

Phuket Gazette

November 14 - 20, 2015

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'SHIP SUCCESSFULLY FLED WITH ITS ILLEGAL CATCH' Operation Icefish



Capt Siddharth Chakravarty will be leading a team on the Steve Irwin to hunt down two ships wanted by Interpol. Photo: Sea Shepherd

All hands on deck as Sea Shepherd begins search for Interpol-wanted boat

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE hunt is back on for the internationally black-listed illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing vessel that slipped through the fingers of Phuket officials earlier this year, confirmed Captain Siddharth Chakravarty of the Sea Shepherd ship *Steve Irwin*.

"The summer fishing season for

toothfish starts now, so we have launched this campaign before the *Kunlun* can do further damage," Capt Chakravarty told the *Gazette* this week.

The ship, which had recently changed its name from *Kunlun* to *Taishan*, was apprehended in Phuket after it falsely reported offloading 182 tonnes of illegally caught Patagonian toothfish, valued at 179 million baht, as 182 tonnes of grouper, valued at just 15mn baht. However, after months of detention, the ship was able to flee the port it was moored at in Phuket.

"Finding a vessel such as the *Kunlun*, once it had escaped, was like finding a needle in a haystack. Even with modern satellite technology and intelligence sharing, there remain enough avenues for such repeat offenders to disappear," Capt

Chakravarty said. "Thailand took the first step and that was to arrest the vessel, detain her in port and aid the investigations into the vessel's operations."

"More can and must be done, but the responsibility must be shared by all countries involved, including those that consume the fish, and not left to be borne by the trading countries alone."

Three Phuket Customs officials were transferred out of the province following the ship's escape in September.

"The Phuket Customs chief and two other officers were transferred to Bangkok," explained Charoen Chamniklang from the Thai Customs Investigation and Suppression Bureau. "They allowed the ship to..."

Continued on Page 4

Interpol busts Russian for ESP fraud

IMMIGRATION scooped up a Russian fugitive in Phuket who was wanted by Interpol in a more than 62-million-baht clairvoyance fraud case.

The man was charged for 'extremely large-scale misappropriation by fraud'.

Full story Page 3

BUSINESS



RevPAR on the table as island adapts to massive shift in source markets.

PROPERTY



The Residence prepares to come on line in 2016, as the luxury market holds steady.

LIFE&STYLE



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Royalty opens buildings at Vachira Hospital

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn arrived on the island to chair the formal opening of two of Vachira Phuket Hospital's new buildings on November 9.

The ceremony highlighted both the Chalermprakiat 59 Pansa and the Baan Khun Poom buildings.

The Khun Poom building was constructed under the request of Princess Sirindhorn in memory of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's grandson, Bhumi Jensen, who passed away in the 2004 tsunami.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

Late night quake rattles island

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 6.2 in magnitude rattled the island on November 8.

The Thai Meteorological Department reported the quake as striking at 11:47pm with its epicenter about 427 kilometers southwest of Phuket, near the Nicobar Islands in India.

The Regional Environmental Office did not receive any damage reports.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

Drunk minivan driver jumps curb, kills cop

A DRUNK minivan driver killed a Phuket police officer after jumping a curb and running over

Foul, black wastewater inundates Karon Beach



The foul black water that flowed across Karon Beach on October 5 was not connected to any hotel improperly discharging untreated wastewater, confirmed officials. Karon Municipality's Engineering Division emptied a wastewater container abreast the beach before shutting off the pump to work on a broken pipe. However, sudden heavy rain caused the container to overflow onto the beach. For the full story visit PhuketGazette.net. Photo: Siang Prachachon Kon Phuket

him near Phuket International Airport on November 9.

Sen Sgt Maj Suthat Songmuang of the Tah Chat Chai Police was rushed to Thalang Hospital, but died of his injuries while being treated.

The 25-year-old minivan driver, Pichitpol Pakkaew, had a blood alcohol content level of .076 per cent, .026 over the legal limit.

– *Winai Sarot*

LOCAL NEWS

Briefly

Officers fear retribution for riot arrests

CONCERNED about retribution, police have yet to arrest any of the suspects wanted for the Thalang Police Station riot.

A total of 66 arrest warrants have been issued for riot instigators, Deputy National Police Chief Chalermkiat Srivorakan confirmed on October 28.

Suspects have been encouraged to surrender rather than have police track them down.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

Underpass sees first flood since opening in April

THE Darasamuth underpass suffered its first serious flood on November 5, when the automatic pumping system failed

to activate during a heavy downpour.

The underpass became a lake after an accumulation of garbage blocked the automatic switch that turns on the pumps.

To prevent future problems, the Phuket Highway Office has requested that the underpass contractor, Italian-Thai Development Co Ltd, install netting to block debris from clogging the machines.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

Minivan crash kills one, woman remains in coma

AN OUT of control mini-van crashed head-on with a car in Phuket on November 6, killing one person, leaving a Chinese tourist in a coma and injuring five others.

Despite rescue workers' best efforts, the driver of the car, 26-year-old Ratchasak Chaithep, was pronounced dead on arrival at Thalang Hospital.

Chinese tourist Shengnan Gu, 29, was thrown from the van and remains in a coma at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

– *Winai Sarot*

Officers snatch online fraudster

POLICE charged a woman with the Computer Crimes Act following her creation of a false Facebook account to defraud buyers.

Piyanut Singkaluk, 23, confessed that she started collecting pictures of people from the internet in August in order to create a fake Facebook account.

Benjaporn Poomkliang, 24, brought the case to the attention of the Phuket City Police after she discovered that her pictures were being used for the fraudulent account.

Ms Piyanut was charged with violation of the Computer Crimes Act BE 2550 and public fraud.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Aussies to be injected with Phuket virus

THE Phuket strain of the influenza virus is being mixed into an Australian quadrivalent flu vaccine for 2016 following a record number of cases reported this year by the Australian Journal of Pharmacy (AJP).

The Brisbane and Phuket strains of the virus contributed to the 25,000 spike in reported cases, explained Health Minister Sussan Ley.

The 2016 quadrivalent vaccine is planned to cover two A strains of influenza (California and Hong Kong) and two B strains of influenza (Brisbane and Phuket), reported the AJP. B viruses are estimated to have accounted for about 62 per cent of flu cases in Australia in 2015.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Officials look to ban destructive dive practice

AUTHORITIES are looking to ban a destructive dive practice known as 'Try Diving', in which people without any dive experience are brought to shallow reefs to walk around and see marine life.

The ban was tabled after officials had to chase off five 'try dive' boats moored near the protected reef in Ton Sai Bay on November 6.

Most of the coral in the area where the boats were moored had been completely destroyed.

– *Chutharat Plerin*



‘Missing’ teacher arrested for drunk driving

THE Phuket Tourist Police search for an Irish teacher who disappeared on November 7 came to a screeching halt after the Patong Police revealed that the 35-year-old man had been locked up for drunk driving.

Eion Cahill, a teacher at Satree Phuket School, was granted bail at 10:30am on Tuesday.

“Mr Cahill’s friends last saw him at Tai Pan in Patong. When they were unable to find him the next day, they began searching for him,” Urumporn Koondejsumrit, chief of the Tourist Police, told the *Gazette*. “Still unable to find him, they contacted us. We helped by posting his pictures on our Facebook page.”

Maj Urumporn had no further information about the case. Patong Police officers on duty on Tuesday were also unaware of the exact circumstances surrounding Mr Cahill’s arrest.

Amnuay Pompetan from the human resources department of Satree Phuket School said that he was aware that there had been an issue, but had yet to

make any decisions about what action the school would take.

Last week, Phuket’s top cop gave the green light for police to pull over and arrest anyone suspected of drunk driving on the island. Additionally, he gave drunk driving arrest quotas to a number of Phuket police stations.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

Gov threatens beach ban if rules broken



Navy officers oversee the beach management plan. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

PATONG Beach has become the first beach on the island to have the official 10 per cent zone implemented, confirmed Phuket Vice Governor Chokdee Amornwat on November 6. Large markers were placed at the corners of the zones.

The zones are currently being calculated as 10 per cent of the length of the beach. The Phuket Land Office has been tasked with measuring the area of each beach, taking into account low and high tide, so that zones can then be based on area.

Though details of the beach rules are not yet finalized, Phuket Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has vowed that if locals are caught trying to bend the rules once they are established, he will ban all beach vendors, chairs and umbrellas from the sands.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

Russian arrested in ESP fraud case

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

IMMIGRATION scooped up a Russian fugitive in Phuket who was wanted by Interpol in a more than 62-million-baht clairvoyance fraud case.

Eldar Gasanguseynov, 29, was charged in Russia for ‘extremely large-scale misappropriation by fraud committed by the [sic] organized criminal group’.

Working within an organized criminal group, Mr Gasanguseynov allegedly misappropriated money from people wishing to obtain parapsychological and extrasensory perception (ESP) services.

Mr Gasanguseynov was wanted for fraudulent activities committed between October 18, 2010 and September 14, 2012, operating under the names of the following companies: Centre of Development; QuadroMed;



Mr Gasanguseynov was allegedly part of a criminal organization that misappropriated money from people wishing to obtain parapsychological and extrasensory perception (ESP) services.

AltraMed; AlphaMed; Biolife; and International Academy of Clairvoyance.

Russia had cancelled Mr Gasanguseynov’s passport and his permit to stay in Thailand had expired, Phuket Immigration Office Chief Sunchai

Chokkajaykij explained.

“We only charged him for overstaying, as he has done nothing else wrong in Thailand. He will have to face the fraud charges in his home country. Such matters are the responsibility of Interpol,” Col Sunchai said.

Mr Gasanguseynov, who was arrested in the parking lot of Nai Harn Gym in Rawai, was transferred to the Immigration Police Headquarters in Bangkok to be deported. He faces a maximum jail sentence of 10 years in Russia.



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The trees locals have saved.
Photo: Sayjai Mueller

Movie museum re-design saves Nai Harn trees

THE Nai Harn Movie Museum will be re-designed to ensure that none of the pine trees along the beachfront will be cut down.

The change in plans to the 40-million-baht facility comes after locals tied pieces of saffron fabric around the trees, threatening to have hundreds protest.

The fast growing trees are about 30 years old and very important to the community, explained 41-year-old Sayjai Mueller.

— Chutharat Plerin

Underpass construction company faces multi-million baht fines

By Chutharat Plerin

THE construction company building the more than 800-million-baht Samkong underpass has until December 21 to finish the project before hefty fines are implemented, Bureau of Bridge Construction Director Narin Srisompun said on November 4.

“Wiwat Construction Co Ltd is only 54 per cent finished with the project. At this rate, construction won’t finish until June. However, the contract – which has already been extended three times – ends on December 21,” said Mr Narin. “They legally had the right to ask for three extensions. They have no excuses now.”

Nonetheless, the government must grant Wiwat Construction Co Ltd further time until the end of January



The contract for the project was extended three times. However, it is still only 54 per cent finished. Photo: Hlghways Department

before they strip them of the contract. During this time period, the company will be fined 2mn baht a day.

“By the end of January, the

fine will have reached 10 per cent of the total project costs. After that, the governor has the right to cancel the contract and levy the 80mn-baht fine

on the company.”

The project has been plagued with issues, such as regular flooding during the rainy season and serious road-safety concerns.

A number of accidents prompted officials to demand something was done about the dangerous road conditions. When those calls yielded no results, locals took fixing the road into their own hands. Four local men used money from their own pockets to help fix dangerous sections of the bypass road near the underpass construction site.

“If Wiwat Construction Co Ltd decides not to continue with the project past the end of January, despite garnering government approval, we are more than prepared to take on the project ourselves,” Mr Narin said.

The Second
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Phuket is hosting yet another international conference with worldwide participation. Numerous world-class speakers will converge to break new ground in colorectal disease care through hands-on workshops, live surgery, interactive lectures, panel discussions, and multidisciplinary symposiums.

Highlight topics include:

- Multidisciplinary approach to colorectal cancer
- Advanced therapeutic colonoscopy
- Colorectal imaging
- Minimal access colorectal surgery including robotics and laparoscopy
- Advanced surgical management of fecal incontinence and constipation
- Debates in the treatment of hemorrhoids

Art Hiranyakas, M.D.
Director of the Bangkok-Phuket
Colorectal Disease Institute
Program Director

Steven Wexner M.D.
Program Co-Director

Mariana Berho M.D.
Program Co-Director

Sea Shepherd on hunt

From page 1

...re-fuel, as it needed to keep all 182 tons of toothfish on board frozen. Once completely re-fueled, the *Kunlun* managed to escape.”

Other than levying a fine for falsely reporting the toothfish as grouper, officials had no authority to keep their cargo, explained Mr Charoen.

“The ship had already been through all the legal formalities at the Customs Office. However, the Phuket Marine Office was still investigating it for issues with its registration,” Mr Charoen explained.

Since 2008, the boat has changed its name at least 10 times, according to a Sea Shepherd report.

Following the unprecedented success of Operation Icefish earlier this year, Sea Shepherd today announced its second campaign to target illegal Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish operators in the Southern Ocean.

At the conclusion of the last campaign, five of the six known illegal toothfish poaching vessels had been detained. The sixth and most notorious, *Thunder*, was scuttled in waters surrounding Sao Tome and Principe following a 110-day pursuit by the Sea Shepherd ship, Bob Barker. Sea Shepherd



Captain Siddharth Chakravarty of the Sea Shepherd ship Steve Irwin. Photo: Sea Shepherd.

believes that the ship was scuttled in an attempt to destroy evidence of the *Thunder's* illegal fishing operations.

Sea Shepherd has continued to monitor the movements of the remaining illegal vessels throughout the year. This year’s campaign will focus on bringing Interpol-wanted poachers *Viking* and *Kunlun* [Taishan] to justice.

“Sea Shepherd’s sole aim is to provide a parallel policing presence on the oceans. As the case of *Thunder* proved, we can intercept, chase, investigate and aid prosecutions to end criminality in its entirety. It is a disappointment that the *Kunlun* [Taishan] escaped from the clutches of law enforcement, but it also proves just how effective at-sea patrols are and why campaigns such as Operation Icefish are necessary,” Capt Chakravarty said.

HEADLINES about methamphetamine, kratom, marijuana and even a little cocaine find their way into the *Phuket Gazette* fairly regularly. But, heroin... that's a beast that rarely surfaces on this paradise island.

There was, of course, 22-year-old John

Cawley, who was busted for running 'birdie powder' from Phuket to Koh Samui in 2013, but smack in general is either very well protected, or not a substance of choice in Phuket. Nonetheless, the white dragon splashed out across page one of the *Gazette* a decade ago as three foreigners and one Thai were charged for attempting to smuggle 40 kilograms of heroin out of Thailand on a yacht. A plan not all too dissimilar to a scheme that entangled a former Phuket resident in an international plot to move enormous stockpiles of North Korean methamphetamine (apparently the best of the best in terms of quality) through Thailand and into the United States. Now that was a Tom Clancy plot line if Phuket ever saw one.

In both cases, well-planned international government operations took the alleged drug

smugglers down before the sumptuous amounts of drugs flooded the streets of either Australia (in the case of the heroin) or New York City (in the case of the North Korean meth).

Phuket without a doubt has real draw for international criminals looking to go ostrich and keep their heads low for a while. Just last week, Interpol was ahead of the clairvoyant curve and pushed police to scoop up a Russian national wanted in his role in a 62-million-baht parapsychological and extrasensory perception (ESP) services fraud case.

The November 12-18, 2005 issue of the *Gazette* wasn't all about international drug smuggling though. In fact, on the side of page one, the newspaper announced the details of the 1-year anniversary of the tsunami.

In an extraordinarily compassionate move, Thailand offered relatives of those who went missing or died, as well as those who were injured in the disaster, free flights and accommodation for two nights for those wishing to attend the ceremonies at beach locations in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

— Isaac Stone Simonelli

The gift of hindsight

The Phuket Gazette

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THIS ISSUE

2: Gambling tops crime again; Tourist complaints spark zoo check. Pages 2 & 3

3: STORY: Sunshine on a Sireh. Pages 4 & 5

FOUND THE ISLAND: Nation party goes with a whim.

THE TIME machine

News from the past

Police Seize Bag Of Leaves

from the Phuket Gazette, 12-18 of November, 1995

PHUKET TOWN: Policing a vehicle inspection at the Caltex service station on Ratsada, Police seized a bag of leaves (a local name for a local drug) from a car.

A short seizure revealed a passenger car containing a large quantity of kratom leaves. These kratom leaves, a popular drug among shrewd businessmen and are mostly used for construction work. The heavy labourers are believed to be addicted to the drug and transportation of the drug is illegal.

The driver of the truck, Surat Kingkaew, was placed under arrest and jailed for possession of a Schedule 5 restricted narcotic.

Four arrested in heroin bust

By Anongnat Sarpisut

PHUKET: Three foreign men and a Thai woman were arrested November 4 on charges of attempting to smuggle 40 kilograms out of Thailand in a

arrests are understood culmination of a four-month operation in Phuket, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and the

otics Suppression Bureau Deputy Commissioner Maj Gen Suwat Chantana that two men from whom he named as Ng Oi Fung, 42, and Wong, 20, were arrested in Karon.

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Tsunami ceremonies program unveiled

PHUKET: Beach locations in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi have been chosen for the holding of official tsunami anniversary commemoration ceremonies on the morning of December 26. Thailand is offering free flights and accommodation for two nights to relatives of those who died or went missing in the disaster and to those who were injured.



Suspects Kerry Mitchell (above) and his wife were escorted off the yacht. — Photos by Yongyot Pruk...



PHUKET: Beach locations in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi have been chosen for the holding of official tsunami anniversary commemoration ceremonies on the morning of December 26.

19 killed in Phuket road accidents in September

PHUKET: The laying of wreaths...



PHUKET: The laying of wreaths...

Soi Dog group becomes legal foundation

PHUKET: The Soi Dog group has become a legal foundation...

Tourist complaints prompt zoo check

PHUKET: Four were arrested...

The new face of policing on Phuket

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Lao butcher charged for dismembering woman

POLICE have charged a Lao man for murdering and dismembering a Myanmar woman whose body parts were recovered at several Bangkok *klong* locations on November 8.

Pol Lt Gen Sanit Mahatawon said Jai Kenwankham, 39, confessed to the crime, allegedly saying he 'impulsively' killed Mali Thaiyai, 27, after they got into an argument. He then dismembered her body and deposited the pieces into fertilizer bags.

Police said Mr Jai used to work in a slaughterhouse as a butcher in Laos before moving to Thailand and working at a restaurant.

After a raid on Mr Jai's apartment, police said they found Ms Mali's mobile phone and a knife. There were also bloodstains in the toilet.

B230mn budget approved for AIDS prevention measures

THE National Aids Committee has approved 230 million baht for aids prevention activities and a public relations campaign to try to reduce discrimination against people with HIV.

"The target group for our campaign will be 33,000 gay men and transsexuals, 38,000 women prostitutes and 2,600 drug addicts, which are the population groups with the highest risk of HIV," said Amnuay Gajeena, head of the Disease Control Department.

Shadow puppet legend dies

NATIONAL artist Suchart Sapsin, the founder of a



shadow puppet folk museum, died on November 7 at the age of 77.

Born on July 2, 1938, Mr Suchart had played a key role in the conservation of *nang talung* – shadow puppetry. His troupe stuck strictly to tradition and did not use foreign musical instruments in its performances.

Heroin mules evade police

A TOTAL of 10 kilograms of heroin and five motorcycles belonging to drug suspects were seized in Chiang Rai on October 6. The suspects managed to flee the scene and evade arrest.

"We received a tip-off that heroin would be smuggled into the district. So rangers were patrolling the area when they noticed seven men on five suspicious vehicles," Col Chalorchai Chaiyakham explained.

The illicit drugs might have belonged to a drug network based in southern Myanmar, Col Chalorchai added.

NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

Riot at juvenile training center

A RIOT reportedly erupted at the Regional Juvenile Vocational Training Centre 9 in Songkhla province on November 7.

An informed source said smoke billowed out of the center at around 3pm, after which several juvenile inmates were seen running out of the facility.

Police and soldiers were then deployed to control the situation.

Thailand buys missile defence system

THE Army has purchased a multimillion-dollar missile system from defence company

Thales that will be delivered in early 2017.

The Starstreak air defence missile system operates at a speed of over Mach 3 and is the world's fastest very-short-range air defence system.

The contract also included the tripod-based launcher system, which allows the missile to deal with attacks from low-level fighter aircraft, unmanned air vehicles and helicopters.

Oliver said the missile-system contract with the Army was signed by DataGate and Thales, the two companies providing the products and services.

Migrant zoning float in Ranong

RANONG is being used as the project model for the zoning of migrant communities together in a bid to reduce crime and social problems, as well as lead to a host of other benefits for Thailand and migrants.

The 'Ranong Model' is pending the government's nod and budget. However, Ranong Governor Suriyan Kanjanasilp

hopes that it will allow for the government to better control and prepare the migrant database.

He said it was hoped the zoning would also sustainably solve problems such as illegal employment, disease control issues, drug abuse and garbage disposal.

Second death in high-profile lese-majeste court case

HIGH-PROFILE fortune-teller Suriyan Sujaritpolwong, better known as Mor Yong, has become the second suspect in a high-profile lese-majeste case to die in custody.

Suriyan, 53, was pronounced dead at the Correctional Hospital on November 7.

"He died of respiratory and blood-circulation failures, which were the result of a blood infection," the Corrections Department said.

Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya said authorities concerned would need to clarify what had happened to clear any lingering doubt about Mr Suriyan's death.

Mr Suriyan, his secretary Jirawong Wattanathewasilp and Pol Maj Prakrom Warunprapha, who had worked at the Technology Crime Suppression Division, were arrested last month on suspicion that they falsely cited the Royal family to demand sponsorships and bribes.

Maj Prakrom committed suicide on October 23 while locked up at a detention center inside a military camp in Bangkok.

Officials take on park rubbish

OFFICIALS plan to tackle the excessive amount of litter at national parks by implementing garbage disposal measures and limiting the number of tourists during holiday periods.

US Navy shoots down social media's UFO theories

ABOUT a week after awe-inspiring Bangkok meteorite lit up the capital, social media was ablaze in the United States, from California to Arizona, with reports of a strange blue light streaking across the skies.

Facebook and Twitter users immediately launched into discussions of whether or not the object was a mete-

orite or, if possibly, it was a UFO – it is the internet, and such theories thrive in such vast amounts of space.

The phenomenon, however, was neither a UFO nor a meteorite. It was in fact a US Navy missile test flight launched off the southern California coast, the Pentagon told Reuters.

A Pentagon public affairs spokesman

said a US Navy Strategic Systems Programs Trident II (D5) missile test flight was conducted at sea from the USS Kentucky, in the Pacific Test Range off the coast of Southern California. The exact sort of statement Agent K from Men in Black would feed you after zapping your mind with a neuralyzer.

Because information regarding the test

launch of Trident II (D5) missiles is classified prior to the launch, such missile testing is not routinely announced. So this is very likely not the last time we'll hear about the Southern California UFOs... such an explanation is also very convenient if you are trying to hide the fact that aliens have landed in California, and could be running for office next term.

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Confusion never ends

THE establishment of Patong Beach as the first strand on the island where the controversial '10 per cent' rule on beach use was implemented is just the latest surprising development in the confusing and unpredictable effort to establish some semblance of order at Phuket beaches.

When the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) took power more than a year ago, the emphasis they placed on cleaning up Phuket's tourism industry was not only commendable, but long overdue.

No previous national government, elected or self-installed, had ever even given serious recognition to Phuket's many long-standing problems, let alone taken steps to tackle them.

Local governments, especially those controlling popular west coast resort destinations like Patong and Karon, had for years been far more interested in maintaining the lucrative status quo than salvaging the island's reputation.

The government rightly targeted illegality and collusion in the transport sector as one of its first orders of business. The subsequent bombshell announcement that municipalities had no legal right to use beach land in their jurisdictions as their personal pocket-lining fiefdoms came as perhaps one of the biggest and most surprising outcomes of the May 2014 takeover, at least locally.

Sadly, the intervening eighteen months has failed to deliver a coherent policy about how Phuket beaches, the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg, should actually be managed.

As a resort destination, the wants and needs of tourists should be the primary driver of policy decisions on such issues. Consider the current situation from the standpoint of a prospective first-time tourist, one trying to ascertain through the internet whether or not Phuket should be his or her holiday destination of choice.

They will be confronted with a deluge of conflicting information and contradictory reports about issues as simple as "Will I be able to bring an umbrella to the beach?", "Can I smoke a cigarette on the beach?" and "Can I get a massage on the beach?". Sadly, not even knowledgeable expat residents seem to know the answers to such simple questions any more. This is unacceptable, because consistency is a key component of any successful branding effort.

The *Gazette* continues to maintain that beach loungers and umbrellas, not just mats, are a key component of what helped the island develop as a world class beach-tourism destination. We need them, but need them in manageable numbers.



Elderly and disabled need loungers, not mats

Re: 10% zone takes hold on Patong Beach – no loungers allowed, November 7

I am 75 years old and a bit disabled and cannot lie down on a mat. I need a lounger which means that I and tens of thousands of other visitors in my situation now have to look for another location to spend our holiday and money.

For the people that are able to use the mat, can you really ensure there will be enough umbrellas on this 10% for every visitor who's going need one? I think not.

*John Welling
Gazette forum*

Seems like a waste of time and money

Re: Phuket cameras bust 10 speedsters a day, November 4

A fine up to 1,000 baht for exceeding speed limits is a ridiculous penalty for a person that can afford a car. And only 10 drivers a day that exceed the speed limits?

Are we sure that the cameras are installed here in Phuket? If this is the way they are thinking of lowering the death rate on the roads, it seems to me that they are losing time and money.

*Federico
Gazette forum*

Beaches are bread and butter of Phuket

Re: Gov threatens total beach ban if rules not followed,

Letters to the Editor

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

November 5

So just to clarify, they really want to destroy tourism in Phuket? Has anyone explained that the beaches are the number one reason why tourists come to Phuket?

Without a refreshment, beach chair or at the very least an umbrella, it is not any fun to spend a day at the beach.

I agree that having the beaches covered in chairs and umbrellas is not nice to look at, so find a solution, but not one that drives away all the tourists.

*Sad for Phuket
Gazette forum*

Feeling intimidated by minibus drivers

Re: Phuket minivan crash kills one; Chinese tourist in coma, November 6

RIP to all concerned and the injured get well soon.

Unfortunately I am intimidated by minibus drivers whenever I use a road between Patong and the airport. I am frequently tailgated, overtaken at high speed, cut off on bends by them crossing the yellow lines and also cut off by them getting back in after passing in the motorbike lane.

They think its their right of passage in a minibus.

*skip
Gazette forum*

Bringing attention to hidden problems

Re: Wastewater flow on Karon Beach not hotels' fault, says official, November 10

Phuket's image is as clean as it's beaches.

If the media can accomplish this, then it can accomplish something the locals cannot.

This problem has existed for a long time, but only got attention when brought into the public eye via the media around four years ago.

*anon
Gazette forum*

Random breath tests make more sense

Re: Drunk minivan driver kills Phuket police officer, November 9

A sad death but quotas are not the answer.

Random breath tests should be carried out at all check points, targeting high risk people like taxi and minibus drivers. They are responsible for others' lives but seem to pay lip service to the law, as we see time and time again.

I would expect the driver in this case is in for an uncomfortable night tonight – and he deserves it too.

*Mister Ree
Gazette forum*

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Positive affects of zoning

FIRST PERSON

SELLING alcohol is a double-edged sword, as it has both good and bad effects on society and impacts the image of Phuket as a tourist destination.

First, let me explain what the PEO does.

We are not the ones who control the number of bars and shops selling alcohol. Our duty is to simply collect alcohol and cigarette taxes, arrest those who import items without paying the tax, and give permission and licensing rights to businesses that want to sell cigarettes or alcohol. Basically, we provide permits to businesses and make sure that they have paid the proper taxes to do so.

Unfortunately, we cannot limit or control the number of shops selling these items here on the island. That is the job of other offices, such as the Public Health Office, Provincial Office, District and Municipality offices and the police.

If a shop-owner comes to us and fulfills the proper criteria to sell alcohol and cigarettes, we will issue them a permit. Before the new law was enforced, all a person needed was an ID card, their business registration and the location of their business. We would then issue them a permit if their shop was not next to a temple, school or gas station.

This is the main reason that we have issued thousands of permits, meaning there are thousands of shops out there selling alcohol.

One good effect of this is the income that it brings to the island through sales and taxation.

In terms of tourism, this provides a lot of income. The number of shops is not the



Pairuch Kulima, 54, has been the chief of the Phuket Excise Office (PEO) since 2011. He is a Phuket native and graduated with a master's degree in public administration from The National Institute of Development Administration.

Here he talks about the responsibilities of the PEO, the pros and cons of selling alcohol and the positive effects that the new alcohol ban will have on Phuket.

problem if we can make sure that they are controllable and legal. It's good for tourism if tourists have convenient choices available to buy from.

However, some may claim that Phuket is an island swimming in alcohol. It does not give Phuket a good image if we sell alcohol at any location to anyone who wants it. So far, police and other relevant offices are doing their best to keep it under control, but they still have no right to reduce the number of shops or close them if they have not done anything illegal.

In this respect, I think that the new alcohol ban is very helpful. It is not only about preventing shops near educational institutions from selling alcohol, but it can directly make our job, as well as others', easy in the future.

Shops selling alcohol will be in zones and it will become a more concentrated area for us to control. The number will also be reduced, as we will not provide permits to those located near educational institutions.

Even though at this point we are still having problems defining 'nearby' and 'educational institution', I think we will be able to find a solution soon.

This will help Phuket become well organized – alcohol should be in an alcohol zone, not a school zone and tourists can still enjoy buying alcohol while enabling us to collect the tax. I think that it's the best solution to balance both the pros and cons.

As far as arrests related to people importing and selling alcohol and cigarettes without paying the proper taxes are concerned, the PEO makes only about 10 a year, mostly involving hotels or big businesses, and even that is levied on about 10 to 20 bottles of alcohol.

I think the reason for our low arrest rate is due to the fact that we are an island. Everything that comes here has to go through either the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint or airport security.

At the PEO, we will continue to do our best to help Phuket become a place where alcohol sales are controlled. We regularly check up on permits and are looking out for those who illegally smuggle in goods without paying the proper tax.

I am very happy and excited about the new ban, as it will not only help Phuket's image, but will help all concerned offices to work more efficiently.



Facebook proved to be invaluable while moving. Photo: hackNY.org

Find it on Facebook

BEING a newcomer to the island, I can't help but marvel at the relative ease with which the transition was made. I had visited Phuket a few years ago as a tourist and fallen in love with it. This year, I decided to move here to pursue a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certification.

After a quick scan of about a dozen TEFL schools' websites, I had chosen one that seemed the best fit. A short exchange of emails with the school administration followed and within a few weeks, I had received not only my visa documentation, but a host of useful information about accommodation, food and general tips for foreigners.

I arrived on the island in the midst of the raging monsoon season. Before arriving in Phuket, I had booked a hotel near the school, which was in Patong. But two days of crowds and pouring rain were enough to convince me that I wouldn't survive the flooded streets or the hordes of tourists.

One would think it would be time consuming and difficult to find an apartment in a strange, new city. Surprisingly, it wasn't. There are dozens of Facebook groups showing property listings and these advertise fully-furnished ready-to-move into condominiums. All I had to do was pick one I liked, call the number listed, hail a tuk-tuk to

Island View

By Sarah Haider

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

meet with the agent, put down a deposit and voila – I had my own apartment.

The next hurdle was arranging for the daily commute to and from Patong. I quickly realized that taxis and tuk-tuks wouldn't work for a daily means of transport. The problem was, I didn't know how to ride a bike. This was much more easily resolved than I imagined.

A sweet lady who ran a fried rice stall across from my building offered to teach me one day after she finished work. I honestly thought I would be terrified, but it's pretty easy once you get the hang of it. In order to rent one, Facebook proved invaluable again. I had joined another half a dozen groups advertising bikes for rent and sale.

I feel lucky to have moved here with the least possible hassle and am glad to say it has started to feel like home already. Perhaps my more experienced friends and colleagues would scoff and say, 'Ah, but wait until the frustration sets in'. Maybe it will, but at the moment I am reveling in the excitement and promise of everything this island has to offer.

Words from the Wise

"My idea is always to reach my generation. The wise writer writes for the youth of his own generation, the critics of the next and the schoolmasters of ever afterward."

– F Scott Fitzgerald

"The ceremony took six minutes. The marriage lasted about the same amount of time, though we didn't get a divorce for almost a year."

– Hedy Lamarr

Issues & Answers

Why are there no public exercise parks in Koh Kaew?

I noticed that in places such as Patong, Kathu and Bang Tao there are many public parks with exercise equipment for people to work out on.

I am wondering why there are no public exercise parks in Koh Kaew?

Khuakiet Chitkhua, president of the Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:

Actually, we had been thinking of making a park here for a while now.

However, there is not a lot of public land in Koh Kaew

that can be used. We were finally able to obtain a plot near Sapam School from the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO).

Right now it is not really a park, but has a walkway and open area for people to exercise in. There is some exercise equipment there as well. People can go there and exercise for free.

The park was just finished last month. The grand opening will be held on December 3.

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

Submit your issue at:

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Untangling international pensions

Finance

By David Mayes

I HAVE never had so many questions and so many misunderstandings of the current options with regards to pensions for international expats than in the last year. It doesn't help that governments are changing rules faster than ever. Today I will give a brief overview of the current situation for UK expats.

First I will address those needing to save now.

There is really no need to save for retirement in a specific "pension", because unless you are being matched by an employer, you don't actually receive the tax deferral benefits that you normally would in your home environment. Even if you do, I still believe freedom to direct your savings as you please is a benefit that far outweighs any advantages of saving in the various government schemes that lock your access away.

You can start with a dedicated bank account or a low cost online brokerage platform and dollar cost average into index funds. You don't need an advisor to do this. If you accrue a significant sum, you may want to find someone to manage your portfolio then, but always start with a small amount and see how they perform for a while.

If you have a government sponsored pension, it becomes more complicated as to what your options are. The UK "pension freedoms" were really a tax grab in disguise. However, if you have a small pension this



'Pension' isn't worth much in Scrabble, but the real deal can make all the difference. Photo: Lending Memo

allows you to access it and actually get some value as opposed to being forced to take an annuity that pays a whopping 1-2K GBP per year. Still, I would stay under the limit of 10,500 GBP that they allow you to take tax free. Unfortunately, it appears that for expats that allowance is soon to be removed. Stay tuned for details when that happens, but for now it is pushed back another few years.

Transferring to a low tax jurisdiction like Gibraltar, where you can access your money with a negligible 2.5 per cent income tax rate and shelter the

pension from inheritance tax, still makes sense once you start talking about serious sums of money. However, for anything under 100,000 GBP the costs will certainly outweigh the benefits. The government has done a temporary U-turn on allowing full flexibility to offshore pensions, but they've announced that this is coming.

However, as Guernsey has lost its Qualifying Recognized Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) status and voted for flexibility, it appears you can draw all of your money out of a Guernsey QROPS totally tax

free. Don't go and do it just yet though, or you may find HM Revenue & Customs chasing you for a 55 per cent unauthorized payment penalty. I am sure they will make a statement clarifying their stance on it soon, so be patient and wait or you may be sorry.

The main thing to consider with this is your likely estate value and that in the future anything you draw out of a pension and into your estate becomes fair game for inheritance tax. Many people make the mistake of legally avoiding massive amounts of tax only to make

poor investment decisions that offset this. QROPS has had a lot of bad press over this, but remember that tax saving decisions and any subsequent investment decisions are two completely separate issues. I realize we are still in a low interest rate environment, but the best performers I have seen are those that have been conservative and forgone profits now in return for future value when things go back to a more normal environment for fixed incomes.

So, regardless of your situation, your options may be confusing. There is no single best way to save for retirement; many avoid the financial markets all together and only acquire real estate. Those who have pensions may find their choice of options very dependent on their overall net worth and whether they even have children to whom they want to leave assets. In any event, make sure you understand what you are doing fully before you do it and never let anyone pressure you into making snap decisions. And don't worry, as soon as you have your head around the current rules, the various governments will be sure to change them again.

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



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Honda test tracks coming to Thailand

HONDA Research and Development Asia Pacific has announced that it will construct an automobile test course at the Rojana Industrial Park in Prachin Buri with an investment of 1.7 billion baht.

The test course will be used for overall vehicle tests to evaluate vehicle quality and performances and will complement the company's current activities, which include product planning, styling design, engineering design, material research and quality control. The test course is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

The new test course will be built on a site of more than 800,000 square meters with various test tracks.



Honda is investing 1.7bn baht in the test course. Photo: Morio

Once constructed, it will become Honda's second automobile test course outside Japan. The other is in the United States.

The test course will also be used for testing of other products such as motorcycles and power products.

— The Nation

Market transition, RevPAR suffers

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

DIFFERENCES in source markets and government spending have forced Bali and Phuket to take dramatically different approaches to adjusting to the recent tourism climate with regards to balancing occupancy and rates.

Hotels and resorts in Bali have taken a mostly unified approach by holding rates and allowing occupancy to dip.

In Phuket, however, even within market segments, a number of approaches can be seen, as some

hotels and resorts drop prices to increase occupancy and others choose to hold rates relatively steady.

"Source markets for Bali are more widespread and are also different as they have traditionally been skewed to more domestic visitors than Phuket. They also have a lot more Australian visitors," STR Global's Area Director for Asia Pacific Jesper Palmqvist explained to the *Gazette* last week.

"I can think of two reasons

for the rates holding in Bali as compared to Phuket. Firstly, Phuket is different because it has seen a dramatic shift from Russians to Chinese wholesale visitors – with the latter commanding a much lower rate overall. So it's a simple demand/supply equation, and Bali has not seen the same shift."

"Secondly, Bali is currently going through different dynamics, with less government spending on hotels in light of austerity measures, along with many new hotels opening. They need to be good at revenue management and should try to up-

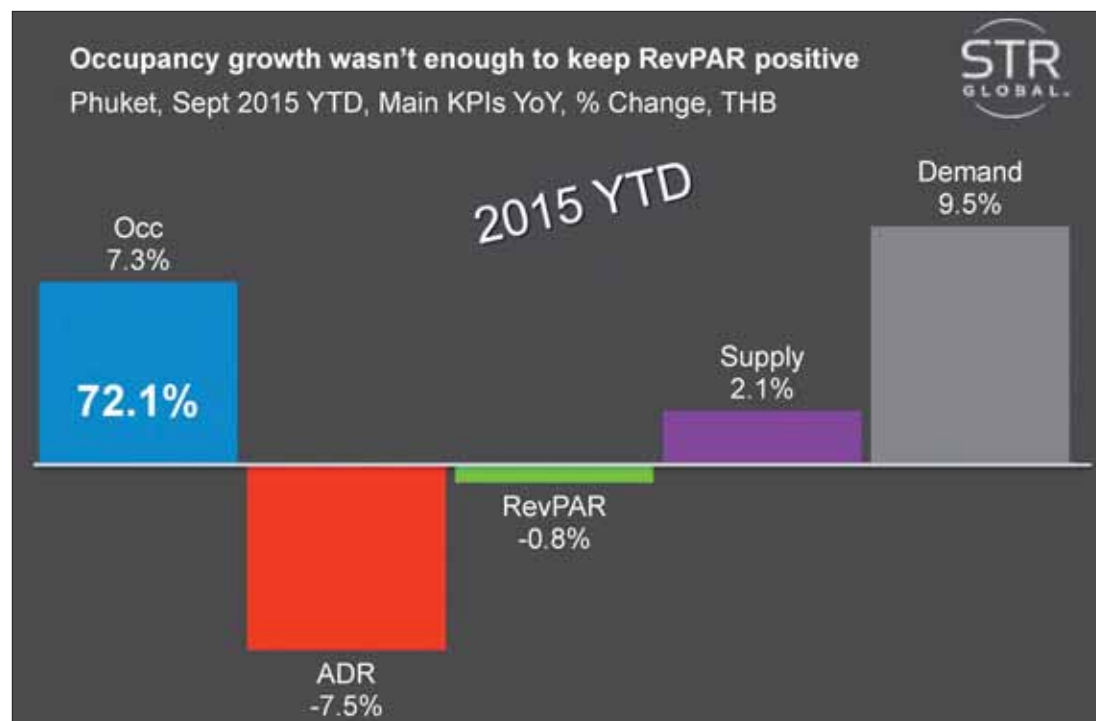
hold rates for [the day] when demand starts to come back."

After a shocking drop in occupancy in 2014, below 65 per cent, Phuket has quickly recovered in 2015, showing some growth on 2013.

However, despite the 2015 year-to-date data collected by STR Global showing a 7.3 per cent increase in occupancy and 7.4 per cent increase in demand over supply, revenue per available room (RevPAR) dropped by nearly one per cent.



Jesper Palmqvist, STR Global's Area Director for Asia Pacific



Despite a 7.3 per cent increase in hotel occupancy rates and a 7.4 per cent increase in demand, 2015 RevPAR dropped by nearly one per cent. Image: STR Global

"In terms of RevPAR, it is not always easy to make changes as a single hotel. When the overall tourism profile changes, you either decide to accept the majority of guests or you don't," Mr Palmqvist said.

"But we do see, of course, which hotels seem to attract what kinds of guests as well. By being diligent and skilled you can cover your bases better by widening your source markets and guests – more easily done these days using good data in-

telligence and online tools."

"The challenge for Phuket could be the fact that it is primarily Chinese and Russians coming in, and then there is a wide gap down to the next source markets; there could be volatility in that."

The diverse strategies being implemented should help mitigate some of that volatility to make Phuket, as a destination, stronger.

Nonetheless, given the drop in rates and the clear domi-

nance the Chinese market is expected to have over the next several years, it will be very difficult to grow RevPAR in Phuket.

"Customers quickly get used to paying lower rates, which diminishes the value proposition of the property and also hurts the essence of the brand. I would not say this is happening to an extreme in Phuket – it's larger forces at play here. The majority of hotels seemed to have managed it well so far."

Learning from the best



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

WHILE recently I talked about focusing on your customer, not your competitor, it is also a very good idea to see what the leaders in your industry are doing and get creative ideas and inspiration from the best.

If you are a small to medium enterprise, then there is a very high chance that you do not have a marketing department or specialized social media resource to do your marketing for you.

But, we now have so much information at our fingertips, it would be crazy not to utilize it.

Let's look at an example. If you are a small restaurant you probably have a limited marketing budget. But given the abundance of information, you can easily find a comparable restaurant or chain in the US or elsewhere that has a large

budget, dedicated marketing team and a huge online presence.

Spending some time to research and find such a partner can be invaluable. Once you have identified one, you can opt in to their social media accounts and see everything that they do with their marketing.

You can then modify their ideas to match your needs.

Let me be clear here, I am not saying plagiarize their advertising, I am saying see what they do and what works for them, and then modify it for your local circumstances and market.

There are some great industry leaders; you just need to find the relevant ones.

Simon Wetherell is a social media expert and lawyer. He trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the social media industry. For more information: Visit or call 095-085 3355.



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James Bond film arrives in style at Central Festival

The Aston Martin DB9 GT Bond Edition car was introduced to the media at Central Festival for the launch of *Spectre* – the newest in the five decade-old Bond series.

Only 150 Aston Martin DB9 GT Bond Edition vehicles have been manufactured in the world, while two have been imported to Thailand with the price tag of 23.4 million baht.

The car was launched by Aston Martin Bangkok by Heritage Motor Sales & Services (Thailand) Co Ltd under Master Group Corporation (Asia) Co Ltd.



Viraj Thanissranont (left), GM of Millenium Auto Co Ltd and Komkrit Nongsawat, GM of Heritage Motor Sales & Services (Thailand) Co Ltd.

Bringing the dead back to life



Surasak Somnam, managing director of The KEE Resort & Spa (3rd from left), joined resort guests at the 'The Walking Dead' pre-Halloween party at the KEE Sky Lounge.

Cruising Thailand in Italian style

A fleet of 12 gleaming Lamborghini supercars recently roared into Anantara Layan Phuket Resort for a weekend retreat that brought automotive glamour to the normally tranquil beachfront hideaway. The dozen exotic roadsters belonged to members of the Lamborghini Club Singapore taking part in a seven-day tour of Thailand and Malaysia.



Anantara Layan Phuket Resort General Manager Sascha Hemmann (left) with Lamborghini Club Singapore President Poh Kay Ping.

Amari reaches new heights with high ratings award

The Amari Phuket management team organized a party to celebrate its 2015 Best In Stay Elite Award presented by Orbitz Worldwide. The award is given to the highest-rated hotel in the Phuket market. Orbitz Worldwide is a popular online booking channels throughout the world.

HIGH RATINGS: (from L-R) Tipaporn Koonphol, Amari Phuket's deputy general manager, Pierre-Andre Pelletier, vice president and area general manager, South Thailand and Richard Margo, hotel manager.



Movenpick recognizes its most loyal employees

Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket held a Town Hall style meeting for all its staff to meet with the management team and celebrate the heroes and loyal employees with a five-year Long Service Recognition Award on October 21.



MUCH GRATITUDE: (from L-R) Jai Phutchuy, senior security supervisor; Parichat Boonkhongkerd, accounts receivable clerk; Suwat Noonun, bell driver; and Nick Porter, hotel GM.

Answering call of the wild

Homeworks Phuket hosted the Exotic Animals Show 2015 from October 30 through November 8. Guests were able to meet a variety of animals in the show as well as enjoy performances. The event also displayed many animal food supply and accessory booths.



A guest holds a yellow Burmese Python.



A child feeds milk to sheep and goats.



A child rides a Shetland pony.



A guest holds a Eurasian Eagle-owl, one of the largest species of owls.



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Thanyapura athletes win big at World Travel Joy



(From L-R) Amarni Gates, Chris McCormack, Nick Gates and Clint Kimmins.

IT WAS a clean podium sweep for Thanyapura's athletes at the World Travel Joy East Coast Challenge winning HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup last weekend in the 151 kilometer race in Rayong.

Phuket's former Tour de France cyclist Nick Gates triumphed in first place, followed shortly by four-time World Champion Chris McCormack. Clint Kimmins came in third place along with young star Amarni Gates in fifth.

This was the second annual World Travel Joy Challenge, which comprises a 151km and a 117km bike race that loops Rayong and Chanthaburi.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Anni Flynn set to take on world of flowboarding

PHUKET'S own surf superstar, Anni Flynn, is about to take on the world.

Already a well-respected pro on Asia's surf scene, for the past two years Anni has been working her way up the rankings for the new water-bound sport, flowboarding, which combines the skills of skateboarding, surfing,

bodyboarding and snowboarding.

The flowboarding phenomenon is spreading across Asia, with artificial surf machines popping up all over the region. It's popularity in Southeast Asia encouraged the organizers of the World Flowboarding Championships to hold the finals at Flow House Bangkok

on November 14-15.

Fresh from her win in the Asian Women's Pro Finals, staged at the Cartoon Network Water Park in Pattaya, Anni will now be up against the best in the world in Bangkok, with Team USA looking to defend their World Title in Bangkok for the fifth consecutive year.

Anni's focus will be on the

individual world title, where she will be up against Asia champ, Ili Lim and the United States flowboard supremo, Xana-Kai Nash.

With a cash prize purse of US\$10,000 up for grabs this year, this weekend's battle at Flow House Bangkok will be intense.

— *Simon J Hand*

Fishermen ready to get PIST

THE Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST) returns next week with three days of fun fishing and four nights of parties at the Tamarind Bar and Grill on Chalong Pier road.

The opening night event will be held on November 18, starting at 6pm, as fisher-folk from around the world line up to register for the tournament.

Last year the tournament celebrated its tenth anniversary and teams hailing from as far afield as the UK, Australia and the USA, as well as a number of European and Scandinavian countries, flew in to take part.

This year, tournament president Walter Dreier and organizer Uwe Schitteck hope that even more teams will join. "Last year, we had 16 teams from 13 different countries," Mr Drier said. "This year's goal is to encourage more competitors



Besides fishing, PIST is very much geared toward fundraising, coming up with 175,000 baht last year for children's charities.

to join and to make a new record for charity donations."

Beyond the fun of fishing, PIST is very much geared to-

ward fund raising, coming up with 175,000 baht last year.

The tournament has backed several children's charities in

the past, with a focus on the Koh Sirey children's home in Phuket Sunshine Village.

To explain just how dedicated the fisher-folk are to helping out the kids, every prize purse awarded at the final night's weigh in is accompanied by a chorus of "In da box, in da box, in da box!" as the winners are light-heartedly cajoled into 'posting' their winnings into the charity collection box.

Operating a strict catch-and-release policy for the big sail fish, the tournament also aims to be somewhat self-sustaining, with the smaller catches of the day finding their way onto the buffet table at the evening's parties, with the remainder being distributed to the local Thai community.

So, not only is PIST one of the most fun sporting events on the island, it's also one of the most delicious.

— *Ferdinand Cabrinovic*

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

November 14. The 2nd East Meets West Garage Sale

The 2nd East Meets West Garage Sale at the Phuket Boat Lagoon brings you great deals on quality second-hand goods and products at discount prices, including luxury items, clothes, accessories, home decor and boat supplies.

Come enjoy a variety of international and Thai cuisine as well as live music and DJs from 3pm until late.

November 14-15. Affiliate Marketing Mastery Workshops

Affiliate Marketing is simply making money selling other people's products.

After this training course you will be completely set up and ready to start making money through your own personal websites and sales funnel.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/AffiliatePhuket> or call 095-0853 355.

November 18-21. PIST 2015

The Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament is a fun, three-day fishing competition with great parties at the Tamarind Bar and free food and drinks.

It's a great way to help support local charities with all proceeds raised going to underprivileged children at the Phuket Sunshine Village.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions MCOT and local provincial cable), are proud to sponsor this event, now in its 22nd year in Phuket.

For more details, call 087-278 9966.

November 22-29. Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest

A week-long carnival of multi-sport fun and tri-related

activities for you to enjoy at Laguna Phuket.

Join the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (Nov 22) and the Challenge Laguna Phuket (Nov 29).

For more information, visit challengelagunaphuket.com

November 26. Celebrate Thanksgiving at Special AMCHAM Event

The Greater Phuket Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) and Angsana Laguna Phuket will hold a special Thanksgiving networking lunch on November 26 from noon until 3pm.

Whether you are an American or any other nationality, come and enjoy the very special meal with your friends, colleagues or family.

The event will be held at Angsana Laguna Phuket's poolside Bodega & Grill restaurant, which offers both air conditioned and open-air seating. Entry is 1,100++ baht and is open to all.

For more information contact Ryan at 076-324 101.

Cycling at dawn to Big Buddha

SINCE the Mingmongkol Buddha was completed on top of Phuket's Nakkerd Hills in 2010, I've felt the spiritual presence of the Gautama watching over me.

That may sound rather outlandish, but as I can look westward and see the Buddha from my bedroom window, it also has some rational underpinning. I particularly feel the Buddha watching whenever I set out for my regular bike rides along Wiset Road and down to Nai Harn and I usually offer up a silent prayer of thanks to the presence each time I come home unscathed from Phuket's maniacal roads.

Therefore, I thought it was only right that I cycle up to see the Buddha at sunrise one morning to offer a propitiation of gratitude for looking after me, and I chose the morning of August 31 to do so.

This auspicious day was that of the full moon and so I anticipated seeing Buddha, sun



The Big Buddha image atop the Nakkerd Hills reaches an astonishing 45 metres in height. Photo: Maxence

and moon in one breathtaking landscape at dawn.

Starting to cycle up to see the Buddha before sunrise is also a good idea in order to beat the twin Phuket demons of heat and traffic. The road to the top twists and turns and features some stiff sections of incline, so nullifying those



demons is particularly worthwhile.

I set off from the main road in Rawai in the still darkness after devouring a handful of fruit, and easily made it through

the notorious Chalong Circle, which was deserted.

As you reach the upper parts of the climb, you'll be rewarded by gorgeous views of Chalong Bay and out across Phang Nga Bay, as well as Phuket Town and Rang Hill to the east. The Buddha faces this way to greet the rising sun each morning, and so

did I, as I breasted the final ascent into the car park at the base of the huge concrete plinth upon which the Gautama sits.

The statue reaches an astonishing 45 meters in height and expands to 26 meters in width at the base. Close up, it was very peaceful at this time in the morning and the only noises I could hear were the tinkling of small bells and the yellow Buddhist flags flapping in the wind.

Sad to say, that once the Buddha opens to the public at 8am the area is turned into a complete nightmare of building construction, earth-moving trucks, dust, heat, pollution and ubiquitous tour buses sending their tourist crowds swarming in every direction.

One can only hope that final construction will be completed very soon and that peace and quietude fitting to the Buddha's presence is returned to this lovely hilltop.

Thousands to participate in 28th marathon in Bangkok



The 28th Standard Chartered marathon will start and finish in front of the Royal Grand Palace, Bangkok. Photo: Andy Marchand

THE 28th Standard Chartered Marathon will take place on November 15 in Bangkok. This is one of the biggest marathons in Thailand.

The event is held on the third Sunday of November every year. The race starts and finishes at Sanam Chai Road, in front of the Royal Grand Palace.

The road surrounding the area will be temporarily closed on the date of the event. Additionally, Bangkok Marathon 2015 also travels past many historical landmarks and through cultural and ethnic communities.

There are five categories in this marathon with the longest being a 42.195 kilometer race

to be completed in six hours. The other events include a half marathon, a 21km race to be finished in three hours; a 10km mini-marathon to be finished in an hour and a half; and a 4.5km micro-marathon to be finished in the same time. The events also feature a 1.5km fun walk.

The overall male and female marathon winners will be awarded a King's Cup.

Top five finishers in each age group will be awarded a King's Cup as well as cash prizes.

There is also a 100,000-baht cash prize, awarded separately to men and women, for breaking the current record time for finishing the race.

- TAT

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Phuket King's Cup Regatta to set sail

ONE of the standout international sporting events in the Asia region, the 29th Phuket King's Cup Regatta Under Royal Patronage prepares to set sail once again, swelling Phuket visitor numbers and making a large contribution to overall tourism performance.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2015 will be held at Kata Beach Resort and Spa from December 5 to December 12, hosting international racing classes in which more than 150 boats and 1,500 sailors will compete for one of sailing's most prestigious trophies.

"The diversity of craft, international complement of crews and the highlight spectacle of the post-race parties make this regatta a standout attraction in the region. As we stand but one year away from the magical 'Pearl' milestone of three decades of the King's Cup, we're very proud of the contribution this magnificent event makes to

Phuket and Thailand, and to the sport of sailing globally," said Kevin Whitcraft, president of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee.

Consisting of five days of racing on scenic courses amid the beautiful Andaman Sea islands, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta draws sailors and support crews from over 40 countries. This international gathering is a key event on the Phuket tourism calendar, generating over 400 million baht for local businesses, and offering residual value as it helps to grow the island's brand as a premier sporting paradise on the world stage.

As well as bringing some of the world's fastest independent racing teams, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta is famed for its beachside party series. Revelry and camaraderie to the backdrop of fireworks and live music form a big part of the attraction for competitors, as



Sailors out to race at the regatta. Photo: Guy Nowell

well as sponsors. The parties, essential events on the Phuket social calendar, are without a doubt a draw for Thai companies and international brands keen to grow their presence on a cosmopolitan platform.

Keelboats and multihulls are

scheduled to compete first, between December 7 and 9, with December 10 reserved as a lay day for competitors to adjust their strategies or fix their boats. The racing will then continue on December 11 and 12. The full complement of classes for the

2015 race year include IRC Zero (international 'Grand Prix' boats); the highly competitive IRC 1, IRC 2 and IRC 3; as well as Sports Boat, Modern Classic, Premier, Open Charter, Bareboat Charter, Classic, Cruising, Firefly 850 Sports, Multihulls Racing and Multihulls Cruising.

International Dinghy Classes will race from December 7 to December 10 at Kata Beach Resort and Spa. Classes are divided into Optimist Boys, Optimist Girls, Laser Standard, Laser 4.7 and Topper.

For regular visitors to the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, the event is associated with top class racing and is an unmissable event on the world sailing schedule each year. For guests who have never experienced the excitement and highly charged competitive atmosphere, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2015 is a must-visit showcase for the sport of sailing and for Phuket.



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Life jacket competition brings out inventive solutions for safety

AMERICAN Michael Garman took home first prize in the Life Jacket Design Competition at the International Boat Builders Exhibition and Conference in September.

The event was sponsored by the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water along with the Personal Floatation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA). A team of five judges from the boating, paddling and life jacket manufacturing industry reviewed nearly 250 contest submissions from as far away as Mongolia and New Zealand. They also asked recreational boaters to vote for their favorite design entry.

The goal of the competition was to rethink a 100-year-old design, seek out the newest technologies and design innovations and develop interest in newer, more versatile life jackets. Design entries were judged on the following criteria: innovation, wearability, value/affordability, reliability, versatility and practicality.

"Whether a commercial enterprise, an individual inventor-entrepreneur, a student or a

group of Scouts, the 2015 Life Jacket Design Competition brought forth a lot of creativity. The entries we have chosen will not only keep us afloat, but also show thoughtfulness, problem solving and practicality," said Competition Judge and Image Base Vice President Joe Fogarty.

The prototype designed by Mr Garman uses two-part expanding foam encased in a comfortable thermal fabric that's designed to keep the wearer cool. The design works with a smartphone application, so exact body measurements can be sent to the factory where the lifejacket is custom molded, offering a perfect fit right out of the box.

The heat reflecting fabric can be used on cold days to help keep the wearer warm – or reversed for hot days. Accessories such as a rear mounted hydration pack – great for paddlers – and custom pocket choices add versatility. A built-in signal mirror and whistle improve safety.

This was the third time BoatUS Foundation and PFDMA have teamed up for a PFD Design Contest.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Treasure trove of memorabilia

Books

By James Eckardt

ELOQUENT, exasperating, pretentious, earthy, fustian, laugh-out-loud funny, Sally Mann's *Hold Still* (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2015, 482pp) – billed as 'A Memoir with Photographs' – is very much a mixed bag.

Unlike other photographers who roam the world, Sally Mann found her material at home in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Lugging around a 100-year-old rosewood box-camera mounted on a tripod, she produced black and white photos through a complicated chemistry of ether and silver nitrate. Her subjects were her three pre-teen children as they roamed free on their secluded 360-acre family farm in a bend of the Maury River. Her collection, *Immediate Family*, was an immediate *success de scandale* since a quarter of her 60 photos showed her son and two daughters buck naked, as she herself had grown up during the 1950s.

The genesis of this memoir was a treasure trove of family memorabilia that Sally Mann unearthed in preparation for a series of lectures at Harvard.

"I will confess that in the interest of narrative I secretly hoped that I'd find a payload of southern gothic: deceit and scandal, alcoholism, domestic abuse, car crashes, bogeymen, clandestine affairs, dearly loved and disputed family land, aban-



The memoir is a treasure trove of unearthed family memorabilia. Photo: halfraim

donments, blowjobs, suicides, hidden addictions, the tragically early death of a beautiful bride, racial complications... and maybe even bloody murder.

If any of this stuff lay hidden in my family history, I had the distinct sense I'd find it in those twine-bound boxes in the attic. And I did: all of it and more."

Her own childhood was idyllic, much of it spent roaming the Shenandoah Valley on horseback. Then she discovered boys.

"This is a chapter we'll cut short: the bleached hair and

blue eye shadow, tight pants with what little breasts I had pushing up out of my tank top above them, the many boy-friends, the precocious sexual behavior, the high school intrigues, the vulgar, sassy mouth. . . My poor parents."

She was dispatched to home-sick exile at Putney School in Vermont and then went on to college in Bennington, before returning home with husband Larry Mann. At the farm, she teaches herself photography, educating the reader in the process. She is moved to pose her son for eight days in the river

to get exactly the right shot. She includes eight examples of shots that failed and explains why.

"It was not unusual when he announced that it was the last damn time he would model in the freezing river (by then it was October), and for some reason I titled the picture 'The Last Time Emmett Modeled Nude', although I knew the nudity was completely beside the point."

In contrast, sometimes a photographic masterpiece appears in an instant, as when daughter Jessie is dancing na-

ked on a front porch table and her mother captures the luminous moment of grace, "a tenth of a second with the expansive, vertiginous properties of Nabokovian timelessness".

Mann later travelled by herself throughout the Deep South, taking evocative landscape photos and spinning stories with earthly good humor. Once, she snuck into the grounds of a ruined plantation house, despite many No Trespassing signs. Her head is buried under the camera's cloth when she hears footsteps approach. She fears an irate owner. Instead she discovers a gentleman with a sweet Southern voice.

"He didn't look mean or angry at all; in fact, he had a benign, lazy look of somebody who's gotten into a sizable mess of nookie the night before."

He proves to be one of the many kind strangers who guide her along on her journey.

The memoir ends with a complex, brilliant, loving portrait of her father, a country doctor, grandson of a philanthropist, who spent the year after medical school, 1938, motorcycling through the art centers of Europe before striking off from Egypt across Asia to Burma, Thailand and Cambodia. His travel journals, with his own evocative photographs, break through the taciturn mask that he would later present to the world. Three decades later, terminally ill with brain cancer, he plotted his final departure. His suicide can only have been regarded as noble.

Happiness in pictures, words

CHILDREN are a source of great inspiration and their amusing actions and comments make for terrific stories. Proof can be found in the books of Yayee Publishing, the brainchild of editor Panida Iemsirinoppakul and illustrator and graphic designer Nitta Prabhasabhakdi, which are often centered on a sweet little girl – Chuenjai, the daughter of Panida and musician Trai Bhumiratna.

Launched last year, Yayee has been warmly welcomed by parents and little readers alike. The publisher recently hosted an event dubbed 'Yayee for My Loved Ones' at It's Happened to be a Closet on Sukhumvit 23 to introduce two new books.

Socialite Pitipat Sarasin and



Yayee Publishing's books mainly focus on a little girl named Chuenjai. Photo: The Nation

actress Pornthip Skidjai have collaborated for the first time on *My First Meals*, which is based on their experiences of raising their sons DD and Pooh. *Travel around the Kid*, meanwhile, recounts journeys made by Panida, Trai, and their daughter Chuenjai.

My First Meals is a collec-

tion of healthy dishes and tips that encourage sound eating habits in children. The menus are for children under two years old and are what the two mothers cook for their own children.

Travel around the Kid is a travel guide for families based on more than 15 trips taken by the family since Chuenjai was three months old, starting from Japan and continuing with other destinations including Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, Germany, and France. The book talks about their experiences and encourages parents to take their children abroad.

The books are ecofriendly, printed with safe soy ink.

– The Nation

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Residing in the luxury of a steadfast market

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

WHILE those involved in many segments of the Phuket property market are having to carefully navigate rough waters, those in the luxury residential market continue to benefit from smooth sailing.

“Premium luxury residential markets across the world are not directly impacted by market fluctuations in domestic housing sectors,” explained Micah Tamthai, vice president – real estate at Minor International, ahead of the completion of The Residences by Anantara.

Due for completion by mid-2016, the hillside development of 15 pool residences overlooking Anantara Layan is at the premium end of the Phuket marketplace, with prices starting from US\$6 million. The development will comprise residences from three-bedrooms to seven-bedrooms, in sizes ranging from 1,695 to 3,220 square meters.

“This development is a luxury product, and there is still real end-user demand for best-in-class new developments. The luxury property market in Phuket has always been strong and relatively unaffected by slowdowns in the Thai economy,” Mr Tamthai said. “We’ve had a fantastic response so far from our existing client base, and we plan to launch in the open market in 2016.”

With the upper end of the



With The Residences by Anantara, home owners are buying laid-back luxury, intuitive service and a sense of discovery, says Micah Tamthai, vice president – real estate at Minor International.

market being under-supplied with premium level new properties, Mr Tamthai sees The Residences being well positioned in the Phuket market.

“We foresee both domestic and international demand, notably from Hong Kong and the UK. These residences are ideal for global leisure family travellers or couples looking for a different vacation option, away from the hustle and bustle,” Mr Tamthai said.

As Anantara’s first branded residential development, The Residences has already had its

Thai-culture inspired design recognized with ‘Best Residential Interior Design’ awards in both the Thailand Property Awards 2015 and South East Asia Property Awards 2015.

“As more luxury hotels have been entering various Asian markets in recent years, we are seeing an increase in brand loyalty, with guests seeking hotel brands when they travel or when considering buying homes,” Mr Tamthai explained.

“Branded residences are popular because buyers are buying a lifestyle with which

they’ve become familiar.”

The 5-year rental program for owners has a contractual renewal option, which gives buyers the option of putting their whole villa, or just a lock-off unit, up for rent. Owners supply a schedule for when they plan to use the property during a 12 month period, and can always terminate the contract with written advance notice. However, Mr Tamthai points out that any reservations made prior to termination of the contract must be honored.

“The rental program is man-

aged by our five-star Anantara Layan Phuket Resort, which generates good return,” Mr Tamthai said. “Revenues received by the resort management are allocated to the owner (60 per cent) and the resort operator (40 per cent) after the expenses associated with marketing of the villa have been deducted.”

Though The Residences is one of the flagship resorts within the group, there are already plans in the pipeline to develop more residential properties, confirmed Mr Tamthai.

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The Deck built, selling hot

MEGA property developer Sansiri Plc’s latest project in Phuket, The Deck, is now 100 per cent complete, with only 30 per cent of units still available for purchase.

Of the 270 units in two seven-storey buildings, 60 per cent were sold by July, with 35 per cent taken by Thais and the remaining 65 per cent going to foreigners, including those from Singapore, Hong Kong and Europe. More than 95 per cent of sales were made to investors, confirmed Sansiri.

High rental demand in Phuket’s primary party town has been the source of demand for the project units, as well as the development’s ‘Rental for the Holidays’ program, which has a seven per cent guaranteed rental return for five years.

The Deck, with a development value of 1.4 billion baht, was designed to meet the needs of niche buyers looking for investment and rental potential in



Only 30 per cent of the property is still available.

a resort condominium in a prime location. As an adjustment to this, Sansiri built wider units with large balconies that offer good views.

There are three unit types, including studio (29-38sqm), one-bedroom (40.5 - 50.5sqm), and two-bedroom (63-75sqm).

Facilities include two swimming pools, one with a jacuzzi and the other on the rooftop, a fitness room, a common-area garden, wireless internet in the pool areas and parking.

Prices start from 4.6 million baht. – *Phuket Gazette*

Not a desert island, thankfully



Property Watch
Desmond Hughes

PHUKETIANS and long-term expatriates will recall the days when moving between beaches and Phuket Town required a scrambler bike due to the lack of roads. Umbrellas were occasionally sighted in Patong near the sandy Bangla Road track.

The property market in Phuket and the reasons for Thais and foreigners to invest in Phuket have radically changed, as has the tourism market.

Those that value solitude, peace and tranquility now have very limited options in Phuket; multi-million baht villas by the sea, for one. The cost of tranquility is extremely high. Economically, it would seem obvious that if the reason for buying an exclusive villa is privacy and peace, you could simply build one somewhere past Sarasin bridge in Phang Nga Province and pay substantially less for it than in Phuket. However, the truth is that the attraction of Phuket is not really solitude, peace and tranquility.



Living the dream: multi-million baht cost of tranquility. Photo: Madeleine Deaton

That simply isn't why people move to Phuket anymore.

LIVING THE DREAM

The dream of living on a desert island is indeed just that. Once there, most humans will then yearn for creature comforts. Phuket is no different. It was great when Tesco Lotus, Tesco Express and Central Festival arrived, and now there are other retail therapy options coming soon.

CHOICE REPRESENTS VALUE

Lake view townhouses; detached golf-course-view villas; marina berth condominiums; vista penthouses and mini-estates; vibrant Phuket Town traditional conversions; simple convenient Moo-Baan family homes with pool and gym facilities. All of this choice within a stone's throw from sailing, golf, quality massage and sauna experiences, high and low end

supermarkets, busy Thai markets and a calendar of Phuket events on a weekly basis. These options are what makes Phuket more expensive.

As many Phuketians will sometimes say to a foreigner who has lost their temper or seems to want to bracket one bad experience into an overall persecution of Thailand – if you don't like it here anymore, leave! There will still be plenty of people left behind, enjoying their experience.

THE RE-SALE MARKET

On roadshows and exhibitions, I used to be asked about the legal framework for foreign investment. Now I am more commonly asked commercial questions and one of the most frequently asked questions is 'What is the re-sale market like?' Well, existing owners actually create the real estate re-seller's market in part, through perception.

If you are still trying to sell others on the idea that Phuket is a quiet, tranquil place, then you are creating a false market that will collapse. If you constantly complain about the presumably well-researched informed choice you made, then you are damaging your own market. But if you sell Phuket and your property more realistically, the market will be more orderly, reliable and sustainable.

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

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50sqm, big terrace, kitchen, aircon, WiFi, fully furnished. 9,000 baht/month. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APT.

Paradise Hotel Complex. 150m to beach, large 1 bedroom, kitchen, light, airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL

For sale (2.8 million baht) or rent (12,000 baht/month) in Supalai City Hill Estate, Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, convenient location, furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons. Available from Nov 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, small garden. Rent: 15,000 baht/month. Phuket Town. Tel: 086-273 8690 (English & Thai). Email: paradee_poom@yahoo.com

SUPERIOR 4-BEDROOM VILLA & POOL

At Land & House Park - Chalong. Short holiday or long-term residence. Tel: 076-361367, 081-676 4849 (English & Thai), 081-772 2300 (English). Email: wiliam.amonoo@gmail.com

HOLIDAY HOMES & VILLA RENTALS**HOLIDAY IN NAIHARN**

2,3,4 bedrooms pool villas available. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

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CJP & property management services. Resolution of compliance issues. Kata, Karon - Phuket. Email: development@AssetManagementSolutionsPhuket.com

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2 beaches + Kata town in 3-minute walk. Rooftop pool, gazebo, sundeck. Kata, Karon. Email: info@katagardens.net

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CONDO FOR RENT

34sqm, 1 bedroom, a living room, fully furnished, opposite Central Festival Phuket. Phuket town. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

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2 bedrooms with aircons, 2 bathrooms with hot water, garage, village pool, tennis courts, and fitness park. Wichit - Phuket Town. Please call 086-267 7380 (English & Thai), 086-007 4010 (English). Email: dave.bare@gmail.com

4-BEDROOMS 5-BATHROOMS POOL VILLA

4-bedroom, 5-bathroom pool villa for rent in Chalong, 10x5m pool, fully furnished, WiFi internet, cable TV, fully-equipped Western kitchen. Short or long term available. For more information, please call 081-397 6921 (English), 093-584 3711 (Thai). Email: terryleetuck@hotmail.com

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Nice 1-bed condo. Fully furnished. Big pool. Gym. 16,000 baht/month. Long term. Email: marklouisw@hotmail.com

7,000 BAHT / MONTH

Attached house, 2 bedrooms, big garden on sea canal, near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-892 4311.

STUDIO - 33SQM 6,000 BAHT

33sqm studio for rent. Kitchen, furnished, 6,000 baht per month. Cosy and cheap. Chalong/Phuket Town. Email: cagnes surmer2@gmail.com

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STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

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**URGENT NEED
CAPANNINA RESTAURANT**

General Manager. Restaurant Manager. Assistant Restaurant Manager. Part-time Waiter or Waitress. 6-10pm. 120 baht per hour. Kata Beach. Tel: 076-270 610, 081-815 4845. Email: hr@ugolinigroup.com

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Electrical Marine Co Ltd is the leading marine electrical supplier in Thailand for over 25 years. We are looking for 1 competent electrical engineer and 1 trainee to support Western trained engineer. Please send CV, photo and expected salary. Tel: 076-272 177, 088-765 1832. Email: orawan@electrical-marine.com

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate requires an experienced English speaking freelance copywriter to write and upload property listings to our website. Good rates apply. Phuket. For more information, please call 076-288908. Email: richard@siamrealestate.com, www.siamrealestate.com

Phuket Gazette

As part of its expansion into national markets, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

Advertising Sales

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

- ▶ Thai national, 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 recognized university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Diao@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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THE DECK

Project Owner : Anawatt Limited. Company's registered no. 0105546144865. Head office : 475 Sri Ayudthaya Road, Thanon Phayathai, Rajthawi, Bangkok, 10400. Registered capital(THB) : 10,000,000.00, Paid up capital(THB) : 2,500,000.00 (as of date 3 Jun 2013). The President : Mr. Sreetha Thavisin. The Project : The Deck, Land title deed no. 15559, approximately area 5-0-40 Rai, Located at Rat-U-Thit 200 Years Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket Province, as a Condominium of 7 storey(ies), 2 building(s), total of 270 unit(s), (for residential: 270 units, and for commercial: - units). The Land and building have been mortgaged with Siam Commercial Bank PLC., in the process to submit the building permission. Construction will be started in Jan 2014 and expected to be completed in Mar 2015 which will later be registered as the condominium. The unit owner shall pay sinking fund, common fee, tax and other fees as prescribed by the Project Owner or the Condominium Juristic Person subjected to the Condominium law. *Company's conditions apply / Featured photography in the advertisement consists of photography with simulated atmosphere and simulated graphic. Should you have any questions regarding any photography, please contact our customer service staffs or visit our projects' site. Call 1685.

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