puts on a show. Photo: Pramook Tipvimalmas



Simon Hand, producer of the Gazette's nationally broadcast television show 'Phuket Today', sent this screen grab to CNN who ran it earlier this week. Featured is TV presenter and pilot Rose Maitland Smith in the Gazette aircraft over Phuket's Big Buddha.

Nikki, Nikki Beach serves up an 'Amazing Sunday Brunch Casino Royale'



Alex Longman (back row, 2nd right) and his friends gather for good food, drinks and fun at Nikki Beach Club.



BOND GIRLS: Guests enjoy the special brunch.

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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitiya Tantipiyakij. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2948, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Sam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



Words from the wise

"It is not who is right, but what is right, that is of importance."

– Thomas Huxley

Medium

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

Hard

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

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

COFFEE

break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. In sum, sup out, that's lavish! (9)
 10. Subdued concerning print media editor (9)
 12. Bad ruse for the consumer (4)
 13. Different clue as stipulation in contract (6)
 14. Tire changes are unusual in this part of Africa (7)
 15. Have canal destroyed by snowslide (9)
 17. Party rode out as depicted (9)
 18. Me, I tear about in an Islamic principality (7)
 19. Sailor posted missing (6)
 20. Eastern European slave out East (4)
 23. Epic price arranged to bluff (9)
 25. Personage confused, no golf in period before normal time for the sport (3-6)
 26. Settles in park carefully, say (4)
 27. Deem A.1., could be bad in Thai (3,3)
 29. Well, son, could be tumescent (7)
 32. Roar about doctor ace street circuit driver (4,5)
 34. High ranking scholar of press or broadcast (9)
 35. More useful to hinder a movement (7)
 36. Dog chewed clergyman (6)
 37. Incorporated a historic Peruvian (4)
 38. Let's beat a division in a naval engagement (3,6)
 39. Excess lubricant removed by degree, sad mess (9)

Down

1. Could be cat-louse kiss! (8)
 2. In a commanding manner I'm privately moving out East (12)
 3. Foil cell turning into small gland (8)
 4. Take for granted mix-up amuses (6)
 5. Randomly pester P.M. and fore-stalls (8)
 6. Performance in a show on air (10)
 7. Strange delivery out East for badness (7)
 8. Strange, also still two sorts of number (3,3,4)
 11. Yes, Italian fish in an island off Phuket (5)
 16. Double types of current one, a flowering shrub (6)
 19. Beer article ups the Spanish (3)

21. Sense still moving saints in lethargy (12)
 22. Meteor moving far away (6)
 23. Apes preach about hare and hounds! (5,5)
 24. Erroneous in a cold clergyman (10)
 25. American author to work up ecstasy (3)
 28. Credited arrangement, showed the way (8)
 29. In rage, shot out at deficit (8)
 30. Neither girl in Northern France (8)
 31. Is a rant about a craftsman (7)
 33. A nape twisted causes stoppage of breath (6)
 34. A padre directed the procession (6)

Gemini (May 22-June 21)



Though you may be keen to make a start, this week's blend of energies suggests now is 'not' the time. You'll fare better if you can use the days ahead for brainstorming ideas and suggestions that might help you accomplish your goal. Romance wise, a conversation could be necessary to clear the air and break down any barriers there may be to intimacy.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)



As Jupiter closes in on Uranus, opportunities can show up that put a brighter spin on career plans or ambitious goals. What seemed unlikely, now becomes entirely possible. Even so, a conflict of beliefs could be the reason you're not as confident as you might be. Perhaps chatting with a friend will give you some added perspective.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



Back up intuition with facts when dealing with finances or business plans that involve money. What appears to be a good

deal might not be – with a need for extra caution applying throughout the week. In addition, though your social life may sparkle, a friend might require help and will likely look to you to provide it to them.

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



Monday's quarter moon can cause you to doubt your judgment on a matter, putting you in a temporary spin. In fact, this week might coincide with missed opportunities in general, partly because your usual ability to make decisions could stall. However, all will soon become clear, and once it does be assured you will be ready.

Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



Red tape and some incompetence on the part of others could cause delays, despite your need to complete certain tasks as a matter of urgency. Though you may find yourself treading water for a while, do what you can. Also, consider expanding your social network by linking with those who share your ideas and interests.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



It's one of those weeks when the best advice is to go with the flow regarding projects and romantic opportunities. Plans may fall by the wayside and promises could be broken, leaving you at a loss. Rather than fret about why things aren't working out, use spare time to research your options regarding a novel idea of yours.

Sagittarius (Nov 23- Dec 21)



An early Mars, Neptune connection might coincide with lower energy levels, or at least a need to take things slowly. This can be a week to pace yourself rather than try to cram too much into your schedule. However, any hassles experienced might mean you also notice ways to change your routine and make it more productive.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



You'll probably find people charming and willing to please, which is certainly to your advantage. In addition, imaginative ideas seem to be plentiful, encouraging lots of discussion. Along with this, you'll notice a logical bias as a Gemini focus encourages you to deal with facts and figures, rather than too many abstract strands.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



Relying on your judgment rather than another's counsel could keep you from going off in the wrong direction. This week it helps to be skeptical about a plan or contract that's supposed to be a sure thing. However, when it comes to your love life there's a romantic theme showing that makes for a rather sizzling week.

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



This week work and play blend seamlessly, bringing opportunities that you might enjoy. Furthermore this week's influences

hint that an attraction could show up when you're least expecting it. On another note, a connection can deepen, transforming your relationship with a certain person and enhancing intimacy in the process.

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



Although you usually prefer things to be clear-cut, they may not be so this week. As your ruler Mars, Mercury and the Sun all link to Neptune, the fog surrounding one situation could be dense indeed. For now, it's probably best to bide your time and focus on what's easily achievable. Even so, the weekend can highlight a lovely opportunity that you won't want to miss.

Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



Uncertainties about a decision can be dispelled by breaking down a key problem into manageable chunks. However, when it comes to dealing with people it can be a rather different story. Someone may be holding back information from you, delaying things further. You'll need to be persistent to achieve any goals.

Baba Beach Club aims for top tier

By Nina Suebsukchareon

ONLY a perch at the very top is good enough for a 42-rai super project just across the bridge on Phang Nga's Na Tai Beach, which is being developed by well-known Charn Issara Development Plc in partnership with China-based Junfa Real Estate Company.

Called Baba Beach Club, this massive development will have a hotel and a beach club, six beachfront villas at about 130 million baht each, approximately 40 two-bedroom pool villas priced at 26 million baht, a residence and roughly 100 condominiums in the region of 9 to 15 million baht with the former sum being for a 90 to 100-square-meter unit.

Songkran Issara, Charn Issara's managing director, said in an exclusive interview with the *Gazette* that once completed, the recently-established Issara Junfa Company, in which his Chinese partner holds a 30-per-cent stake, could offer buyers up to a 6 per cent return.

Though the grand launch is taking place at Siam Paragon in Bangkok from May 22-31, this project will also likely be unveiled in Singapore, Hong Kong and China at a later date.

"We are still not quite ready, the sales office and the show units are still being built," said Mr Songkran.

This luxury project is expected to attract a mix of Thai and foreign property buyers similar to Charn Issara's Sri Panwa estate, where its hotel is currently being expanded, with completion expected by November.

"We also might be going to Hainan to manage a hotel. And, of course, we also have a hotel in Cha-am."

While launching this luxury



An artist's rendering of the Baba Beach Club, just across the bridge from Phuket on Phang Nga's Na Tai Beach.

project with aplomb, Mr Songkran realizes that overall sentiment remains weak despite market improvement this year compared to last year. A key factor of this is high household debt, with Kasikorn Research recently stating that it will probably keep rising during 2015 to perhaps 89 per cent of the gross national product.

"In Phuket, it's not that bad, but the household debt has hit the mid-low to low end badly, the

upper-middle to high end is okay," he said.

"People buy and then face problems because they can't pay the installment, and it all turns into bad debt."

Being well-entrenched in Phuket, Mr Songkran is all for the construction of the much talked about light-rail transit system from Phuket International Airport to Chalong intersection.

"Over the past 30 years Phuket has earned a lot of money for

Thailand through tourism but when the government disbursed funds they didn't bother about Phuket," he said.

"As Phuket only has a total of about 200,000 registered residents. It didn't get a big budget so couldn't expand – it was earning money but got only a small income.

"This led to deterioration – garbage piled up, the environment ruined because there wasn't any money to protect it.

"But right now this government sees the value of Phuket – they are working on expanding the airport and building underpasses."

Mr Songkran estimates that about 10 per cent of Phuket's residents oppose the light-rail transit system and urges them not to block this project because it will vastly improve the island.

"Not many are against it but those who don't want it fail to understand that there are more plus points than minus."

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Layan villa beckons buyers

Enjoy natural light and beautiful views of Layan mountain in this beautifully designed, one-of-a-kind villa



Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted

SOME would say location and convenience are two of the main attractions, in addition to exceptional property value, in what is a very up-market area of Phuket Island.

The Laguna, Layan areas are known for houses and villas with starting prices above 20 million baht, which makes this value-for-money gem a great buy.

This villa is a part of a secure beautifully managed estate of 26 villas with communal pool and fitness area.

This ultra-modern 3-bedroom, 3-bath pool villa is in a prime location close to Layan and Bang Tao Beach, only a few minutes drive to many 5-star resorts and access to many facilities in a highly sought-after area with many high-end residential developments and luxury resorts, as well as golf courses, restaurants and shops.

The villa was designed to reflect modern architecture, while allowing for the benefits of the

natural surroundings to enhance ambiance. An abundance of natural light and calming views of the surrounding lush tropical garden can be enjoyed throughout the villa.

This is a place to experience the tropical charm and enjoy the peace and tranquility of Layan mountain. The villa features a stylish, private swimming pool (32 square meters) and luxuriant, manicured gardens.

/This villa is in a prime location, close to Layan and Bang Tao Beach, only a few minutes drive to many 5-star resorts and access to many facilities. /

The residence's high-end modern fittings and furnishings were well selected for comfort and convenience, while offering relaxation in a tropical setting.

Each bedroom faces the swimming pool, with an open-plan modern western kitchen and living area that also opens out onto the terrace for indoor/outdoor living and entertainment.

Each of the three bedrooms has an en-suite bathroom and walk-in or built-in closets.

The house is air-conditioned throughout. There is also a laundry room.

The property is ideal for short or long term lets and commands a good rental price in a much



The 32 square meter swimming pool is surrounded by beautifully manicured gardens.



This villa offers an abundance of natural lighting as well as views of Layan mountain.

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Ready-to-stay promos for buyers

DEVELOPERS buckling under bulging backlogs are launching free "ready-to-stay" promotions for homebuyers for the first one to two years.

"We're offering no monthly installments for the first year in the 3 million baht-and-under segment. This is a way to clear stocks and also to speed up sales by our company shouldering the cost of this campaign," Prasert Taedullayasatit, managing director of Pruksa Real Estate, said last week.

However, the campaign is only for some projects and some locations seeing sluggish demand.

Sansiri Plc has introduced "Now or Never", letting homebuyers stay for free for the first two years at its residential projects, of which it has 40 nationwide, ranging from single family homes to townhouses and condominiums.

This sale, which runs from now until June 30, also offers discounted prices of up to 1mn baht. Sena Development's free stay



Some places have offered two years free. Photo: American Advisors Group

offer is for 15 months at its new single family home and townhouse projects – Sena Ville Ramindra and Sena Town Ramindra – worth 240mn baht.

It has also cut the down payment in half for customers of both projects.

Kessara Thanyalakpark, a director, said the company is banking on the special incentives to boost sales in the second half of this year after demand picked up only slightly since early this year.

D Land Group has also jumped on the free-stay bandwagon to drive sales this year, managing director Siripong Somboon said.

In March, Ananda Development kicked off "Big Deals" for its eight residential projects. The first two years are free when moving into its ready-to-occupy units.

Mr Prasert said the cost of providing one or two years of free stays is not more than 5 per cent of a unit's price.

–The Nation

Property portal revolution

FazWaz says it will completely transform Thailand's newly-built condo market

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A START-UP technology company created by the same team that built the LivePhuket real-estate company says it's ready to 'transform' Thailand's property market with a 'data-driven' property portal.

The portal, launched in Phuket on April 24, provides instant and easy access to the largest selection of newly-built condominiums, all on a platform that aims to simplify the process of researching and identifying a property to purchase.

"We are aiming to create a place where buyers, sellers, real-estate professionals, institutions and other industry people can make like for like comparisons on properties across different locations and developments," explained Mike Kenner, CEO and founder of FazWaz.

"The FazWaz team are also working on the most accurate online valuation system available in Thailand using our secret algorithm developed by a team of data and information technology experts, analyzing millions of data points relating to a huge selection of property characteristics and features."

As an example of the data points being collected, Mr Kenner listed many standard reference points such as location, size, view

and distance to the beach.

"Additionally, other factors such as developer history, environmental impact assessment permit, current stage of completion – will also play a factor in accurately calculating the pricing," Mr Kenner said.

"Being an independent website, the FazWaz.com team ensure all information inputted into the system is wholly accurate and ensure data and quotation are more accurate than any human will ever be."

Though the company heralds its independence from LivePhuket – different legal structure, different revenue, different business model and so on – it notes that LivePhuket will be the exclusive

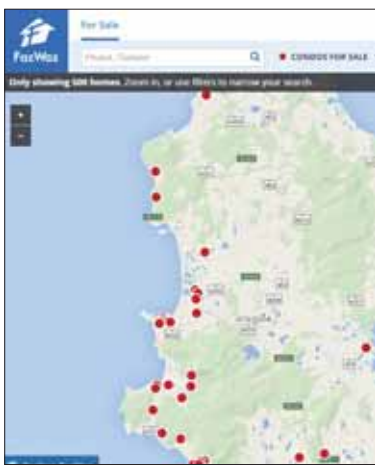
agency that services leads and inquiries generated from FazWaz for Phuket.

"We will have other partner agencies in Pattaya and Samui," Mr Kenner said.

In practical terms, Fazwaz will allow buyers to also make side-by-side comparisons of

newly-built condominiums based on selected criteria.

"The platform will clearly show you which properties are priced 'higher' and 'lower' than typical averages in same bedroom and location category. Therefore many of the current and future tools on the site will give users an idea about which properties are 'expensive' or not," Mr Kenner said.



Mike Kenner, CEO and founder of FazWaz, believes the data-driven property portal will transform the market.

Though the current business model for the company is not set up to be incentivized to push individual developers, Mr Kenner reiterated the fact that it was a start-up company and that the model might change.

With less than a month under their belt, the team is already looking to branch out beyond the English-speaking market in Thailand.

"It is currently in English, and will go multi-lingual very soon," Mr

Kenner said. "We see the Chinese market as an obvious one we cannot ignore. We are pretty confident that we can build the best product in Thailand – and this is only our first one – so we have big plans and additions moving forward."

Positive fund-raising environment to drive real-estate investment this year: CBRE

ASIA-PACIFIC real estate will continue to expand this year amid a positive environment for fund-raising, property agency CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) forecasts.

Last year the Asia-Pacific real-estate private-equity fund environment totaled US\$14 billion, the highest since the global financial crisis that began in 2008, though still well below the US\$28bn peak recorded in 2007. The region saw fund-raising by 42 private-equity real-estate funds, an increase from previous years driven by the demand for access to the region.

CBRE predicts that most of the raised funds will translate into direct real-estate investments in the region this year, helping to drive up the turnover of overall capital activities by five per cent.

The Asia-Pacific region remains a major focus for international investors, with an increasing number of new groups looking at the region for the purposes of portfolio diversification and long-term investment.

However, it remains challenging for cross-regional investors to invest directly in the region because of the lack of transparency in many markets and their lack of experience in the region. Investors are therefore channelling their capital

to these newly formed funds.

Before the global financial crisis, groups from Europe and North America were active investors in the Asia-Pacific region through private-equity real-estate funds. However, many investors halted their activity after the onset of the crisis.

"In recent years, the gradual recovery of the global economy and excess liquidity in the market resulted in a steady increase in real-estate investment transactions," said Nick Crockett, executive director of CBRE Capital Advisors for Asia-Pacific. "Confidence among investors from the United States and Europe has recovered and many groups have resumed allocating capital to regions outside their home countries, including Asia-Pacific."

"We noted less interest in opportunistic funds than prior to the [global financial crisis] as investors are increasingly focused on capital appreciation, long-term value appreciation and the construction of a diversified global portfolio. Excess returns are no longer their primary motivation for investing in Asia-Pacific."

Interest in opportunistic funds has significantly decreased from 93 per cent in 2013 to 57 per cent in 2014; CBRE expects this trend to carry over throughout 2015.

—The Nation

After the thrill is gone



Island Fever

By Bill Barnett

WE HAVE just hit midair turbulence as the captain turns on the fasten-seat-belt sign.

In the row opposite me, an older mother of two has her son in a headlock, and a spare hand clamped over his mouth to muffle the droning noise of what appears to be a manic case of attention deficit disorder. A quick bite to the ear seems to quiet the little fellow down.

Meanwhile a young girl staggering down the aisle manages to projectile vomit her tuna fish on white bread lunch over a nearby group of strangers who roar out disapproval. Newspapers are thrown down quickly by onlookers and the stench wafts over the cabin.

I'm hunkered down in seat 29D on a Malaysia Airlines plane going from Phuket to Kuala Lumpur. This is indeed the very last row, except for the cabin crew bunked down in the back galley, all taking a collective snooze.

There is no silence for the lambs here and those crusty travelers who claim the Chinese don't fly the Malaysian flag carrier after the disappearance of MH 370 are entirely mistaken. I have proof of life. An entire tour group is headed for a quick transit and back to the Mainland.

Minutes before we land, the entire planeload of passengers stand up, as if some secret signal has been given and start unloading masses of plastic bags above the din of chat that raises the noise level well above front row seats at an AC/DC concert. And, of



We are lucky these days to have ways to easily move around this great and wondrous world. Photo: Anne Worner

course, next up is the rugby scrum to get off the plane.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Americans, Europeans and other western types went increasingly abroad. These days there is a replay, but for many the changing faces and different value systems are distilled in a near racist rant when tolerance is thrown out the window.

Yes, I do suffer in peak season airport chaos and get into the fray of line cutters and have been known to throw a few elbows at times. Same as I would in a New York subway or on the opening

day of a new Apple offering. There might be blood.

So why are we saddled with these same cultural stereotypes about rude Russians or loud Chinese. Who cares? They, like I, are out for adventure and getting off the couch to see a new place, experience the world beyond their own day-to-day existence.

Back in the day, in say the 1700s, travellers did not have to contend with what other people thought, they were trying to simply stay alive from plagues, massive wars and a sea of blood-thirsty sharks.

These days, we have the small, self-important group called the haters, who only want 'things to be the way they used to be' or 'remember the good old days' of say 10 years ago? Get a life.

I've spent a lifetime travelling from the front and the back of the bus, bedding down in luxury villas to guesthouses and all things in between. But I never feel more alive, more connected to people and the up-to-the-minute experience than when confronted by the sheer scale of humanity.

We are lucky these days to have ways to easily move around this great and wondrous world and who really cares if my seat in the back row of the plane didn't recline, or the dank smell of disorderly conduct permeated my life for a scant one hour and ten minutes.

My mood remains uplifted and joyful at the opportunity to see and experience new things, be it a solitary moment or one with half of humanity shoving me forward from behind. All I know is the thrill is still there even after all these years on the road.

The sacred side of Sak Yant tattoo

EVER since American GIs passed through Bangkok for some rest and relaxation during the Vietnam War foreigners have returned home sporting traditional Thai tattoos - known as 'sak yant'.

But it was when Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie unveiled a Khmer inscription - traditionally used in the region for Buddhist scripture - on her left shoulder that sak yant hit the mainstream.

Now the faces patiently waiting for their turn in front of tattoo establishments are just as likely to be from outside Thailand than inside.

But foreign enthusiasm for exotic Thai ink is not without its controversies.

While tattoos in the west are largely an aesthetic decision, in Thailand they are imbued with both spirituality and superstition.

Those who wear sak yant often believe their tattoos genuinely lend them magical powers, bringing good luck or protection from evil spirits.

Some are even convinced that their inking will make them bullet proof.

The designs - lines of script, geometric patterns and animal shapes - are also deeply



While tattoos in the west are largely aesthetic, in Thailand they are spiritual. Photo: The Nation

interwoven with Buddhist and animist imagery that some Thais fear westerners fail to appreciate.

Tattoos showing religious deities, such as the Buddha or the Hindu god Ganesh - also popular in Thailand - are particularly problematic, especially if they are below the waist.

In Thai culture, the head is the most sacred part of the body. The further down the body, the less sacred, and foreigners with religious figures inked on their legs have caused upset.

On the main highway into Bangkok from the city's Suvarnabhumi Airport, huge 15-meter-wide billboards declare

'It's wrong to use Buddha as a decoration or tattoo'.

Some groups want a complete ban on any tattoos of religious figures.

"The Buddha was a person who was clean from inside to outside. His mind was free from illusion and all the impurities," says Manat Chareekote, a spokesman for the Knowing Buddha Organization.

"To tattoo the clean one like Buddha on the body is considered improper and lacks respect."

Professor Sukanya Sujachaya, adviser and former director of The Centre of Folklore Research at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, believes foreigners should do more research before opting for such tattoos.

"Today it's about fashion. But this type of tattoo cannot be sold just for their beauty. It also has to be for the belief," she says.

But, while many foreign tourists have little idea about the spiritual significance attached to religious tattoos, others deny being insensitive and say their inkings are more than just a fashion statement.

-The Nation

Space to work together

By Jirawat Kuramakanok

THE SEA Co-working Space and Marine Library Cafe in Phuket Old Town welcomes people of all walks of life to join projects, events and discussions as the co-owners – Saovapa Atsilarat and Krongkaew Soo-ampon – work to make Phuket more sustainable, one minimized carbon footprint at a time.

Housed in a 3-storey building, the venue offers complete office structure, including internet, electric outlets, color laser printer, fax machine, scanner, photocopier, lockers, organic drip coffee corner, pantry room and meeting rooms with presentation equipment for up to 10 co-workers.

“We seek to create a friendly center and invite everyone who has an interest in the environment to come and join us, and share with others their interest and

knowledge about the environment,” Ms Krongkaew said.

Additionally, the company reaches out to the local community and provides the opportunity for people to take action over the issue of water quality, waste reduction and energy efficiency.

“We continue to be excited about this venture and see it as a bridge between those who have a real interest in environment and the many people who are not aware of issues impacting the local community,” Ms Krongkaew said.

The co-working space encourages their clients to bring their own cups and no longer provides drinking straws, which has resulted in about 800 less straws being thrown away in the last three months.

“My colleague Krongkaew Soo-ampon and I decided to take action in Phuket Town because waste is the area’s biggest issue.

■ We seek to create a friendly center and invite everyone who has an interest in the environment to come and join us. ■



The minds behind the cafe seek to create a friendly center that everyone can enjoy.

“We both have undertaken high academic studies in the area of natural resources management. It seemed that if we could open a shopfront and co-working space, we could invite people in and tackle environmental issues,” said Ms Saovapa.

Even if you’re not sure you want to go green and get involved in community projects, the pair encourage everyone to at least stop by to soak up the atmosphere, while having a cup of organic coffee and a slice of homemade chocolate cake – who

knows, you might just be inspired.

SEA Co-working Space is located at the intersection of Phang Nga and Phuket Road and is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 10pm and Saturday and Sunday, 1pm to 9pm.

German’s push for green Thailand water projects

LEARNING from mistakes made in Germany, a German institution has now recommended that Thailand adopts a greener approach while fighting floods and drought.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) made it clear at a recent dialogue forum that ecosystem-based water management projects in Germany are proving more effective than traditional solid irrigation infrastructure.

“What we try to promote here is to warn [Thailand] not to repeat the same mistakes as Germany,” said Roland Treitler, GIZ project director of improved management of extreme events through ecosystem-based adaptation in watersheds.

He was addressing Thai officials at a forum on German flood protection at the Eastin Grand Hotel in Bangkok.

Mr Treitler said green irrigation projects in Germany had been successful and the institution intended to share this water management technique with Thailand.

GIZ has three pilot projects in Thailand – at Trang River Head in Nakhon Si Thammarat’s Thung Song district, Tha Di River Basin in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Huai Sai Bat River Basin in Khon Kaen, which started last year.

“Because of climate change, flooding occurs more frequently and severely. In Germany, despite our investing billions of euros to build an extensive flood prevention system, we could not really protect the people. Therefore, we revised the whole strategy and came up with the conclusion that



GIZ suggests going green for flooding solutions. Photo: The Nation

the involvement of more ecological infrastructure would help the overall system,” Mr Treitler said.

According to the example of the Elbe River Basin in North Germany, he demonstrated that the river used to have flood prevention dams, but they could not prevent flooding in urban areas.

GIZ consultant Hubert Lohr assured that green measures applied to irrigation systems would be successful in Thailand.

“Thailand benefits from its location in a tropical zone which allows the vegetation to do its service [to the ecosystem] all through the year – unlike in Germany which is situated in a temperate zone,” Mr Hobert explained. “The tropical zone is the best place to apply green measures.”

However, he said, green measures alone cannot solve everything. The green measures and grey measures should be combined together for the best results in irrigation. (Grey measures refer to irrigation structures). “The grey measures are well situated in Thailand, so we are here to promote and foster green measures,” he said. – The Nation

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Bicycling Bangkok



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

I HAVE long believed the bicycle represents something of a magical chariot with the ability to unleash serendipitous experiences at many turns. So it proved on my last visit to Bangkok, where I had flown to spend some time with my 22-year-old daughter, Olivia, as she stopped over there en route from Sydney to London.

Now it's probably no coincidence the words relaxing, bike ride, and Bangkok hardly ever appear in the same sentence. In fact, the thought of cycling in Bangkok seems to offer as much possibility for relaxation and pleasure as say, thrusting a live cobra down one's underpants.

However, as I was walking along Sukhumvit Road between Soi 20 and 22 on a typically sticky Bangkok morning, out of the blue I saw a row of brightly painted new Trek mountain bikes chained up outside a spa and massage shop.

Naturally, my curiosity was piqued and so I entered the dimly-lit interior of the shop where I was greeted by a young enthusiastic Dane named Martin Vestergaard. Mr Vestergaard is the owner of Bangkok Bike Adventure (www.bangkokbikeadventure.com) which he runs from his Thai wife's massage and spa shop at 400 Sukhumvit Road.

Martin explained that when he arrived in the hot, polluted concrete jungle that is Krung Thep he so missed his native cycle-friendly homeland that he was determined to discover if there were hidden corners of the metropolis where relaxing and healthy cycling could be enjoyed. He was amazed to discover that behind the endless façade of high rises, malls, markets and condos lay a secret world where biking could be an absolute pleasure.

Martin decided to launch Bangkok Bike Adventure as a means of introducing even the most inexperienced cyclist to this unknown world of greenery and quietude hidden just out of sight of the average resident or visitor to this maniacal metropolis.

And so it was that my daughter and I decided to sample Martin's half-day tour which, is designed to take riders on a fas-



To cross the Chao Praya River, cycle to the hidden pier and load the bikes onto an open long-tail boat.

cinating cycling trip through Bangkok and in particular to the massive green oasis that lies secreted at its center known as the 'Jungle of Bangkok'.

We turned up bright and early next day to meet our excellent guide who would lead us on our magical mystery tour of a city I thought I knew so well. We were kitted out with bicycles adjusted to our size and needs and then we were off.

We started with some easy biking along the pavements to nearby Benjakiti Park, where we followed the leafy trails, and I was reminded of frequently taking my little toddler daughter, as she was then, to the huge lake in this park to feed the abundant fish and turtles that live here amid the chaos of Bangkok.

We carefully cycled further along Soi Asoke to the simply amazing bustling fresh market in Khlong Toey. This hive of human and animal activity operates on a 24/7 basis and wheeling our bikes through the myriad stalls, live seafood tanks and bustling chaos was a simply jaw-dropping

experience with 'wows!' and photo ops at every turn.

Leaving the market we cycled a short distance to a hidden river pier, where we loaded our bikes aboard an open long-tail boat to cross the massive Chao Praya River over to the Bang Kachao isthmus, the 'Bangkok Jungle'.

Upon unloading our bikes, it felt as if we had entered a leafy, saner, parallel universe unknown to most of Bangkok's denizens and yet so very close to their everyday stressful lives. As we cycled along raised concrete paths through trees and mangroves the world of skyscrapers and traffic jams seemed a universe away.

The air was noticeably cleaner and well oxygenated and the quietude and sound of birdsongs were all the more surprising because we were still in the heart of the city and yet screened off from its pernicious insanity.

Here on this peninsula, traditional Thai life is conducted as it once was, and still is, up country and far away from Thailand's feverish cities.

We visited floating markets, ancient temples, peaceful wildlife reserves, traditional wooden houses on stilts and much more.

We made a stop for lunch in an old-fashioned ramshackle restaurant where the seafood was fresh and delicious, and later on stopped at the funky riverside Bangkok Tree House coffee shop and restaurant for more refreshments. Throughout our ride people were noticeable friendlier and happy to see us, greeting us with a happy wave.

Our boat was waiting for us at the pier after riding through this 2,000 hectare 'lung' of Bangkok and it ferried us back into the mayhem of inner city life.

We had been away just four hours and had cycled a mere 25 kilometers, yet we felt as though we had journeyed to another world where calmer, saner souls ruled and bicycles were the logical way to move about and enjoy the relaxing environment.

You can reach Martin Vestergaard's Bangkok Bike Adventures at contact@bangkokbikeadventure.com and at call 085 918 6324.



It was only 25 kilometers, but it felt as though we had journeyed to another world.



We stopped by an old-fashioned ramshackled restaurant where the seafood was fresh.



Pity the poor pangolin

By Patrick Campbell

THE *Phuket Gazette* recently reported a gruesome find: a couple strangled and left to rot in a dense rubber plantation in Krabi. People were guided to the spot by the stench: they had been dead for about five days. This man and wife were pangolin hunters and the likely explanation for their demise – so far not confirmed – was that they had been murdered by others engaged in the same grisly business.

Whatever the facts of the case, here was yet more evidence that the trade in pangolins continues unabated. Let me explain. Pangolins, so called from a Malay word “*pengguling*” meaning something rolled up, are a threatened species worldwide, and Thailand is one of the last bastions of this extraordinary creature. All eight species are in danger.

Covered with large keratin scales – think pine cone or globe artichoke – the pangolin is the only mammal thus equipped. These tough overlapping scales armor a flexible body equipped with an elongated snout, a long prehensile tail and large front claws that enable it to climb trees and dig into the ground. Up to thirty inches long and weighing a maximum of seven kilograms, it is primarily nocturnal. During the day, it hides in holes in trees or in burrows, a gentle and solitary creature which only meets up with other pangolins to mate. The female gives birth to one or two babies per year, which are cared for and carried around



The poaching of pangolin found its way into headlines after a double-homicide in Krabi. Photo: David Brossard

by the mother for several months.

The scaly anteater's name is accurately descriptive: its diet consists entirely of ants or termites which it licks out of holes or sweeps up with a thin, sticky tongue that is up to sixteen inches in length.

Having no teeth, its only defense is to roll up into a ball with its head under its tail and its scales

projecting to form an armored shell. Puzzled, animal predators leave them alone. Sadly it is no defense against cunning humans, their only enemy.

Such a truly unique animal is threatened by habitat loss – most of the pristine forest in South Thailand is now given over to rubber and oil palm plantations – and more importantly, by poaching.

Of course, it makes absolutely no sense, in a country where cheap protein in the form of chicken or pork is so plentiful, to kill these peaceable and docile creatures. But apparently it is the most trafficked animal in the world, with at least 20,000 being killed every year. Here in Asia there is a thriving market for them, especially in China where pangolin

is considered a delicacy and can fetch 300 dollars a kilogram. Sometimes the poor creatures are injected with water to increase their weight.

Nothing is wasted; the scales are boiled off and either ground up or used as fashion accessories. And Asian quacks maintain that the flesh and blood has both aphrodisiacal and medicinal value, especially in the treatment of certain cancers. Utter rubbish, of course.

I have never seen one in the wild and would bet my bottom dollar that there are none climbing free in Phuket. I have, however, seen pictures of these hapless creatures in crates at the Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok, waiting to end up in local restaurants or be exported abroad. Though they are transported live, so that the vendor can have fresh meat, they are delicate creatures and rarely survive more than a few days.

This illegal trade, despite being banned worldwide in 2000, is still carried on, largely unchecked. In my view, it is only a matter of time before they are exterminated.

I sometimes muse that such wonderful creatures might be able to find a haven in Thai gardens or other green spaces. Certainly a pangolin or two would be most welcome in my garden; the only problem is that I'm not sure the location would provide enough ants, termites and larvae for its daily needs. Eight ounces of ants... A great asset though.

It's just an idle thought...



Such a truly unique animal is threatened by habitat loss – most of the pristine forest in South Thailand is now given over to rubber and oil palm plantations. Photo: Adbar

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

Phuket Gazette

Laying down the lawn



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

MICHAEL Hickman, an experienced Kalim gardener, has some questions about grass. The first concerns grass varieties, their availability and maintenance.

"We laid the lawn in our garden six years ago and have tried to keep it regularly cut, weeded and fertilized," Michael said. "However there are areas where we have lost the battle against some invasive grass type".

Michael said he now plans to replace the existing grass with Malaysia grass which he grew successfully when he lived in Kuala Lumpur. He asked if it is suitable for the Phuket climate and would it be more resistant to invasive grasses? He concludes this list of queries by asking if I have any tips when re-laying the new lawn.

Searching questions all because growing grass in Phuket is no doddle. Nor is it particularly easy to find. A specialist who operated from a site along Chao Fa West has now been replaced by a Tesco supermarket. There is, however, a new nursery close to Chalong circle and opposite the police station that advertises grass for sale.

If you do buy a new variety for your lawn, there are a few common-sense principles worth following. Ensure that the sods have not been cut and stacked for days on end. If that is the case, the turves [layers] lower down the pile may be yellow from lack of sunlight and already sickly. You should avoid at all costs.

When re-laying, ensure that you have a reasonable depth of top soil. I'm assuming, Michael, that you have plenty of the stuff because of your existing lawn. If not,



Bermuda grass is a bit spiky, but has many cultivars bred for lawns and golf courses. Photo: Harry Rose

then add some compost to the bare surface, or better still if you can get it, some top soil. The more moisture in the soil, the better.

Then press the turves down gently by hand. And wait until we have more rain. Most lawns have wilted or worse in the dry season. The best lawn I know is one that is watered twice daily.

As for varieties, the aforemen-

tioned lawn is composed of Malaysia or St Augustine grass (*stenotaphrum*), so it will do well here provided you give it plenty of TLC. It is not everyone's choice with its broad leaves – Bermuda or Zoysia looks neater – but it is dense, soft and springy. Bermuda (*cynodon dactylon*) is a bit spiky, but has many cultivars bred for lawns and golf courses.

Zoysia is native to Asia.

Malaysia grass seems to resist wild and invasive varieties well, maybe because it is thick and spreads by means of stolons or lateral runners which root as they go. It does especially well in Malaysia because the climate there is wetter than in Phuket. But it does not like deep shade.

Incidentally, it is always a good

idea to look around and see which grasses people are using and which types are doing well. But wild invaders are a problem; they are inherently stronger than the cultivars.

I know of one restaurateur who started with one variety and ended up years later with a neglected lawn composed of another variety altogether, a native strain that simply pushed the original one out.

Michael has other questions about woolly aphids or mealy bugs. Having made a bug line for his *jatrophas* or coral plants, he has tried hard to eradicate the infestation, employing 'Bug Clear' as well as detergents and home remedies.

Also keen to use natural remedies – good on him – he confesses the only thing that did the business was naphthyl methyl carbamate. He concludes: "This year it is not working effectively and I have resorted to heavy pruning of infected buds and leaves as well as washing and spraying with detergent."

The problem with these white critters is that are protected by a waxy coat and once established are difficult to eradicate. It also sounds as though they are becoming resistant to the more powerful pesticide. If ants – which 'farm' mealybugs for their sweet secretions – are in the frame, then put anti-ant powder low down on soil or stems to prevent them climbing into the tender growth areas of the plant where the sap suckers are operating.

One possible solution is to water or spray with neem oil. The neem is a local tree (I have one in my garden) and is widely used by farmers in Thailand. It is best watered in as a systemic, thus causing less damage to the leaves and shoots.

Best of luck.

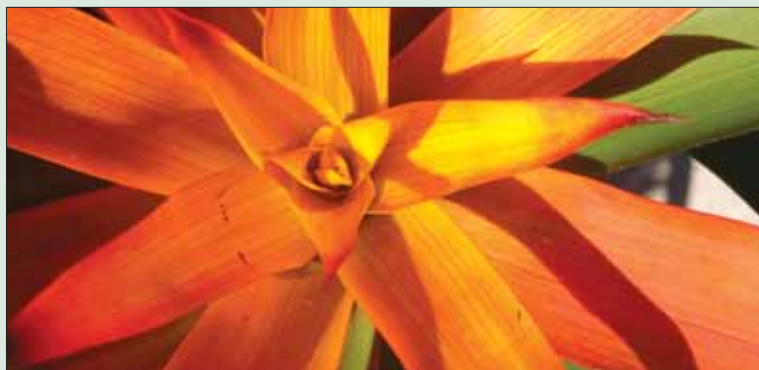
Tip of the Week

Watering clues from plant shapes

THE shape of a plant may offer important clues as to how best to apply water. For instance, shrubs – mostly succulents – with a single crown and stiff, swordlike leaves, will not permit much rain to soak the earth immediately below the foliage.

The writer has several agaves in ceramic pots, and trying to water the container soil is difficult. It is much better to follow nature and water the center of the crown and the moisture will filter down. Some will be trapped in the lower leaves and crown while the rest will gradually reach the soil beneath.

The same watering technique



The shape of your plants may offer watering clues. Photo: ProFlowers

should be used for bird's nest ferns (*aspleniums*) and for all those epiphytic plants that rely on occasional heavy downpours. Similarly, bromeliads such as

neoregelias mostly have broad, spathe-shaped leaves in a rosette shape. Rainwater collects in the center and obviates the need for directly moistened roots.



Once established, the woolly aphid is difficult to eradicate. Photo: S. Rae

Serving up excellence

Phuket 12-year-old dominates at Annual King's Cup in Bangkok

By Gazette Editors

PHUKET local James Van Herzele, 12, dominated his age group in both singles and doubles categories at the Annual King's Cup in Bangkok, a tournament held by the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand.

"When I played the championship point I felt so happy and relieved that I could achieve my goal to win this most important tournament of the year," James said.

"To be ready for this tournament, I had very hard weeks of training sessions at Thanyapura with my Coach Timo from Bangkok and Coach Ball from Thanyapura."

Most of the half-Belgian, half-Thai's training is done at Thanyapura with his father, Dominique Van Herzele, overseeing the coaching. However, James also receives instruction from Coach Timo Sivapruksa, the head of the Spin & Slice Tennis School in Bangkok.

Thanyapura PIA recently announced that it was going to take

its Tennis Academy to the next level with the new coaching program by Spin & Slice in July.

"Our aim is to bring tennis in Phuket and in Thailand to the next level with the new coaching direction from Spin & Slice Academy and the expansion of the courts to 10 from the current six," said Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, president and CEO of Thanyapura Phuket.

With 10 years of experience behind them, Spin & Slice has already demonstrated the ability to produce top-ranked junior

players who compete in both national and ITF tournaments, Thanyapura noted in a press release.

"We are very happy and proud of James for winning the Thai National tennis championships. He worked very hard for this and nothing is for free," Mr Van Herzele said. "There were many hours of training per week – suffering on the court, sometimes tears during a training session, or satisfaction after a good training session."

"To achieve this mindset the

To achieve this mindset the environment he is working in is crucial



Local Phuket 12-year-old James Van Herzele won the Thai National tennis championships.

environment he is working in is crucial. Both at school and on the tennis court, you need to be surrounded by professional, motivated and passionate people who want to get the best out of

you. With Timo and Ball he can find a good balance between hard work and having fun on the court."

With these developments, Phuket is set to become the

hotbed of tennis excellence. James may just be the first of many budding tennis champions to come from the pearl of the Andaman Sea, Thanyapura notes.

Thailand U-23 squad mashes Myanmar in warm-up match

THAILAND'S national football team's under-23 squad enjoyed their warm-up match on Tuesday night against their arch rival Myanmar.

The squad walked away from Ratchamangkala Stadium in Bangkok with a 4-0 win.

In this friendly warm-up match, all four goals came in the second half after multiple chances to score were spoiled in the beginning of the game.

Thailand made two changes on both wings right at the beginning of the second half, with Rungrat Poomjantuk for Pinyo In-pinij on the left side, and Nurul Sriyankem for Pakorn Premsak on the right.

After just three minutes on the field, Nurul Sriyankem broke the dead lock with

the match's opening goal.

With a long-distance free kick on the right side of the field, Nurul's ball blew through Myanmar's defensive line, past the Thailand striker and goal keeper and straight into the net.

No other players were even able to make contact.

The second goal came with a penalty kick by Thitipan Puangjan in the 59th minute.

Myanmar's situation worsened at 68



Thailand's national football team is ranked 142nd in the world by FIFA. Photo: The Nation

minutes, when Myanmar defender Sid Su Mo collected his second yellow card by committing a foul against Thailand midfielder, Thanabul Kesarat.

Thailand confirmed their victory by adding a third goal at 74 minutes by Chananan Pom-buppha, and Rungrat closed the deal with the final

goal at 89 minutes.

The U-23 team are gearing up for the 28th SEA Games, to be held in Singapore from May 29 to June 15.

Thailand will defend their title in the opening match of the tournament with Laos on May 29.

"It was a good end result for us, but we still have a lot of work to do so that we can defend our championship in Singapore," said head coach Chokthawee Promrat after the match on Tuesday.

As the *Gazette* went to print, the full national team was hours away from a warm-up match against North Korea at Ratchamangkala Stadium in Bangkok.

On May 24, the team will face off with Vietnam for a 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifier match, which will also be played at Ratchamangkala Stadium.

The Thailand national team is currently ranked 142nd in the world by FIFA.

– Saroj Kueprasertkij

Patong book place in cricket league final

THE Phuket Cricket Group Championship Cup Final was played on May 17 at the Alan Cooke Ground with the Thalang Cricket Team (TCT) taking out their second consecutive title with a 157-run win over the Patong Cricket Club.

Both teams were boasting strong lineups for the 100-over grand final. There was some heavy rain overnight so Patong's captain Seemant Raju, who won the toss, elected to field first. Pace bowler Waseem Bhatt justified his captain's decision by picking up the important wicket of Justin

Thomatos (6 runs) and then sent TCT captain Bill Stahmer's stumps flying to have TCT 21-2 off 6.1 overs.

TCT finished with 233-9 from their 50 overs, leaving Patong 234 runs from 50 overs to hold the cup aloft. But they started poorly with Seemant Raju caught behind for 0 in the first over and Mushtaq also caught in the second over.

Things went from bad to worse for Patong when Culpan picked up the wickets of Morton and Bhatt in the ninth over to leave Patong languishing on 30-5 at the

10-over drinks break.

Anthony Van Blerk and Justin Swart looked to have the TCT medium pacers measure before an edge to slip saw an end to Van Blerk's fine batting season. Swart was adjudged LBW in the 18th over and it was only a matter of time before TCT could celebrate a second consecutive championship.

Neil Quail and Owen Pringle kept TCT out in the middle for 13 overs before Patong's last wicket fell into the hands of TCT's captain Bill Stahmer. Patong all out 76.

– Andrew MacMillan

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Extreme sport legend dies

Dean Potter killed in BASE jumping accident at Yosemite Park

By Sharon Bernstein

ROCK climber Dean Potter and another man died while attempting wingsuit jumps from a 900-meter-high cliff in California's Yosemite National Park, officials said on Monday, the latest in a string of deaths in the United States in the extreme sport of buildings, antennas, spans and earth (BASE) jumping.

The bodies of Potter and a climbing partner, Graham Hunt, were discovered Sunday after a massive search that began at dawn, Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman said.

They were reported missing Saturday night after jumping with parachutes from a cliff near the park's storied El Capitan and Half Dome rock formations.

Potter, 43, was well-known as a personality and athlete, especially in the community of rock climbers and parachutists in the western United States.

"It's tremendously sad," Mike Gauthier, Yosemite's chief of staff and an occasional climbing partner of Potter, told the *New York Times*.

"Dean was part of this community and had such an impact on climbing. He was a luminary and in the pantheon of climbing gods."

Potter, who grew up mostly in New Hampshire, bloomed on the Yosemite climbing scene nearly 20 years ago. In 2001, he climbed the nose route of El Capitan in a record 3 hours 24 minutes. He was the first to free-climb (no ropes except to catch falls) both El Capitan and Half Dome in 24 hours, reported *The New York Times*.



BASE jumper, wingsuit man, free-solo climber Dean Potter in 2009. Photo: Filmfest St Anton

The *New York Times* goes on to point out that in 2008, he was featured in *The Times* for highlining, essentially extreme tightrope-walking between cliffs. He spent much of his time in recent years BASE

jumping and wingsuit flying.

It was not immediately clear what went wrong with their jumps. There are reports that the two failed to pass safely through a notch in the rock during their descent and

that their parachutes never opened, Gediman said.

Although BASE jumping is prohibited in Yosemite, Potter lived nearby and made little secret of flouting the rules.

He frequently jumped with his dog, Whisper, in tow, and last year Potter was featured in a documentary about rock climbing and the counterculture surrounding it.

In an interview from 2012 posted on the ABC News website, Potter acknowledged doubts about pursuing the dangerous activities for which he became famous, including BASE jumping, walking on a wire between two cliffs and other feats.

"In some ways I wonder if it's healthy what I do," he said on the program *Nightline*. "I mean, like, you're obsessed with something that might kill you."

Earlier this month, a 73-year-old California man was killed after his parachute deployed late during a 150-meter jump from a bridge into the Snake River in Idaho, the second death there this year that authorities said was tied to BASE jumping.

On Saturday evening, Potter and Hunt, 29, jumped off Taft Point and did not return, Gediman said. By the time park officials were alerted, it was too dark to search.

Aided by a helicopter from the California Highway Patrol, park rangers found their bodies on Sunday, Gediman said.

The Stanislaus County Coroner's Office has not yet conducted its autopsies of the bodies, spokesman Tom Killian said Monday.

— Reuters

Presidents Cup Asian debut will help game grow, says KJ Choi

THIS year's Presidents Cup in Incheon will not only spur the growth of golf in South Korea, it will encourage other Asian nations to bring the tournament to their shores and boost the sport's popularity throughout the region, says KJ Choi.

The Korean, vice captain to International team skipper Nick Price, said the team leadership would leave no stone unturned in their planning for the match-up with the United States from October 8 to 11 at Incheon's Jack Nicklaus Golf Club.

The United States have won eight of the 10 Presidents Cups played since the biennial competition was established in 1994 and will be heavy favorites for this year's contest, which is the first to be hosted by an Asian country.

"This will bring big changes to golf not just in Korea, but all around Asia," Choi said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The Korean golf community will embrace the tournament and hopefully more young kids will start dreaming about playing golf



KJ Choi says the Asian debut of the Presidents Cup will promote golf in the entire region. Photo: Jake Roth / USA TODAY Sports

and reaching the top.

"Also, other countries in Asia will attempt to host the Presidents

Cup in the future, which will lead to the elevation of the game in the region."

— Reuters

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f t y s i g

Grab your sex wax

Phuket surfing series arrives with annual southwest monsoon

By Thanaphon Phromthong

AS THE southwest monsoon season blows in, bringing swells and wind waves to Phuket's west-coast beaches, it's time to bust out Mr Zog's Sex Wax and get ready for the Pearl of the Andaman Thailand Surfing Championship and Longboard Classic 2015.

The five-event series, featuring three of the island's beach breaks – Patong Beach, Kalim Beach and Surin Beach – starts in June and comes to a close at the end of Phuket's surf season in September.

"This tournament is being held to promote surfing as a competitive sport and to encourage youngsters to get involved. We want everyone to join us as either participants or spectators and enjoy the challenges of this series," Chanin Aiyarak, president of Surfing Thailand, told the *Gazette* this week.

The first competition in the series takes place at



Kalim Beach on June 12, and will run for three days from 7am to 4pm. The exact type of competition will

be dependent on the wave conditions of the day, but organizers expect to have division, open, women and longboard competitions.

A variety of trophies and prizes are up for grabs in all competition groups.

Though the website for the competition is still under construction, those wanting to register can do so at www.pearloftheandaman.com.

More information can also be found on the organizer's Facebook page by searching 'SurfingThailand'.

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