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INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'WE NEED TO KNOW ILLEGAL TAXIS AREN'T WORKING'

Uber issue

■ Alternative taxi service, connecting quality drivers to island passengers, banned ahead of investigation

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE Department of Land Transportation (DLT) has declared technology company Uber illegal, while admitting that it has yet to conduct an investigation into the company's operations in Thailand.

Uber, which launched quietly in Phuket last month, provides an alternative way to catch a cab through its smartphone application. However, it has officials dreading that the new-world service may open a window for illegal taxi drivers to return to the streets.

The DLT posted on its official website a warning stating that Uber company representatives in Thailand – not the drivers themselves – could be charged for operating an illegal public transportation service, which carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison, a fine of up to 100,000 baht or both.

The declaration follows more than a decade of taxi-mafia rule in Phuket being usurped by officials this year after an Army-led clear-out of illegal taxi drivers was commanded by the National Council for Peace and Order following the May 22 coup.

The Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) this week suggested that Uber clarify its current role in the island's public-transport sector.

"Though functioning as a middleman connecting passengers with drivers, it is essential for Uber to still..."

Continued on Page 5



The DLT banned the technology company from operating in Thailand. Photo: Reuters



Bumper issue packed with holiday gifts

THE *Phuket Gazette* begins the annual festive-season early this week with a record-breaking feast of 124 pages of reading for your enjoyment.

We've been busy with major foreign media leaders to bring you news supplements from the countries and the markets that matter a lot for Phuket – now and in the future.

Inside this week's *Gazette*, we're happy to bring you not only the weekly *China Daily*, but also *Russia Behind The Headlines* and our launch issue of *Myanmar in Focus*.

Also this week, we celebrate our annual tradition of showcasing Phuket businesses at major international property shows overseas. Following our sponsorships of the biggest and most important such shows in Hong Kong, Dubai and Moscow, this year, as you read this, we're at the Shanghai Real Estate Expo to promote the island's property industry with our special publication *Phuket Luxury Living*. Please enjoy your copy, enclosed with our best wishes.

- Ed

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This Week



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Cambodian monks disrobed in Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GROUP of 19 Cambodian monks are awaiting deportation after they were arrested and disrobed for violating several rules of the Buddhist monkhood as practiced in Thailand.

The monks were escorted by Wichit Police and Muang District officers to Wat Mongkol Nimit in Phuket Town to be stripped of their monkhood by Phra Kru Mettaphirom on Tuesday.

The monks failed to inform Phra Kru Mettaphirom, dean of Muang district, that they were coming and gain approval.

"All of the monks had proper monk identification from Cambodia, but they broke the rules by staying in an unapproved location, collecting alms in inappropriate hours and inveigling money from people," said Lt Col Pongkarn Boonprakong of the Wichit Police.

After the Cambodians were disrobed, immigration officers



The Cambodians were stripped of their monkhood.

were called in to verify the men's visas. Officers found that three of them had illegally entered Thailand.

"Only 16 of the men had valid visas to enter Thailand," said Maj Tienchai Chomphu of Phuket Immigration.

"We revoked the 16 visas because of the acts the men committed here. We charged the other three for illegally entering the country."

Police heard about the suspicious monks from locals who spotted them squatting in tents set up near an old Chao Fa tin mine and soliciting money from locals.

"We went to investigate the area, and found the men there with about 28,000 baht in cash between them," said Col Pongkarn.

Phra Kru Mettaphirom told the *Gazette* that about 100 Cambodian monks had been arrested in Phuket already this year.

Police try to identify bodies found at beaches

OFFICERS are attempting to identify the body of a Caucasian man found in the sea off Kata Beach on November 27.

Police said that they believed the man had died several days before his body was discovered.

"We didn't find a shirt or any clothes, except for the swim trunks he was wearing. He also had a tattoo on his left leg," said Lt Niphon Temsang of the Karon Police.

"We have contacted every police station on the island to see if anyone of his description had been



Police have yet to identify the body found in Surin. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar reported missing recently. At this stage, we have no leads, but we will continue to investigate."

Police are also still attempting to identify a body – originally thought to be that of a woman – that was found washed up on

Surin Beach in late September.

"DNA testing has now confirmed that it was the body of a man – not a woman," Lt Jeerasak Sungwisut of the Cherng Talay Police said.

A local resident made the gruesome discovery of the man's body – which had his hands bound behind his back.

Police are calling on anyone with missing male relatives to contact them directly so that they can be tested for a possible DNA match with the victim.

– *Gazette reporters*

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Umbrellas return

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Royal Thai Navy has lifted the ban on tourists bringing their own umbrellas to Phuket beaches.

The news broke on the morning of November 27, but failed to be disseminated quickly enough to prevent a bungled beach cleanup operation at Surin Beach, which resulted in angry reactions from tourists and local vendors.

During the Army-led foray onto the beach, one angry tourist tossed an umbrella into the sea.

However, the mistimed enforcement of the revoked ban on umbrellas was short-lived. Navy personnel were soon on the scene to explain that the ban had been lifted hours earlier by order of Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, commander of the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command.

The lifted ban was then made public in an announcement by a local authority governing the Cherng Talay beaches.

"For now, tourists are allowed to bring their own umbrellas to the beach," said Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).



Tourists are now allowed to bring their own umbrellas to Phuket's beaches. Photo: Supplied

"Mats are allowed too, but not sunbeds. There must be no services provided by local vendors on the beach."

The move follows weeks of pressure from businesses, tourists and even foreign governments.

Dutch Ambassador Joan Boer honed in on the future of Phuket's tourism sector in a visit on November 26 with Governor Nisit Jansomwong, during which he revealed that complaints had been

streaming in to the embassy from Dutch tourists about the high costs of taxis and the umbrella and sun-lounger conundrum.

The new solution comes as the military rubber-stamped the idea of tourists buying or renting umbrellas from shops on private property – preventing vendors from setting up shop on public land.

V/Adm Sayan asked that anyone witnessing the failure of a local government body to enforce the

new rule to report it immediately.

"Anyone who sees beach vendors setting up umbrellas or sun-loungers, or are even walking on the beach selling goods or beverages, please take a photograph and report it to the local police," he said.

"Those caught breaking the law will be charged for encroaching on public land. If officers do not take action, they will be charged for neglecting their duty."



Gen Patchara Boonyasit

No need to worry over terrorists, says official

PHUKET'S top cop has denounced an Australian government warning of possible civil unrest and threat of a terrorist attack in Phuket.

"We continue to advise Australians to exercise a high degree of caution in Thailand overall due to the possibility of civil unrest and the threat of terrorist attack, including Bangkok and Phuket," said the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Smarttraveller advisory service.

The warning went on to advise Australians against travel in the Deep South provinces, which are known for insurgency attacks.

"There are no terrorist organizations operating in Phuket. I have no idea why the Australian government would single out the island," said Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit.

"It is well known that the insurgency Thailand faces is in the Deep South, which is currently being handled by very capable officers.

"I would of course like to see Phuket removed from the notice – it is an unfair tarnishing of the province and could end up causing people to panic unnecessarily."

– Chutharat Plerin

One dead, three injured in family road trip

ONE woman died and a father and daughter were rushed to hospital with critical injuries after their car crashed into a roadside canal on November 30.

Officers were called to the scene, on Thepkrasattri Road northbound, and found the car on its side in a two-meter-deep canal, Lt Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai Police told the *Gazette*.

A family of three – Surin Hanthon, 38; Supawanee Samutbal, 41; and Sunida Hanthon, 11 – were driving home to Phang Nga after running errands in Phuket with their

neighbor, 28-year-old Saisamon Kruabaen, when the accident happened, said Lt Thanom.

The car was travelling at high speed when the driver, Mr Surin, suddenly swerved to avoid hitting a car in front, he said.

Ms Saisamon died at the scene, and the family of three were taken to Thalang Hospital for initial treatment.

"However, Mr Surin and Ms Sunida were transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further treatment because of the severity of their head and internal injuries," Lt Thanom said.

– Thawit Bilabdullar



The car landed in a roadside canal.

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Vendors told to halt work during land investigation

A TEAM of officers from the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division arrived on Koh Naka on November 28 to investigate a complaint of illegal encroachment on public land.

The officers found themselves amid a spat over private land leased out by a holding company that claims to own more than 33 rai on the small island – a claim that is already under investigation for encroaching on public land.

The complaint alleged that the local village chief had allowed seven people to operate businesses renting out beach umbrellas and that these operators were blocking access to a local restaurant.

After hearing the testimonies of all involved, umbrella operators were ordered to cease work until the Land Office confirms the boundaries of the land.

Officials were also ordered to verify the legality of the restaurant. – *Athip Karndee*

Navy backs jet-ski plan

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PATONG'S management system for jet-skis will be the model for all of Phuket, the Royal Thai Navy announced on November 27.

"Zones separating swimmers from jet-skis will be applied in Patong first, and then at other beaches on the island," said Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej, commander of the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command.

"The order has already been signed off by Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong with the approval of local government bodies."

Jet-skis are to remain in the water and not on the beach during working hours. The one exception will be a jet-ski marked with a Red Cross symbol, which will be used for rescue operations, V/Adm Sayan said.

The plan for jet-ski zones and swimming areas has been modified since it was announced last month by Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut.

There will now be three swimming zones marked with buoys, stretching 500 meters along the



A jet-ski operator narrowly misses a surfer last month.

beach and reaching 150 meters into the sea, explained V/Adm Sayan.

The 300 meters of sand between the swim zones will provide beach access for jet-skis and speedboats.

Phuket's leading authorities have come under mounting pressure to rein in jet-ski operators, who remain free to continue rent-

ing out jet-skis at the island's beaches, while all other businesses on the sands have been torn down and banned.

The latest call to regulate the jet-ski cowboys came at the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) forum, which focused on the future of Phuket's marine tourism industry.

No substantial progress has been made in regulating jet-skis or protecting tourists from the variety of scams jet-ski operators are known to employ, said Martin Carpenter, British Honorary Consul for Phuket.

"We now have another governor to speak to, and, unfortunately, the first subject is going to be jet-skis," he told the forum on November 21.

The call for action came a few weeks after Phuket Marine Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut granted jet-ski operators permission to continue working at the beaches.

The notorious reputation of jet-ski scams in Thailand, mainly of tourists being scammed by corrupt jet-ski operators, prompted the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to announce a plan in August to work with the Department of Tourism, under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, to tackle the problem.

The move followed the NCPO issuing a command to clean up and regulate the jet-ski businesses operating at many of Thailand's major beach destinations.

Father, son nabbed for theft

POLICE arrested a father-and-son bag-snatching duo for robbing a woman on Monday, confessedly in order to make payments for the motorbike used in the crime.

Officers arrested Narongchai Aroonmek, 39, and his 15-year-old son at a rented room in Rassada at about 7pm.

"We tracked them down after reviewing CCTV footage in the Vanich Road area of Phuket Town, where the crime took place," explained said Lt Col Somsak Thongkliang of the Phuket City Police.



The father-son duo.

Mr Narongchai took full responsibility for the crime, but both he and his son were charged for the theft. – *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Father's Day kicks off

Saphan Hin plays host to a plethora of events in honor of HM The King

By Khumpee Prasertphol

THE first of a five-day Father's Day celebration for Phuket residents and tourists kicked off at Saphan Hin on Monday.

Every year on December 5, Thai people nationwide celebrate the birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. As HM The King is deeply respected and much loved as the father of Thailand, Thai people also use the day to celebrate their own fathers.

On Friday, December 5, HM The King, or King Rama IX, turned 87 years old.

Born the second son to Prince Mahidol of Songkhla, the brother of King Prachadhipok (Rama VII), HM The King is part of the long line of Chakri Dynasty monarchs which have ruled Siam since 1782.

HM The King officially began his rule in 1950.

His full name – Bhumibol Adulyadej – means 'The Strength



Officials opening the ceremony at Saphan Hin wore yellow – HM The King's favorite color. Photo: PR Dept

of the Land: Incomparable Power'. HM The King is a great achiever. He has been called the revolutionary king, the reformist

king, the development king, the jazz king (he has composed no less than 50 songs), and the people's engineer. To Thais, however, he

is known fondly as "the Father of the Nation," or *Por Luang*.

This year, in honor of HM The King's 87th birthday, the Phuket

Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) held a grand, five-day celebration at Saphan Hin, with events which took place from December 1 to December 5.

Saphan Hin was covered in food stalls and small shops, and there were stage performances each night. At the end of every night of the festival, a five-minute video played, featuring Phuket residents paying their respects to HM The King.

Anyone could come and join the festivities, as the event was open to the general public.

Many famous bands and artists performed at the event, including Dee Plee, Paradox, Sun Music, Kratae & Kratai R Siam, Supply, TCL, Zeal, Thossakan, Neam Ronnadej, Black Sheep Band, Kangsom and Dome the Star.

On the last night of the celebrations, there was a special candle-lighting ceremony, followed by a firework show.



Officials fear that the Uber service will provide a chance for illegal taxis to once again gain control of the island. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Uber battles

From Page 1

...coordinate with the PLTO so that we have an understanding of how many drivers use their services, and who these drivers are," said PLTO chief Terayout Prasertphol.

"We understand that they are aiming to improve the quality and safety of taxi services in Phuket. However, many of the changes we have recently made to rid the island of 'black plate' [illegal] taxis have already done that.

"At this point, we need to take steps to ensure that illegal taxi drivers are not able to find ways back into the system."

Mr Terayout's concerns echoed those voiced by the DLT's official warning, which suggested that the company may be placing customers unknowingly in the hands of illegal drivers.

The company, however, explained to the *Gazette* that is not the case.

"In Phuket, Uber partners with established, licenced chauffeur-driven limousines/rental companies that are registered and

accredited by the government," an Uber representative said.

Nonetheless, Mr Terayout said a sting operation might be established to catch any possibly illegal drivers operating at the beckoning of Uber.

Uber, a US\$18.2 billion (596bn baht) company that claims to be operating in more than 250 countries, explained to the *Gazette* that they are more than willing to co-operate with officials.

"We respect and welcome the opportunity to engage with relevant authorities to help them better understand the value we bring to the transportation system of Thailand," the Uber representative said.


"Uber is bringing safety, reliability and convenience to millions of riders, while creating economic opportunities for hundreds of thousands of driver-partners."

The key is for Uber to gain approval from the provincial government, noted Mr Terayout.


"I'm not saying that Uber can never operate in Phuket. They just need approval first," he said.

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The beach vendors protested being kicked off Patong Beach.

Sellers sing anthem in protest of beach ban

DOZENS of Phuket beach vendors gathered at the Patong Police Station and sang Thailand's national anthem on Monday, after they were forced off the beach by police and municipality officers.

"The Navy told us that we were allowed – that only umbrella vendors were prohibited," one vendor said.

"We are just trying to make a living. Why can't we sell drinks and small goods on the beach?"

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Phochanaphan told the crowd that his officers were following strict orders.

"We are enforcing the law as it has been handed down by the National Council for Peace and Order," Col Chiraphat said.

"We understand that you wish to carry on with your businesses so you can make a living, but it is beyond our authority."

Col Chiraphat reiterated what the Navy confirmed last week, making it clear that the vendors would not be allowed back on the beaches.

In response to Col Chiraphat's words, the crowd sang the national anthem before departing from the station.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Two live grenades discovered in Rawai residential area

A BURMESE trash-burner discovered two live M26 hand grenades at a dump near a Phuket residential area in Rawai Tuesday afternoon.

The man, named by police only as Mr A, identified the dangerous weapons of war and immediately informed his employer, who promptly reported the find.

Phuket's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit arrived shortly thereafter.

"The two standard M26 grenades still had their pins in place," Lt Prachpong Keawkamjan, head of the EOD unit, told the *Gazette*.

"Luckily, Mr A did not mess around with the weapons once he realized what was in

the plastic bag."

The EOD squad roped off the area in Soi Saiyuan, Rawai, before spending about five minutes recovering the explosives.

"We believe the weapons were hidden by someone who was afraid of being arrested due to the recent crackdown by police on weapons, drugs and illegal items," Lt Prachpong said. "We'll leave the rest of the investigation to the Chalong Police."

In late October, a live M67 hand grenade was found on Panwa Beach. Nobody was injured in the discovery and disposal of that weapon.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



The grenades were removed by the EOD squad.

Battle against illegal billboards

By Chutharat Plerin

THE growing number of unsightly roadside advertising signs illegally erected on government land will be pulled down, confirmed a Phuket official on November 28.

The news flies in the face of reports that all billboards along Phuket's roadsides will be pulled down.

"I have already discussed the problem of haphazardly erected signs beside Phuket's roads with Governor Nisit Jansomwong," Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office, told the *Gazette*.

"Every sign that has been illegally placed on public land will be pulled down – but signs on private land with the proper permission will be allowed to stay, as local government takes care of regulating those."

Government billboards on public land used to advertise important issues such as road safety would also be left standing, as they are there for the benefit of the community, said Mr Samak.

Most of the illegally-erected roadside hoarding that is on government land advertise new housing and other real-estate



Officials struggle to tear down illegal billboards as fast as they are erected – especially on the weekend.

projects, he noted.

Mr Samak said that the Highways Office was in a continuous battle to dismantle illegal billboards, with many of them being erected during weekends, when officers are off duty.

"Those people who put up illegal billboards know our weaknesses and often do it on a Friday evening – or during the night –

because they know our office is closed and the earliest we can pull down the billboards is on the following Monday," he said.

The Darasamuth and Samkong intersections are favored spots for illegal advertisers, as the billboards there would be viewed by a large number of motorists.

"The problem is everywhere – not just in Phuket – because the

penalties for this offence are small. It is really spoiling our roadsides," Mr Samak explained.

"Once Governor Nisit returns from China, we [Phuket Highways Office] will raise the issue with him again and ask him to introduce tighter rules.

"In the meantime, my staff will continue to remove these illegal billboards as fast as we can."



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The plot thickens

B1mn reward for Pattani businessman latest in corruption saga

AROUND THE
nation

A BOUNTY of 1 million baht has been offered for information leading to the arrest of a much-wanted Pattani-based businessman accused of trading in contraband petrol and bribing police.

Royal Thai Police spokesman Lt Gen Prawut Thawornsiri said on Monday that the reward was offered by RTP chief Gen Somyot Poompanmoung himself in the hope of apprehending Sahachai "Sia Jo" Jiansermsin, who had been charged with money-laundering and contraband petrol trading in the Deep South.

Gen Somyot earlier dismissed reports of 10 police generals being involved in the lucrative illicit trade. He said lists of a large num-



Witthaya Theskunthod under arrest. Photo: The Nation

ber of bribe-takers seized from Mr Sahachai were being examined to identify the people, who were mostly referred to by nicknames or aliases, reported *The Nation*.

Two former Army sergeants – accused of intimidation and cor-

ruption in association with former crime-buster Lt Gen Pongpat Chayaphan, the now-disgraced and dismissed chief of the Royal Thai Police Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) – were expected to surrender on Monday, but failed

to present themselves to police.

CIB commissioner Lt Gen Sriwara Rangsiyaprammanakul said the Army had promised to secure both sergeants and hand them over.

Twelve people associated with the corruption and intimidation racket are in custody while three others – the two former Army sergeants and Witthaya Theskunthod – are still at large.

Police on Monday forced open two of the three deposit boxes seized from Pongpat's 11 homes and found nothing inside. The opening of the third box was underway as of press time on Monday. The two empty boxes had been handed to the Office of Police Forensic Science to inspect and extract fingerprints.

National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) secretary-general Panthep Klanarongran said Gen Pongpat's asset declaration would be compared to a list he had submitted to the police to determine if they were accurate.

**Auditor jailed
20 years over
billion-baht
fraud scandal**

A KEY suspect in the Bangkok Bank of Commerce (BBC) fraud scandal was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Monday, commuted originally from a total term of 155 years resulting from convictions on 31 counts of embezzlement and violation of a law regulating property management.

Chattawat Muttamara was also ordered to reimburse 732.98 million baht to the BBC stakeholders and pay 31mn baht in fines, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Chattawat, founder of SiamMass Co Ltd, which was hired by BBC to audit its assets, was found guilty of intending not to follow auditing requirements and of doing so jointly with BBC president Krirkkiat Jalichandra, thereby causing damages to the bank and its stakeholders amounting to 732,982,485.17 baht.

The same charges against BBC president Krirkkiat Jalichandra were dropped because he has died.

Prosecutors set to arraign Koh Tao murder suspects

PUBLIC prosecutors were set to arraign two Myanmar suspects on Tuesday on charges related to the murder of two British tourists on Koh Tao in September.

"Evidence presented by investigators is solid," Tawatchai Seangchaew said on Monday in his capacity as head of the Office of State Attorney Region 8.

Mr Tawatchai said police had backed their report with witness statements, circumstantial evidence and forensic evidence.

He noted that speculation about the suspects being scapegoats may have stemmed from the fact people did not have access to complete information and full sets of evidence, reported *The Nation*.

"Under the law, some items of evidence can't be disclosed publicly," he said.



The suspects. Photo: The Nation

Koh Tao, a usually idyllic island, was the scene of the brutal killings of Britons David Miller and Hannah Witheridge – which made local and international headlines.

A few weeks later, Thai police arrested two Myanmar suspects and charged them with the murders. But Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Htun later complained that they were forced into confessing to the crimes they had not committed.

Hearings on reform to begin by end of December: NLA

THE National Legislative Assembly (NLA) will commence public hearings on national reform and reconciliation in the northeastern provinces of Mukdahan and Bueng Kan in late December.

Under the process, the assembly would call on educational institutes, the Interior Ministry's networks, non-governmental organizations and local communities to reach out to every target group, reported NLA vice president Peerasak Porjit.

The Mukdahan and Bueng Kan hearings will be held from

December 27-29.

Mr Peerasak said the NLA would not seek an additional budget in order to hold the public forums, but instead would request permission from Parliament when it starts the public hearings in Mukdahan and Bueng Kan.

Mr Peerasak said that in addition to the public hearings, the NLA intended to win the support of people who held different political views in a bid to propel the country towards the reform roadmap's third stage – democratic elections.

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Time to forge a new future for the island Friendsgiving

FIRST PERSON

MOST of the feedback I have received about the beach-cleanup campaign is that tourists want to see the government strictly enforce the law. Most of them have no problem with the campaign. They understand the problems that have been brought about by beach vendors occupying the sands.

Beach vendors became a provincial-level problem because local officials let them go unchecked for years and it got out of hand.

I personally agreed with the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) mandating that the beaches be cleared. Officials let it go on too long. They did not consider managing the beach to be a serious issue, so it became a big problem when people used public land for their own businesses.

Now, it is up to government bodies to take care of, but what remains critical is that tourists want to see Phuket officials enforcing the law and being fair to everyone.

They want to see officials make safety and security a top priority, and provide proper public utilities for everyone. They do not want them to pick on some businesses, and leave others alone. That act alone can do much harm to the tourism industry.

Law enforcement must be carried out at all times, not only during



Bhuritt Maswongssa is the vice president of Marketing at the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA). Originally from Yala, he moved to Phuket in 1985. Vice chairman of the Patong Resort Hotel; a law graduate from both Ngee Ann College in Singapore and Ramkhamhaeng University in Thailand; and a master's graduate in business from Phuket Rajabhat University;

Mr Bhuritt is a force to be reckoned with.

Here, he calls for law enforcement in Phuket to make tourists feel safe on the island, and reveals the feedback he has received from tourists about the beach-cleanup campaign.

some pre-defined periods or so-called "crackdowns". Otherwise, it will be hard to contain the negative influences and prevent the same situation from recurring.

All these issues have taken their toll on Phuket's tourism, but none more so than the current state of oversupply in tourist accommodations on the island. There are too many hotels, too many rooms.

Although we currently have about the same number of tourists as last year, the current occupancy rate of hotels is 65-70 per cent.

There is little we can do to improve occupancy rates in Phuket.

We can't reduce the number of rooms available, so we keep doing our best in marketing the island as a holiday destination.

Our role - that of the PTA - is to bring tourists to Phuket. We do the marketing. We leave the public-utility management to the government sector.

If anything, we should be working closer with government agencies to make sure our marketing plans and the island's development are kept at a close pace, so that the supply of hotels stays close to the level of demand.

We are ready and willing to do this. Together is always better.

THANKSGIVING was last week.

No doubt the Macy's Day parade, or football (American football, of course), was on TV while my family members in the US braced themselves for the big meal.

Thanksgiving is a hard day to be away from home. It's a true, family affair - even more so than Christmas.

Luckily, I have wrangled up friends here who, despite being from nowhere near America, like to enjoy the day and good food.

We went to dinner together that night. I admit that I might have crossed the slightly-annoying-American-friend threshold a few times, as I kept saying how "homey" the meal was. At one point, I even suggested that the night would be perfect if they just had the Macy's Day Parade on TV.

I then looked back and forth at my friends for some validation, and was met with blank stares.

One friend said, "No, I don't know of it." The other jokingly said, "Oh yeah, the parade. It's spectacular."

That was a failure.

I should know, after 16 months on the other side of the world and much exposure to not only Asian, but other Western cultures too, that America is not the center of the universe.

Anyway, we moved past that awkward moment. Later, I decided to bring up my attempts over the last few weeks to get into the Christmas spirit.

I said that I had been listening to carols, but it wasn't working because it's so hot outside. When you associate Christmas with cold



This gigantic turkey float is an icon of the annual Macy's Day Parade in New York City. Photo: Ben W

Island View

By Mauri Grant

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

weather and sitting by the fire, it's a challenge preparing for the holiday in perpetual summer heat.

Again - blank stares.




"We are both from the southern hemisphere," said one friend.

Despite having to bridge some cultural gaps, the night was great.

Friendsgiving - when friends are a substitute for family - is a brilliant idea.

It is something especially comforting for those of us so-called "orphan" expats. Between the ambiance of the restaurant, the homey food and the company of true friends, that familiar Thanksgiving feeling was there.

After a night like that, it's hard not to be in the Christmas spirit.

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Umbrellas are back in paradise

THE recent lifting of the ban on tourists bringing umbrellas onto island beaches is a step in the right direction, one the *Gazette* hopes will eventually lead to a comprehensive and sustainable solution that meets tourists' needs while continuing to protect our beaches from encroachment.

However, Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), made it clear that only the acquisition of umbrellas from operators working off nearby private land would be allowed on Surin and other beaches under his jurisdiction [see News pages]. The pragmatically creative compromise thus maintains the lofty new directive that all public beaches are to remain free of private commerce in all forms.

There is no question that a complete overhaul of beach business activity in Phuket was long overdue after decades of systemic corruption created a system of extorting billions of baht for the rights to ply goods and services on the sands. Additionally, the system left many island beaches in a woeful state, with some areas more closely resembling seaside flea markets than what is typically depicted on travel brochures.

The National Council for Peace and Order clearly knew what was at stake when it cleared the beaches, and then drew an inviolable line in the sand banning any commercial re-colonization.

If the ban can be enforced long-term, not only could it make beach tourism here more sustainable, but could also bring it more in line with other upscale destinations around the globe.

However, there are other practical considerations that need to be addressed in the short term. One of the benefits of the "old" system was that people working on the beaches played key roles in keeping the sands safe and clean.

As an important way to attract customers, it was in their best interests to keep their "patches" of the beaches free of debris. Tourists from most developed nations are conditioned to clean up after themselves after a day at the beach. Sadly, this is not the case with many domestic tourists.

The Navy, which operates a base in the heart of Songkhla Town, need only look at the state of the popular Samila Beach there to see just how disgracefully dirty a popular beach can become when locals use it for picnics, then pull their mat out from under it, leaving all their plastic and Styrofoam garbage on the sand.

Just as importantly, beach vendors also kept an eye on their clients and their belongings, allowing them to go for a swim without having to worry about having their valuables being stolen.

They also warned tourists of other threats, such as the dangers of rip currents. Now that they are banned from our beaches, who will step up to play these important roles?



Fast and furious Rawai highway

Re: *Gazette online, I & A: No breaks for now in Rawai road median, December 1*

No doubt the 800-meter Viset Road median strip has solved some problems, but I suggest that it has created equally bad or worse ones.

Firstly, as Alistair Beveridge notes, ghost riders who create contra lanes are extremely dangerous. Asking people to obey the law will have zero effect. Enforcement changes behavior.

Secondly, the u-turn at the northern end verges on the suicidal after 800 meters of high-speed traffic comes to a dead stop or tries to merge into the slower left lane without prior warning.

I also sympathize with those just trying to cross the road who have no halfway safety zone.

I recommend Khun Samak spend an hour there at dusk and make a risk assessment between 0-10. My rating would be 11.

A cutting in the median strip with traffic lights needs to be installed at the previous Viset Rd t-junction with busy Suksan Soi 2. (I live 5 kilometers further on.)

This would have the added benefit of calming high-speed traffic from Rawai that only ends up stalling for 15-20 minutes at Chalong roundabout anyway.

Richard Cooper
Rawai

I'll pay more for no magical mystery tour

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket officials demand Uber vow against illegal taxi revival, December 1*

I've used it twice, and both times each taxi provided excellent service.

I knew when they were going to arrive, how far we had to go, the cars were excellent and so were the drivers. I would definitely use it again.

Letters to the Editor

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

The only downside is the cost, but then at least I know what I'm getting for my money, and not a magical mystery tour.

Cathrine Page
Facebook

Time to tighten rules for island jet-skis

Re: *Gazette online, Navy backs Patong jet-ski plan as model for Phuket, November 28*

In any resort around the world you're going to find water sports like jet-skis and parasailing.

In some countries, there are tighter controls than others.

I read the article and it was starting to sound sensible enough until I got to the proportions. The jet ski operators do not need 300-meter wide stretches of beach!

They need a 50-75m entry point, or thereabouts, to the beach. They need to be licenced and part of that should require comprehensive insurance that protects tourists in case of injury/death, removing motive for the scams.

You say the jet-ski is damaged? Fine, claim it on your insurance.

Sean Hendy
Facebook

At least one law needs some serious updates

Re: *Gazette online, Facebook posts snare Phuket road rage thug, December 1*

No gun charges can be pressed because no complaint was made? Talk about a prime example of a law that needs updating.

He was caught on video break-

ing the law in a very serious way, but the law needs someone to "complain" about such behavior?

I'd like to volunteer my services. I complain. Anyone else?

Captain Jack
Gazette forum

Pay attention to the corruption in Phuket

Re: *Gazette online, Police corruption scandal: B1mn reward for 'Sia Jo', December 2*

While it is comforting that corruption is being dealt with in this case, I believe that it's small compared to what has been going on in Phuket.

The selling of park land and the beach-rental scheme have netted billions of baht per year, for many years, for some individuals.

Why is it that anything corrupt that goes on here is not addressed by the government in Bangkok?

There is so much clear evidence of corruption here, but nothing is ever done about it.

Tim
Gazette forum

Three cheers for local events and celebrities

Since the Asian Beach Games, it has suddenly become clear how many large international events already call Phuket home.

The Laguna Tri-Fest, as well as the King's Cup Regatta, should be enormous points of pride for the island.

What is unfortunate is that we don't see more local spectators.

Right now, some stunning racing boats are sitting on our shores, though most of the world-class triathletes have come and gone.

Where is the local fanfare for niche-market celebrities?

Alex
Chalong

Phuket Gazette

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Avoid offshore workers' retirement-plan pitfalls

Finance
By Don Freeman

THAILAND hosts a sizable population of offshore oil workers. They are unlike the majority of investment clients found here. Most clients are retired and their portfolios are being managed for income and capital preservation. However, offshore oil workers have the advantage of being able to live in Thailand and also bring in a very nice income. In 1993, I was a project mechanical engineer for a US research base in Antarctica for a year. All food was provided and housing paid for. With nowhere to spend money, I saved 85% of my income.

The problem is that most offshore or contract workers make two very common mistakes. For one, most are not even thinking of retirement. Due to the dangers of their jobs, they have a live-in-the-moment attitude. While a great many earn over US\$100,000 per year, very few save much of it.

The second mistake that many make is buying unit-linked life assurance products. These products not only have upfront fees, but recurring fees every year; poor performance; and seven to 10-year lock-in periods. Anyone who is familiar with these products knows to run away as fast as they can.

What offshore oil workers should be focused on is saving their money in a low-cost discount brokerage account held in their own name only and reap-



Offshore oil workers have an advantage by living in Thailand while earning a high wage. Photo: Divulgacao Petrobras

ing the benefits of compounded interest.

Considering how cheap it is to live in Thailand, let's say the worker is able to save US\$50,000 a year for 10 years. The key is putting that money to work in a diversified portfolio exposed to the stock market, which, over time, appreciates in value. The goal is to be able to retire in just 10 years.

For the past 10 years, the Vanguard REIT ETF has achieved an annual return of 9.29%. This return was achieved even with the real estate crash of 2008 and 2009. That's why it's important to invest for the long haul. Over a 10-year period, if the Vanguard REIT ETF was the only holding in a portfolio, and by investing US\$50,000 a year, there would now be US\$963,351 (31,013,658 baht) in the portfolio.

The best part about this pro-

gram is that it's only saving half a year's salary. The rest can still be spent and enjoyed. The key is setting one up so that retirement within 10 years is realistic. With an actively-managed portfolio, there could be more than US\$1 million in the portfolio.

Just look at shares of Facebook. Since July of last year, shares have gone from just above US\$20 to almost US\$80.

Or look at the NASDAQ stock market, which is up 27% in the past year.

So what happens when the 10 years is up and the worker is ready to retire? Do they have to stop spending money? No, not at all. The good news is that they are used to living on US\$50k a year in Thailand. Once the 10 years is up, the portfolio is adjusted more conservatively and only a 5%

annual return is sought. This is just a little more than half of the 9% that the Vanguard REIT ETF delivered in the past 10 years. What is 5% on US\$963,000? As might have been expected, it's US\$48,000.

At the end of 10 years, the worker has a roughly US\$1mn nest egg, is retired and living on the same amount of money as when they were working offshore on the oil rig.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, an independent US Registered Investment Advisor. He has over 20 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.



The Honda HR-V. Photo: Supplied

Honda gears up to battle poor market with HR-V

THE automobile market may have headed downhill by more than 30 per cent this year, but Honda is in gear to make up lost ground with the launch of the Honda HR-V.

The company trimmed sales forecasts at the end of last year as the slump in Thailand's market took hold and Honda's deliveries plunged in the last quarter of 2013.

"Every Japanese carmaker was hurt in Thailand, and so was Honda," Kota Yuzawa, an analyst at Goldman Sachs Group in Tokyo, told *Bloomberg* in January. "Honda hasn't launched its new hit products in the region, so we'll have to wait until next year to see a pickup in volumes."

Honda's answer was showcased in Phuket last weekend at the "All-new HR-V Premium and Sport Night Opening" event.

Thailand is the third country after Japan and China to get this small crossover model. The plant here will also export it to Asean markets.

In the Kingdom, the HR-V is expected to see competition from the Mazda2, Mitsubishi Triton and Nissan X-Trail, while it battles it out on the roads elsewhere against the Ford EcoSport, Peugeot 2008, Nissan Juke and Holden, among other sub-compact SUVs.

- Isaac Stone Simonelli



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HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

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December 16-18, 10:30am-

11:30pm. Asia Superyacht Rendezvous 2014

Phuket will welcome superyachts, their owners, captains and VIP guests to the 14th Asia Superyacht Rendezvous for three days of excitement, from December 16-18. Once the first night's formalities are concluded, the majestic *Silolona* will host an opening cocktail party.

With two days of friendly yet competitive "Superyacht Races",

principal sponsor Feadship will host the "Challenge" during the second night's fun, where participants are to construct model boats to race. Kata Rocks will again be the spectacular host venue where all shore events will take place, culminating with the opulent gala dinner.

The annual Superyacht Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and the "Phuket Today" show, the

island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions).

December 24, from 6pm-9pm. Christmas Festivities and Feasts at Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort

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December 24, 6pm- 11.30 Two Chefs at Kata Beach and Kamala

Two Chefs Traditional Christmas Buffet is at two locations this year. At our newly reopened Kata beach branch and our Kamala branch we are offering one early buffet @ 6pm and a late buffet @ 9pm. These large buffets include: cold smoked salmon, roast beef, Christmas ham, pickled herring, Swedish meatballs, ginger and honey marinated pork ribs, roast turkey breast stuffed with herbs, chocolate mousse, saffron rolls, ginger bread cookies, and rice a la Malta with strawberry sauce. All this and much more... Only 1,450 baht, kids just 750 baht (under 12 years of age). Live music from 7pm with the famous house bands. Come for the food, and stay for the fun!

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Letting out the spinnaker as King's Cup parties gain momentum

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee, led by its president, Kevin Whitcraft, hosted the official opening ceremony of the 28th Phuket King's Cup Regatta on November 30 at the Kata Beach Resort & Spa. VIPs and hundreds of sailors from around the world joined the party – with plans to attend many more throughout the week – in what is hailed as the greatest regatta in the region.



MULTIHULL ADVENTURES: Olivia Wongarin (left) is joined by other members of team Starfruit: 'Mr Igor' and Kalmykov Konstantin.



LET THE RACES BEGIN: Kevin Whitcraft (right), president of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee; Santi Kanjanabandhu, Phuket King's Cup Regatta committee member; Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak and his wife Mrs Sathaporn; and Charanya Daengthongdee (left) are joined by other VIPs at the opening event. Photos: Isaac Simonelli



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Angsana counts its Lucky Elephants

LEADING THE WAY WITH ART: My Lucky Elephant art competition – which saw three local students from three local schools create papier maché elephants – came to a close after the students were given scholarships, and arts and crafts supplies were given to the schools for their efforts.



Kids prepare to build a papier maché elephant. Photos: Angsana PR



The white elephant marched off with first place.

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Seaview over Chalong Bay marina. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, private pool. Chanote. Size: 800sqm. Price: 25 million baht. Tel: 084-868 1732, or 084-933 9829. Email: kig wd@hotmail.com

URGENT!! PATONG VILLA 4 BED



Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now for 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountain side, panoramic seaview of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).

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, www.phuketcondo.net

BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community, Chanote title, 1,100sqm, flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only B3.5mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

KAMALA



Large 4 bed house, 3 bath, guest WC, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

26-ROOM HOTEL SEAVIEW

1 km from beach, 26 rooms & apt (total 40 rooms), land 500sqm, 65 MB. Email: book x90@gmail.com

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 ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

HOUSE FOR SALE

From Phuket 100km. Between A. Tubpud Phang Nga and A. Panm Suratt hani



Near Khao Sok National Park. Land 1 rai, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, price: 2.2 million baht. Please call: 081-667 1637 (Thai), 082-539 6433 (English).

KATA OCEAN VIEW



1 bedroom, fully furnished, 91sqm, sea view. Best price in complex: Only 60,000 baht/sqm; 5.5 million baht total. Tel: 095-037 9680, 089-617 2312, 076-288872, 076-341045.

POOL HOUSE



Near Heroines Pa khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 a/c, big kitchen, furnished, pool 9 x 3m. Price: 5,250,000 baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: cata yacht@csloxinfo.com

ONE SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

3km from Laguna Phuket, 3 beds, 2 bath, baht 3.5 mn Contact Nan 081-367 8967.

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA



For sale / rent 3 bedrooms. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

LAND FOR SALE



73 square wah with Chanote titles. 15 minutes to Panwa Beach (Ao Makhm bay). Conveniently located, road frontage. Please contact 081-6912526. Email: s_jumpon@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT PALACE



Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

Condo for Rent
Rawai Condominium 60sqm., 1 bed, 1 bathroom. Great kitchen, fully furnished, European style, first floor, swimming pool view, price for sale 3.9 million baht, price for rent 30,000 baht for long-term.

For more information
English: Denis 082-539 6433,
Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

ขายอพาร์ทเมนท์และบ้านพร้อมที่ดิน

For Sale Apartment
6 floors 20 rooms
41.7 wah. 166.8 Sqm.

Villa (Patong)
167 wah. 699 Sqm.

ขายที่ดิน หลังสนามกอล์ฟ
15-2-73 rai
25,095 m2
Land for sale (Kathu)

By • 081 370 0162 Thai/Eng
owner • 083 396 0884 Eng/German

2 - BEDROOMS BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2bdr / 2bath ens, huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant, in 5* resort with access to gym, spa, ideal for family, separate storage, furniture incl, fast owner sale, leaving Asia, 13.9MM neg. Tel: 096-532849 (English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.com

FIRST TO SEE WILL BUY

Fantastic value property in Land and House Chalong. Very spacious 6-bedroom pool villa, immaculate property selling for a very low price. First person genuinely looking to buy will want to own this property. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuket andamanrealestate.com

Properties For Rent

APARTMENT FOR RENT, PATONG

Quiet, swimming pool, daily and monthly promotion rate. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai) , 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanai villaphuket@gmail.com www.nanaivilla.com

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

Luxury furnished Pool villa with great views and beach access. For rent long term at 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 061 637 7767. Email: gundy2@loxinfo.co.th

APARTMENT IN SURIN FOR RENT

1 bedroom, furnished , with balcony. Long or short term 18,000 a month. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English) , 081-537 2549 (English & Thai). Email: Malin@vertigo phuket.com www.suringate.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL

The White House @ Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina is available for holiday rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai). Email: pen @mindproperties.net www.mindproperties.net

POOL VILLA FOR NEW YEAR

Nai Harn Samakee, 3 bedroom, pool, good condition, 150,000 baht / month. Tel: 093-741 3735. Email: phuket.hello@gmail.com

2 BEDROOMS HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

Available now. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 study and a western kitchen. Fully furnished, built-in cabinets and wardrobe, secure parking. For rent direct from owner for just 17,500 baht per month plus bills. Tel: 080-452 8191 (English & Thai) , 04 2-332 6662. Email: chayabenji@gmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3-bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

KATA BEACH APARTMENT

Nice, 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638 Email: nalumana 2000@yahoo.com

PATONG NEAR KLONG BANG WAT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchenette, roof-terrace, living room. Furnished. Short or long term for 20-25,000 baht a month (negotiable). Tel: 083-103 7472 (English & Thai), 083-181 6037 (English). Email: thailegobricks@hotmail.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT



Serviced apartment: 66sqm, 2nd floor, 1 living room with pull-out sofa, 1 bedroom. Fully equipped European kitchen, WiFi internet access, cable LCD TV, DVD, stereo system. Maid cleaning, shuttle service to Nai Ham beach, fitness center, spa, poolside restaurant and bar, children's playground. Price: 3,200 baht per night. Contact: 081-550 7379.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

At Villa Dao Rung. Large 2-bedroom townhouse, Western kitchen, washer, dryer, hot water, furnished, clean, security. Price: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-812 3486.

KATHU CONDO

Near Kajonkiet School, main Tesco-Lotus. DCondo Mine. Studio / 1-bed, all mod-cons, security, big pool, fitness. Long term preferred. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment, studio, 1 bedroom, 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrissalmer56@gmail.com For further information, please see our website at pukeyomefc 2.web.fc2.com/phuket condorent.htm

1-2 BEDROOMS APARTMENTS IN NAI HARN

Apartments in Saiyuan Buri for long and short term (Rawai / Nai harn). Tel: 084-020 8776 (English). Email: rental@thairent home.com www.thairent home.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon living room, kitchen, furnished house, car park. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

NICE BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 bed, AC, WiFi, kitchen. Fully furnished, 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The Point near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

Furnished, quiet, good exercise area, 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



Fully furnished, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 094-595 2451, 094-595 1444. Email: righthere phuket@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: annanoi1@hotmail.com

1,2,3-BEDROOMS & POOL PENTHOUSES

Apartments and pool penthouses for holiday rental. Two beaches & town 3-minute walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

2-BEDROOMS CONDO AT KARON BEACH

Beach 5-minute walk. Spacious 2-bed condo, large terrace, large pool. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, hot shower, ADSL, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

1-BED BUNGALOW

Rawai, WiFi, cable, kitchen, aircon , fully furnished. Nice area 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

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

HOUSE FOR RENT



3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcurrent@hotmail.com

KATA NOI, 1 & 2 BEDROOMS SEAVIEW

Beach 3-minute walk. Immaculate, new, 1 and 2-bed condo & pool penthouse. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

2-BEDROOMS BEACH CONDOS NAI HARN

Spacious, kitchen, terrace, shared pool, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 Nuch. For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

FRONT OFFICE GIRL WANTED

Patong area, Thai National, good English, hotel experience. Start from 25K. Tel: 085-694 6463 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

HOTEL STAFF WANTED

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

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Thai lady to live in with small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, pets, some childcare and cooking. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: ritalouisedobson@hotmail.com

EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

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 and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

Phuket Gazette

Reporter Wanted: Looking for a fun, enthusiastic and confident individual to join Phuket's main English-language media team.

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national
- ▶ No experience needed!
- ▶ University degree not required
- ▶ Top quality on-the-job training provided
- ▶ Must have strong communication skills and a desire to help Phuket
- ▶ Reasonable command of spoken English

Competitive salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Um@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext 402 Mobile: 081-970 8381

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

HOTEL RECEPTION

Thai only needed. Speak English, can use computer. Good wages and commission, holidays. Tel: 088-444 7801.

NEW RESTAURANT IN LAGUNA

Now hiring: Chefs – all levels; Servers – all levels; Bar staff; Back of house staff; and a Personal Assistant. Basic English necessary, previous experience preferred. Must be under 35 years of age. For the right candidates, we offer an excellent salary, benefits, holidays and structured professional development. Please forward CVs and a current picture to Jamie@bampot.co or call 092-130 3114. www.bampot.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

English speaking TO and Sales Reps needed. Experience in timeshare only. Start immediately. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

TEACHING AT PSU

Prince of Songkla University International College Hat Yai Campus is looking for 4 lecturers for 3D Animation / English and Science Lecturer. Please send CV to psuic@psu.ac.th www.uic.psu.ac.th

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION

- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

THAI STAFF WANTED

Require English-speaking Thai women for part-time staff at specialty beer shop. Monthly salary, social security, bonus. Tel: 094-868 2928.

HOTEL COOK NEEDED

Filipino cook wanted for western food and Thai food. Must be able to speak and write English. Tel: 076-345670, 083-392 8462. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

MARKETING MANAGER

Real estate company looking for foreign-national manager with good English skills. Basic salary + commission + work permit. Tel: 089-594 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales rep 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

ENTHUSIASTIC STAFF WANTED

Enthusiastic, fit, sociable, snorkelling trainer & safety person required for speedboat tours. Thai or foreign with the correct qualifications. Excellent English a must. Send photo with CV. Excellent pay for right person. Tel: 076-289044, 086-011 5340 (English & Thai). Email: workfor simba@gmail.com

SALES OFFICER - AQUA MASTER

Leading distributor of scuba diving equipment. We are currently looking for two sales officers based in Chalong. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English), 081-270 4819 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281076. Email: jtissier@aquamaster.net

PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

Native speaker for English, Chinese and Japanese. Bachelor's degree or higher. Must be able to teach various ages of students. Tel: 076-219337, 095-429 5251 (English & Thai). Email: nycphuket@gmail.com

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Andy: (076-341644)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

RUSSIAN REAL ESTATE 150K+

We are a leading real estate company in Phuket that is expanding fast and looking for a talented individual to join our young, dynamic team. Must be a Russian speaking agent who has a number of years experience in real estate, and preferably in Phuket. CVs to paul@livephuket.com, www.livephuket.com

SHOP MANAGER

We have a position for a manager to run our busy massage shop to a high standard. You must be self motivated, a good communicator with good Thai / English language skills and good staff management skills. Good salary + bonus. Call for an interview. Tel: 084-247 2935(English). Email: Peter.ritchie@hotmail.co.nz

THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF NEEDED

The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with hotel experience of a minimum of 7 years. Tel: (60) 03-5569 2211, +60 016-227 7610. Email: cal een@chakri.com.my www.chakri.com.my

DIGITAL CONTENT / MEDIA ASST.

Knowledge in Graphic Design/ VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred) - Fluent in written and spoken English (native-Level Preferred/Thai national) - Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Please send your CV to aey@princessyachtssea.com or call 076-238060.

SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish-speaking 20-30 years old staff wanted. Send your CV & photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED

Native English-Speaking Customer Service Agent needed for E-commerce Fashion Retailer. Work Permit. High Salary. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-282759.

EXECUTIVE CHEF WANTED

A popular hotel in central Patong requires an executive chef. Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position, and be able to undertake the full management of a busy kitchen. Languages required: Thai / English. Salary is negotiable, dependent on experience and ability. Tel: 089-208 8557. Email: nealeave ry@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Fundraising Officer who will manage Soi Dog's donor database and send emails to supporters around the world, working closely with other members of the fundraising team. The position requires excellent attention to detail. Applicants should be reliable, consistent, comfortable with computers, fairly competent at writing in English, and love cats and dogs. Tel: 093-678 4406 (English & Thai). To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to belinda@soidog.org

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

COOKS URGENTLY NEEDED

Busy farang style restaurant needs 2 full time cooks. Some experience necessary but training given. Good salary and can start immediately. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English & Thai), 087-283 6074.

PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: woman to clean, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com or call 083-105 2707 (12.00-20.00) . www.home-phuket-service.com

CRUISE LINE CHEFS

To double as a ship manager in Myanmar on the Pandaw River Cruises. Tel: 087-096 9625. Email: anthonydupont@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Thai person who can speak English and, importantly, Chinese. Will work with Chinese and Russian customers. If experienced in real estate business, there will be a great salary. Phuket Project Co, Ltd. Tel: 093-587 3711.

QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Pls email your resume with boating experience and skills, and phone number. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

BB PHUKET NEEDS YOU!

A unique, luxury hospitality project, located on the tranquil eastern shores of Phuket, invites you to become a part of our team.

If you:

- Have a passion for high-end hospitality
- Have some experience in the hospitality industry
- Have a pleasant, service-minded personality
- Have a good command of English

We'd like to get to know you better!

Competitive compensation and benefit packages and guaranteed service fees for all successful applicants.

Contact us on jobs@bbphuket.com

Open office event every day except Sundays, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Beach Projects, 51/9 Moo 5, Chalemprikiat 9 Rd., T. Rassada, A. Mueang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.



Anantara

Anantara Phuket Mai Khao Position:

- › Restaurant Manager
- › Assistant Restaurant Manager
- › Restaurant Supervisor
- › F&B Attendant

Qualifications:

- › Thai Nationality
- › Male/Female
- › Experience in Food & Beverage
- › Fine to fluent English

Anantara Vacation Club Phuket
887 Moo 3, Tumbon Maikhao, Thalang, Phuket, 83110, THAILAND Tel : +66 7633 7200.
Please send current resume to:
sawanya_th@anantaraclub.com

EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hr bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

Employment Wanted

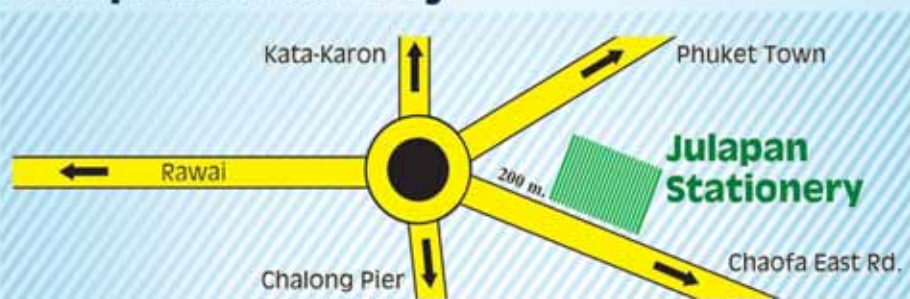
MANAGER - URGENT!

Good English, 2 years' experience, team player, motivated, Thai national, long-term. Tel: 076-323861, 082-789 9620 (English & Thai), 095-106 1389(English & Thai). Email: phuket@escapehunt.com

RECEPTIONIST PART-TIME

Need receptionist from 5pm to 9pm. Must speak basic English. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

Live in Chalong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

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

Live in Karon? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Anand: 076-396911 081-536 5550**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a **better candidate?**

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

Business Opportunities

EXCELLENT WELL ESTABLISHED

Business for sale with TAT licences, 45 bikes, 4 rental rooms, good location, annual turnover, 2MB/year. 2.3MB or close offer. Chalong. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

3 SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE



Including 12 completely furnished rental rooms. Call 081-979 6215.

PRINT MACHINES & BUSINESS

Advertising business for sale. 1 Roland VP540i (print & cut), 1 Fuji Xerox (print size max A3 & 300 gr paper), cold lamination machine, portfolio design (customers), furnishers, with all stock, desk, furniture, etc. No time-wasters. Tel: 083-392 7017 (English & Thai). Email: Jerome-patong@hotmail.com

INVESTOR / PARTNER / SALE

I have 6 rai Chanote title. Flat land. Waterfront. Email: pkkthai1@gmail.com

BANGLA ROAD BAR FOR SALE



Bar for sale: mid Bangla Road. 1st row, beside Tiger 1 - opposite Séduction and Tiger discothèque. Contract: 3 years. Monthly rent: 80,000 baht. Asking price: 5.9 million baht. Please call. Tel: 061-216 2881. (English & Thai). Email: momo_f@hotmail.com

GRAPHIC AND DESIGN COMPANY

Swiss company is looking for a joint venture or cooperation with a Phuket or Thailand-based graphic and design company. Business area: visualization for real estate projects / architecture. Tel: +41 076-349 7177 (English). Please mail me at: bau.managerzuerich@gmail.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Company (authorized capital of 4mn baht) +hotel (assignment of lease 9 years) 12 rooms, panoramic-view roof. Patong 3rd line. Price: 2.5 million. Tel: 094-171 3810.

BAR SOI TIGER FOR SALE

2nd row in from the front, over 2 years contract 4.5m for details Tel: 081-728 2682 (English). Email: carljeffery123@hotmail.co.uk

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

In Patong, European and Thai restaurant, 50 seats. 550,000. Tel: 081-495 4761.

GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Selling 13 year lease on 15 room guesthouse in Patong with bar and kitchen. 3.5MB key money 60,000B / month rent. Tel: 081-958 1055 (English), 081-606 5772 (Thai). Email: pauljames@expat hotel.com

SPA & HERB SHOP FOR SALE

2-floor plan shop, fully equipped with aircon and display shelves, phone connection, etc. Tel: 089-645 8976. Email: info@maztik.com

PATONG STEAKHOUSE RESORT

Top-ranking and location for sale w/h all fixtures, furniture. Tel: 081-970 7007.

TOUR DESK FOR RENT

Very good place, frequented corner. Tel: 087-554 6872. Email: bookpatong01@gmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE



Plaza 2nd floor. Area 385sqm. Can seat 130 persons and has dance floor, stage for DJ. Restaurant is fully equipped. 3-year contract, with extension up to 9 years. Price 3 million baht. Tel: 095-419 1310.

PREMIUM BARS FOR SALE

Fully furnished and equipped, top locations, turn-key ready. Price from 500,000 baht to 9 million baht. Contact "G" call 083-645 2846 (English). Email: guenter.riedl@gmail.com

RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermsuk. 2 rai. Chanote. 8 bungalows, 22 rooms, restaurant, pool, well, company, reduced to 26mb. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th, www.bigasailing.com

RESTAURANT FOR RENT-PATONG



250sqm, fully equipped and furnished with license, on Sai Nam Yen Road, close to Sai Nam Yen Plaza. Tel: 086-268 3963.

KARON RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Well-established restaurant in prime location on Karon's main street for sale. In operation since 2002. Reason for sale - owner's relocation. Tel: 082-800 8717 (English), 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Email: a.tszyu@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

PROMOTION PRICE Your Ad on PGTV

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with red headline	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with black background	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with color background	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	650 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: **issue(s)**

ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week **500 baht**

Total cost of your classified **baht**

Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.
Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO
Pick-up. 4-door. 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.
Standard: 980 baht (incl VAT)
Standard + Special font/layout + Box: 1,480 baht (incl VAT) →

NATIVE TEACHER OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION IN PHUKET
I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok.
Phone Mr Reece (02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

..... (Headline)	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

Building Products & Services



• BABY SITTING SERVICE
 • LEARN THAI AT HOME
 • PHUKET HOME NURSE

Looking for Professional Service

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www.phuketbabysitting.com
www.phukethomenurse.com

Camera & Equipment

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

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

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

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

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

DINODAYCARECENTER

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai).

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroo@gmail.com

Fitness Equipment

ASHTANGA YOGA SHALA

Mysore style, lead and beginner's classes. Personal approach and professional adjustment. Tel: 080-698 0813 (English). Email: sofialinkova@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pages/Ashtanga-Yoga-Shala-Phuket/637555173029986.

Personal Services Wanted

HOUSE BAND & DJ WANTED

House Band & DJ wanted for Beer Garden Restaurant in Khao Lak for high season. Contact Joe or Oot on 085-808 7363 (English & Thai). Email: kolaz58@gmail.com

Lost & Found

HELP ME FIND MY DOG

Please help me find my dog Clio. She is a white pitbull terrier with brown spots on her rear and side and a bald shave mark on her head from a recent treatment. She went missing in Chalong on Thursday at around midday. This dog is the world to me and I offer a good reward for her return. Tel: 081-891 9656 (English), 081-537 7137 (Thai) Email: stephen@princessyachtsthailand.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

Pets

CHIHUAHUA DOG FOR SALE

Male, 4 months old. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai).

GUARD DOG WANTED

Puppy or young dog. Tel: 087-383 4452 Email: banwattana@gmail.com



MISSING

Ezra Jansen came to Phuket, Thailand in June 2014. His family had not heard from him since.

Name : Ezra Jansen
 Age : 31 years old
 Nationality : South African
 Hair color : Black, more light brown
 Eyes color : Light green sometimes light brown changes with the weather

Identifying Characteristics:
 : Two scars on the left or right arm, not so sure now which arm, other scars are very faint from childhood
 Education : Electrical Mechanical Engineer

If anyone knows where he is or if Ezra Jansen sees this, please contact us at: jansenj@telkomsa.net or telephone number: +00127 21 3922742 Cape Town South Africa

South African Embassy Bangkok: 02-659 2900

Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 160,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 170,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week

Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
 Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1, with 28 shows a week

Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao. Channel 4, with 21 shows a week

Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

- Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.**
- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
 - Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
 - Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
 - Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
 - Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
 - Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
 - Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
 - Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
 - Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
 - Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
 - Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
 - Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
 - Destination Patong: 390 rooms
 - Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
 - Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
 - Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: kookai@phuketgazette.net
 On line: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

Saloon Cars

2011 PAJERO 4X4



Mitsubishi Pajero 2.5GT 4x4 model. Expat owned for 3 years. 60,000 km. Recent service and new turbo. Usual GT refinements, aircon front and back, electric everything. Good condition. Green book, etc. Price: 720,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 6055, 081-7876055 (English & Thai). Email: wheelyking zoom@hotmail.com

BENZ COUPE CLC 200



3 years old. Bronze. 2.5 million baht. Only 52,900km. Tel: 081-892 4311.

2003 BMW X5 BLACK



Electric, LPG, leather. Tel: 084-054 8122.

2002 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Will trade for big bike or 4x4. Tel: 087-983 4815. Email: gregorfant on@gmail.com

PROTON SAVVY 1.2 AT

Only 57,000km, 2010, All options, leather, mag wheels, new tyres, new service, ect. 219,000 baht. Tel: 084-842 5920 (English & Thai), 085-888 9841 (English & Thai). Email: khao_lak@hotmail.com

HONDA JAZZ 2004

130k but still looks and drives like new. 200,000 ono. Tel: 081-958 6512 (English), 081-787 8559(Thai). Email: mns wilson@gmail.com

HONDA CITY FOR SALE

Automatic 2006. Aircon. CD player. Price for sale 235,000 baht. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

VW BEETLE 4 SALE

2004 model, Cabriolet, automatic, 83,000km, 790,000 Baht. Tel: 091-040 8869.

Motorbikes

HONDA SHADOW



450cc, excellent condition, green book, 139,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 084-584 6795. Email: hanspaessler@me.com

BMW R1200GS

Ex cond. 2007. New cost 1.2MB, 595,000 baht. Also BMW F650GS like new cond. 2007. New cost 700,000 baht, 295,000 bt, incl. new BMW panniers. Call Mike 081-787 1752 or email mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

HONDA CB500F



Year 2012, 12,000 km. Excellent condition, sell at 165,000baht Tel: 081-550 7379 (English & Thai).

KAWASAKI Z800 FOR SALE

WTS Kawasaki Z800 2014, ODO 3795, Acra povik muffler and more 320,000 baht. Tel: 089-401 8506 (English). Email: vladim1r@me.com

Pick-ups

2010 TOYOTA HILUX 3.0 D-4D

Excellent condition with 34,500km. All leather, automatic, 4-wheel-drive, service history. 690,000 baht or best offer Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

2011 TOYOTA VIGO 4WD



Excellent condition with a low 18,500km. Dual cab, leather upholstery, manual gearbox, 3-liter diesel engine. No accidents, service history. Just not using it, so it must go. 700,000 baht or best offer. Please ask for Khun Aey. Tel: 076-527687, 095-410 2414 (English & Thai). Email: edshiels@gmail.com

2005 ISUZU D MAX D



Rawai. 1 owner. Full service hist. Reg / Ins July 2015. Price: 285,000 baht . Tel: 086-944 1640.

ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z

Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. For more information, please call 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapes tate@mail.ru

WILLYS C17 JEEP



Super C17 Willys Jeep with big alloy wheels. 2.7 liter Toyota motor, Automatic. Excellent condition, 100% reliable vehicle. 300,000 baht. Call 087-270 2221 or 087-105 5561. For more information. Email: leehowden@hotmail.com

Rentals

ISUZU PICK UP FOR RENT



More details Tel: 081-550 7379(Eng&Thai).

NEW CARS FOR RENT



Jazz, Vios, SUV, good price with insurance. Delivery service. Call 081-607 8567. Email: Suksavat@hotmail.com, Line ID: 246phuketline

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice.
Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact Khun Lerd
Tel: 087-263 6706
(Proton Showroom)

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors

Karon Beach

Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa

Luangphochuain Rd

Euro Style Tailors

Phuket Island View

Patok East Rd

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anand: 076-396911
081-536 5550

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► Vitec 72 \$825,000 USD	► Targa 32 \$340,000 USD
► Fairline Targa 62 GT 682,000 Euro	► Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 190,000 Euro
► Fusion 40 \$298,000 Euro	► Fountaine Pajot Belize 43 \$350,000 USD
► Morgan 60 \$349,000 USD	

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
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AIS DEAL by Electrical Marine Co, Ltd. Has the Simrad Class B NAI5-400 complete with GPS and VHF antennas that will interface with all marine systems with NMEA2000 & NMEA 0183. 32,500 baht+VAT sales @electrical-marine.com Tel: 076-272177, 081-8920534(English & Thai). Fax: 076-272178. Email: sales@electrical-marine.com

JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)
The owner has spent a fortune on her, New teak decks, B&G instruments, leisure furl in boom furling, upholstery and head linings, new stove, battery charger and inverter, a 42" flat screen TV and much much more. A great boat and good value at US\$260,000 FIRM. Tel: 084 842 6146 alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boat shedphuket.com

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

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS
Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006, price baht 140,000. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total baht 70,000. Both in working condition. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280074.

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE



Privilege 43 (1992)
Asking \$235,000 AUD
This Privilege 43 is very well maintained complete with a good inventory. She has recently had her engines overhauled, along with fresh antifoul. Her quality Privilege build coupled with her great presentation belies her age.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.



Fountaine Pajot Bahia 46 (2007)
Asking 295,000 Euros
Akula is the popular owner's version of the Bahia 46. In good condition with all blue water options fitted and ready to cruise the world. This boat will not be on the market for long!
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.



Schionning Wilderness 1500X (2010)
Asking \$480,000 USD
This long legged performance cruiser reflects years of multihull sailing experience and has been conceived with long distance short-handed sailing in mind.
Lying: Langkawi, Malaysia.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact **Andrew de Bruin** at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket.
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M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530
E info@multihullsolutions.asia
www.multihullsolutions.asia

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THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

COFFEE break

Cryptic crossword

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).
Normal spelling: lower case.
Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).
Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. SYNTHESIS: *shinysets* 10. SQUEAMISH: *quashesme*
12. INTO: *noti* 13. REPAST: re.-past 14. BARONET: *notbare*
15. ABAPTABLE: *abadplate* 17. PIRITICAL: *racialtip* 18. TENABLE: ten-able 19. VASSAL: Va.-lass[rev] 20. PLAI: *pali* 23. TABLEWARE: table-wear 25. BAKEHOUSE: bake-house 26. REED: deer[rev]
27. ANTHER: *hertan* 29. NAIYANG: *gainany* 32. ULTIMATUM: *tumultiam* 34. LATEMODEL: *ledmalet* 35. EVIDENT: E-idvent
36. RETIRE: re.-tire 37. BLOC: B-L-O/C 38. CREDULOUS: C-rudesoul
39. EASYCHAIR: easy-chair

Down: 1. ASPIRANT: *spartani* 2. UNATTAINABLE: U.N.-a-taintable
3. ASSEMBLE: *blesmea* 4. ESCAPE: E-paces 5. ISOTOPE: *iesospot*
6. LUMBERJACK: lumber-jack 7. PARROTS: par-rots 8. CHATELAINE: *inachalet(E)* 11. IONIC: 1-*icon* 16. TABLET: T-table 19. VIE: V-i.e.
21. LOUDANDCLEAR: *dacouldlearn* 22. THEISM: the-is-m
23. TURBULENCE: blunter(U)-C.E. 24. ANNOTATION: *anionnot*
25. BAR: bar 28. HUMORIST: *moishurt* 29. NOTARISE: not-a-rise
30. GOLFCART: *logcraft* 31. IMPETUS: *imsetup* 33. THINE: *inthe*
34. LATHER: lat-H-er

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

Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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



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

Specs:

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

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

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

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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

TECNAM P-92

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

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Get funky!

Skal International Phuket and South Thailand got down and boogied at Nikki Beach Phuket at their annual charity dinner. This year's event, dubbed "Saturday Night Fever... on a Friday!", was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's "Phuket Today" show, as it raised money for Phuket Sunshine Village; the Barnhem Home for Children; the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) scholarship fund; and also the Skal scholarship fund.



NO SHAME FOR THE VILLAGE PEOPLE: (From left) Urs Aebi, general manager of Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket; Pascal Frei, resident manager of Andara Resort and Villas; Brice Borin, general manager of The Regent Phuket Cape Panwa; Holger Schwab of Sea Bees; and Claude Sauter, general manager of The Surin Phuket took it all off and put on a show.



Marine Aslanyan from BB Phuket (left) joins Miki Edouard (center) and Maya Caspi for the party. Photos: Chutharat Plerin



Mid-Air Circus Arts put on a dazzling performance.





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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitaya 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: Siam 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.

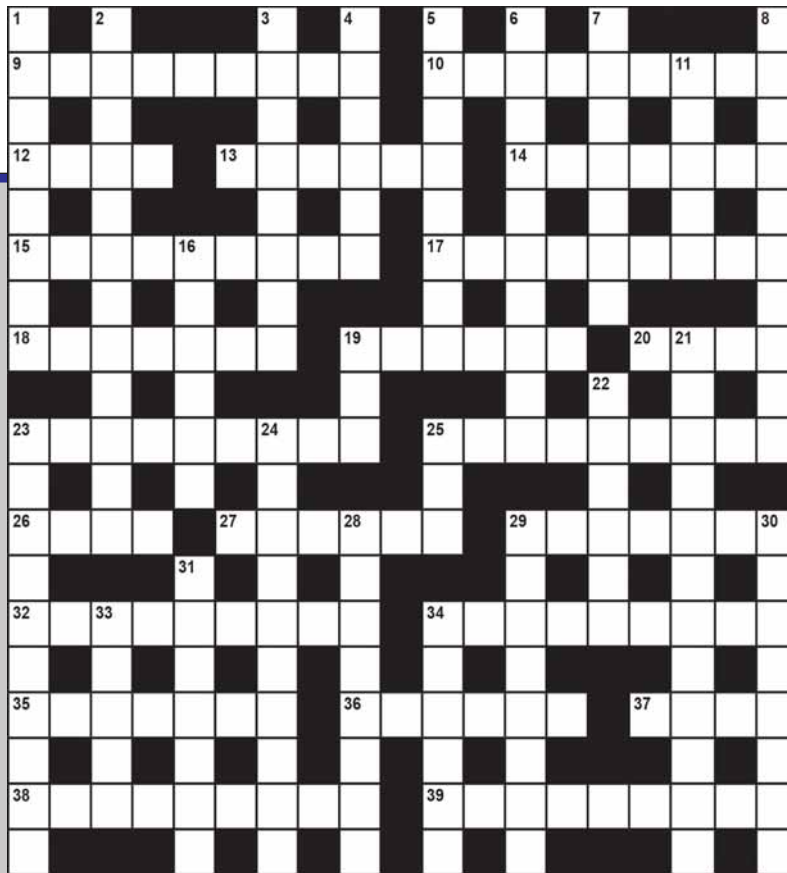


COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 9. Artificial production of shiny sets possible (9)
- 10. Quashes? I'm maybe easily sickened (9)
- 12. Keen on? Not I, perhaps (4)
- 13. About former meal (6)
- 14. Peer? Not bare, perhaps! (7)
- 15. A bad plate might be flexible (9)
- 17. Racial tip off buccannering (9)
- 18. Number up to being defensible (7)
- 19. Virginia lass back as humble dependent (6)
- 20. Pal, I arranged a Thai anti-inflammatory herb (4)
- 23. Serving dishes put forward wear out (9)
- 25. Use oven, provide accommodation, in bread factory (9)
- 26. Animal returns for grass (4)
- 27. Her tan came from part of a flower (6)
- 29. Gain any movement in a Phuket beach? (3,4)
- 32. Tumult I am getting from final proposal (9)
- 34. Led male to different car of recent manufacture (4,5)
- 35. Note, I'd vent unreservedly the obvious (7)
- 36. Concerning fatigue, go to bed! (6)
- 37. Blessed Liberal officer commanding a group of nations (4)
- 38. Caught rude soul becoming gullible (9)
- 39. Simple, preside over in upholstered seating (4,5)



Down

- 1. Spartan, I could be ambitious (8)
- 2. United Nations a taintable organisation, not within reach (12)
- 3. Bless me, a strange get together! (8)
- 4. Note, paces off to get away (6)
- 5. Fission i.e., so spot almost all the same elements (8)
- 6. Burden with slang, elevate forestry worker (10)
- 7. Repeats mechanically equal footing goes bad (7)
- 8. In a chalet out East find a hostess (10)
- 11. One I con badly in a Greek column (5)
- 16. Timetable arranged for pill (6)
- 19. Strive against, that is (3)
- 21. Maybe Da could learn and be easily understood (4,3,5)
- 22. Belief in God is inside them (6)
- 23. In possible blunter about turn, Church of England causes storminess (10)
- 24. A nation not disturbed by literary comment (10)
- 25. Exclude the pub (3)
- 28. Mo is hurt deciphering the joker (8)
- 29. Not a stand to make document legal (8)
- 30. Possibly log craft as vehicle on course (4,4)
- 31. I'm set up carefully for momentum (7)
- 33. In the process, it's yours of old (5)
- 34. Bubbles later round hotel (6)

Words from the wise:

"Wonder rather than doubt is the root of all knowledge."
 - Abraham Joshua Heschel

"It is beyond a doubt that all our knowledge begins with experience."
 - Immanuel Kant

Medium

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

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


Hard

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


SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 You seem to have a way with words that will make others feel better. And as Mars arrives in Aquarius on Friday you can enjoy connecting, whether for business or pleasure, and doing so might bring some upbeat opportunities your way. Saturday's Full Moon can heighten the feelings you have for someone. Try not to act in haste, enjoy the thrill of the chase.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):


 The pace of life can pick up, which means you may have to think on your feet, whilst you juggle seasonal tasks. Try to avoid impulse buys, as a heady focus on your money zone could cause you to wander off budget. However, the weekend can bring both enjoyment and understanding, from reading books and/or surfing the internet.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 Mars arrives in your sign Friday, bringing a real sense of determination and drive. You also get mov-

ing on plans you've been floating for some while. If you decide to involve others you could see spectacular results in a very short time. Later, the weekend's Full Moon offers both romantic and creative potential.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

 Your thoughts may be on achieving a key ambition and exploring new opportunities to get ahead. There's a sense of excitement around that encourages you to aim higher and further than ever before. Meanwhile, a bubbly influence on Saturday can be perfect for a get-together and a chance to relax in good company.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

 A practical link between Mars and Saturn can get the week and the festive season off to a great start. Plan ahead and you'll be ready to tackle challenges with aplomb. Your social life can also expand as Mars heads into Aquarius, stirring up ideas for fun events. Meanwhile, Saturday's Full Moon could be perfect for a lively get-together.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 The upbeat focus on your zone of shared finances continues, so it's worth organizing your festive budget early on. Adopting a down-to-earth approach might save you time and money too. Later, the focus shifts to goals and personal ambitions, and this can encourage you to take on board an idea with a potentially exciting outcome.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 Social options and perhaps a romantic possibility, can boost your spirits as the season of goodwill starts to ratchet up. You'll head into the coming weeks with a real desire to engage with others, and with a chance to enjoy some delightful festive events. Meanwhile, Saturday's Full Moon can liven up your relationship sector, and help to reinvigorate how you interact.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Be mindful of the type of red tape you may encounter which could delay a plan or project. Factor in potential glitches to avoid frustrations. Also, conferring with others can help you make the most of a creative idea whose time has come. With the feisty Mars hotfooting it into Aquarius, when it comes to handling seasonal expenditure, can you share resources?

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):

 A positive mood and high energy levels can help fire this month off to a fine start. In addition, organizing your festive agenda now, could free you up later to truly enjoy it. You're likely to be keen to absorb new information and that could make a zesty difference. This week could also see a new friend positively impact on your world.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):

 With focus on your home and family sector, you'll be busy getting your place ready for the weeks ahead. Along

with wanting to have fun, you may experience a desire to volunteer your time to help out others, which can prove fulfilling. If you have been on a fitness kick, will you find renewed determination to stay in shape, or be tempted by seasonal joys?

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Chances are you can start the week in a progressive mode, keen to ensure the month ahead is lively and fun. First though, lay the foundations by getting money matters sorted. More excitingly, creativity and romance can positively sizzle and bring many pleasure options your way. Later, the weekend's Full Moon can spring open the door to a wonderful opportunity.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 If you're offered a cheap gadget or gizmo, the Mercury Neptune connection suggests such an item may have dubious origins. Despite this, the week can get progressively more interesting and fun. Home and family matters can positively glow, while a high-powered alignment could enhance communication and even passion in a key relationship.

Knocking on heaven's door

By Renford Davies

PERCHED on the top of a hill, a prime piece of real-estate in the heart of Kata, Eastin Yama Hotel Phuket's idyllic location already gives it an advantage over rival resorts in the area.

Part of the Absolute chain of hotels, the four-star Eastin Yama opened for business in October, but its savvy approach and innovate, sophisticated style has already begun to attract a broad spectrum of guests – from young honeymooning couples to families to business groups and even the elderly.

“From the start our owner had a very clear concept for the hotel,” says General Manager Itthipol “Otto” Meesawat. “The name Yama in Thai means ‘heaven’ and that’s what we’ve set out to do... offer quality accommodation at an affordable price – a little bit of heaven – where our guest can ‘escape the crowds’.”

The hotel's interior design also follows through on the Eastin Yama's concept of a peaceful retreat, says Mr Itthipol.

“Our interior design is based on the concept of the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Not only are the five senses a part of our design concept, they are also a reflection of the quality of our service – what we have to

offer our guests.”

It is the Eastin Yama's attractive hideaway theme coupled with the brand's mantra to offer “value-for-location” that have quickly brought it recognition.

“One of our brand's strengths is that we can offer real value-for-money in terms of our location.

Whether guests are newlyweds, a family, or here on business – our staff are ready to cater for every scenario,” says Mr Itthipol.

The hotel also provides some unique services which have made it a hit with holidaymakers.

“Breakfast at most resorts finishes at 10am or 10:30am, but we have extended breakfast time another hour to 11:30am. We also offer ‘Laundry at Cost’, a bargain-priced laundry service – not easy to find in most hotels.”

Another attraction for guests is the Eastin Yama's room-ready guarantee.

“If guests give us their arrival time 48 hours prior to check-in, we guarantee their room will be ready when they arrive – otherwise the first night is free,” the GM explained.

Eastin Yama also provides guests with an all-day dining option at its contemporary Senzees restaurant, which boasts authentic Thai cuisine produced with fresh, organic farm produce. For guests

Our interior design is based on the concept of the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Not only are the five senses a part of our design concept, they are also a reflection of the quality of our service... /



The Eastin Yama Hotel Phuket offers some unique services which have made it a hit with holidaymakers, such as its ‘room-ready’ guarantee. Photo: Supplied

wanting to delve into local flavors, part of the menu is reserved exclusively for Phuket dishes.

The restaurant is complemented by an adjoining hotel bar – all conveniently located on the hotel's first floor next to the free-form swimming pool and jacuzzi – with a

spectacular view looking down over the town below and Kata Beach.

Mr Itthipol also points out quickly that the hotel's business clientele have not been forgotten among all the leisure options.

“We have meeting facilities that can accommodate up to 80 people,

so we are also looking to attract small incentive groups – local and foreign. Right now, we are beginning to see incentive groups from regional destinations such as Singapore,” he says.

For more information, visit www.eastinyamaphuket.com



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Southern Phuket rises up



Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted

THE northwest region of Phuket has been the most popular area on the island for residential properties over the past 15 years, due to the many west coast beaches, the Laguna complex encouraging further nearby construction and the convenient proximity to Phuket International Airport.

This high demand has led to the average three-bedroom villa along this stretch of coast costing about 20 million baht, compared with an average of about 12mn baht in the south of the island. The key reason for this considerable difference is the greatly increased land costs in the northwest, which makes it more costly for development.

However, over recent years, Chalong, Rawai and Nai Harn have surged in popularity. The southern areas now have large expat communities who are attracted to the peaceful environment and beautiful Nai Harn Beach, as well as the great variety of restaurants, bars, markets, bakeries and convenience stores there. With all this on local residents' doorsteps, and Phuket Town only 20 minutes' drive away, there is not much more inbound expats need, or want, or are looking for.

A prime example of what you can get for your money in the south is this brand-new three-bedroom pool villa in a quiet area of Rawai.

This newly completed freehold villa is of a modern, Thai-Balinese design, in an L-shaped



Pool villas in Rawai are providing more bang for your buck than their northern counterparts.

layout. The covered double car port at the front creates a fine-looking entrance, and steps lead up to the pool area and into the house.

The main open-plan living space is to the side and the bedrooms run along the back of the property. This layout ensures privacy and pleasant views from all rooms, as well as direct access to the pool or terrace.

The open-plan lounge, kitchen and din-

ing areas together feature a high-vaulted ceiling with beams following the shape of the pointed roof. Not only an attractive and interesting detail, the ceiling creates a cool and bright space.

This spacious area has high-quality patio doors that open out fully onto the pool area, making it a great area for entertaining inside and out. Additionally, the modern western

kitchen boasts high-quality finishings and built-in appliances – the property comes fully furnished.

All three bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms, hardwood flooring and fitted wardrobes. The master bedroom has a beautiful vaulted ceiling, complete with an en-suite bathroom and a large bathtub.

An additional terrace at the side of the property can be accessed from both the third bedroom and the living area. There is a sala at the end of the pool that provides a shaded area for relaxing, eating or working. The property also has its own steam room.

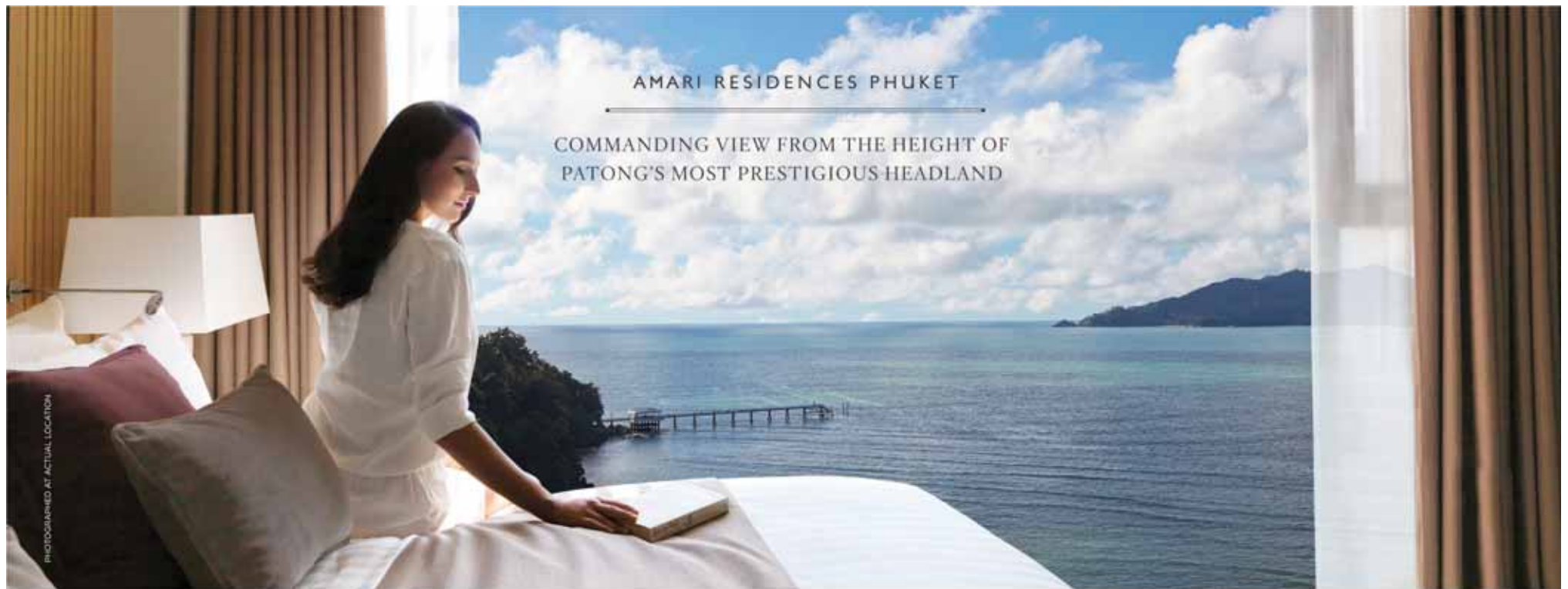
The villas – located on a small soi set back from the main road which leads to Chalong to the north and Rawai and Nai Harn to the south – offer more than 200sqm of internal space, located on two plots of 490sqm and 600sqm, together offering a combined 1,090sqm.

The mountainous surroundings create a pleasant environment and peaceful views. There is mains water supply and quality three-phase electrical supply. The villa has fans throughout and air conditioning in all three bedrooms.

The property comes with full *Chanote* land title deeds and is available freehold or leasehold: Plot 1 (490sqm) at 12.5mn baht; and Plot 2 (600sqm) at 14mn baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate (quote reference number: HSIL3941).

Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com. Tel: 076-288908. Website: www.siamrealestate.com



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Absolution on a plate

By Maciek Klimowicz

YOU'RE probably familiar with the feeling of staring at a long menu at a restaurant, only to realize that everything looks delicious and you have no idea what to opt for. For Phuket foodies, it's a daily struggle. With the island's immense variety of dining options, it's best to choose wisely. Uzenmaya Hotel's Zeascape Restaurant is one such wise choice.

It's easy to overeat in Phuket, a place that delivers on all levels in the food department, from the authentic local eats to the sophisticated dining of gourmet restaurants. When there is an abundance of food, you should go for the best – the light but flavorful, authentic and creative at the same time. All this can be said about what's on Zeascape Restaurant's menu, thanks to Executive Chef, Garfield Angove.

Having started his career as a chef almost 20 years ago in San Diego California, Chef Angove found his inspiration in Asia and spent more than a decade perfecting his skills in the high-end restaurants of Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. When asked why it is that Asia stole his heart, he replies without a moment's hesitation: "I love intensive flavors."

The proof lands minutes later on my table. The lightly grilled scallops served on a bed of roasted corn, the swordfish steak with a side of silky coconut soup, even the classic creme brulee was elevated to a new level with a con-



Zeascape is located in Kalim overlooking the Andaman Sea.

coction of exotic spices, all of these dishes exploded with flavor leaving no space for boredom or monotony.

It's difficult to pinpoint Chef Angove's main inspiration. Even though he expresses an undying love of Japanese cuisine, elements of which are clearly present in his menu, the concoction of flavors and aromas resulting from his creativity and experience is more pan-Asian, with a touch of western tradition. Some would call it fusion, Chef Angove prefers to call it a perfect marriage of East and West.

Call it what you will, what matters is that while there is a lot happening on Zeascape's tables, all these full-flavored dishes remain light and elegant, perhaps sparing diners the feeling of guilt that often comes after a hefty meal. On an island where the sin of gluttony is all too common, this rare blend is even more precious.

Zeascape Restaurant is located in Uzenmaya Hotel at Kalim Beach. For more information, go to uhotelsresorts.com. For bookings call 076-336888.



Zeascape's dishes remain light and elegant, perhaps sparing diners from guilt. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Chef Garfield Angove



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A diver swims with the elusive leopard shark. Photo: Kiwidiver

Keeping tabs on leopards

THE database for Spot the Leopard Shark Thailand has grown to more than 500 photographs after the conservation project was launched in August 2013, the news was announced at a meeting hosted by Siam Diving Enterprises at Pier 42 on Tuesday.

"We had the presentation to inform the dive community about the project, as well as about the extraordinary leopard sharks themselves. And this is also an opportunity to keep those project participants updated on what we're finding," said Dr Chris Dudgeon of the University of Queensland, Australia.

The project, much like E-Shark Thailand, is mobilizing a grassroots effort to set a baseline for the number, size and sex distributions of shark populations. By monitoring the leopard sharks over a long period of time, it will be possible to get an idea of whether the populations are changing for the better or worse or staying the same.

In the first year, the grassroots project received photos from 83 participants, including archival photos dating back to 2004.

"Most sightings come from the Phi Phi Island region with some photo contributions from the northwest region (Similan Islands), southwest region (Koh Lipe) and also some older photos from the Gulf of Thailand," Dr Dudgeon said.

From photos submitted to the project, researchers have been able to identify 188 different sharks.

— Isaac Stone Simonelli

Engaging local communities in sustainable trade models

By Jirawat Kuramakanok

PHUKET is one of the most charming and popular tourist destinations in the world, especially its gorgeous, white, sandy beaches. We have lots of businesses, including hotels and tourist attractions. In addition, the number of people coming to Phuket increases every year, and while this is great for the Thai economy, it has a direct impact on the environment, as well as local communities.

However, there are positive aspects to being a world-renowned tourist destination. Many hotels and local businesses in Phuket have been working diligently with their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) teams to develop closer relationships with local communities. Sustainability programs have played a growing part in this development, thus helping to ensure that Phuket remains an island paradise. This has earned the hotels participating the respect and appreciation of their guests, as well as the support of the local and expat communities.

A sustainable program launched in a local community located at Moo 3, Suan Maphrao, Mai Khao, is one example that demonstrates how beneficial CSR programs can be for local villagers. Devised and run by the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, Mai Khao Beach, the program provides five households — 32 people — with the opportunity to become self-sufficient seafood merchandisers.

The local villages are able to sell seafood produce because their community is located close to the seashore near a mangrove forest. They catch black crabs of approximately 7-8 kilograms and make 700-800 baht daily per person. The business relies on good weather and luck. If there is heavy rain, there



Villagers in Mai Khao are taking part in a CSR program that allows them to sell seafood produce directly to the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, thus cutting out money-grabbing middlemen.

will be less opportunity for catching the crabs. However, during a full moon the villagers tend to be happier because the crabs they catch can be even larger.

"We've lived here for over 30 years," said Kunya Nilsamutr, a local community leader. "Because we live so close to the mangrove forest, we saw it as an ideal opportunity to expand our business selling the crabs and other seafood produce to local hotels. However, we didn't have any real knowledge about planning a business model or setting up a marketing plan."

He said villagers had three main avenues to sell their products: at roadside markets; delivering fresh fish and crabs to nearby villages and lastly, selling their crabs and other seafood produce directly to

hotels. Mr Kunya said they had no problem selling their produce along the street and to nearby villages, but when it came to selling it to the JW Marriott, villagers had trouble understanding the purchasing system operated by the hotel.

This is where Sean Paul Panton, the CSR director at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, stepped in. He soon realized that he needed to teach the fishermen how to manage their own money properly. His first action was to take them to a bank and have them open a community bank account.

"Once they did this we were able to buy their products and pay them directly into their bank account. This meant there was no need for them to pay a middleman," said Mr Panton.

Although there is a Standard

Operating Procedure (SOP) to which the hotel adheres, Mr Panton said the hotel was more than willing to be flexible, so that it could accommodate the villagers and achieve a sustainable business model that would benefit the whole community.

"This is a good way to forge links between our hotel and the local community. It's a win-win strategy. We see a lot of middlemen putting pressure on villagers to hire them, so that they can negotiate with us and other resorts on the villagers' behalf. As a result, the fishermen lose out big time. Our sustainable CSR model in this case, has been very effective in cutting out the middleman and making sure the profits go directly to the local community," said Mr Panton.

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Fist pump for pumpkins



HALLOWEEN, the eve of All Hallows Day, has come and gone. Long ago, my family spent a year in California, where the kids made lanterns with ghoulish faces and scary costumes for the evening house-to-house visitations.

Here in Phuket, there has been no "trick-or-treating", no Jack-o'-lanterns, no pumpkin pie, no monster pumpkins. Incidentally, the world-record weight for a pumpkin – held by Swiss Beni Meier – is an astounding 1,054kg.

Nonetheless, pumpkins are a fact of life here. They thrive everywhere in Thailand's climate. Often cut into sections with their bright orange flesh offering a vivid contrast to the dull, warty, wrinkled shell, they offer a presence in every food store and fresh market.

Good for you? You bet... But then, name me an edible fruit, herb or vegetable that is not healthy. If we all ate more of this natural stuff, then we would all benefit.

So, what's beneficial about pumpkins? Fiber, for a start. They contain, as do most fruits of the earth, lots of natural fiber, the stuff that helps to keep your innards in



Pumpkin seeds are even a possible prophylactic against diabetes. Photo: Austin King

good working order. And if you cook some of the dense, fleshy shell the level of fiber will increase hugely.

In fact every bit of *curcubita pepo*, a member of the vast squash family, is edible. In parts of America, even the flowers are cooked, in Kenya the leaves. As a snack, the small flat seeds are a useful substi-

tute for sunflower seeds.

The orange flesh, moreover, is a good source of lutein and both A and B carotene, which the body is able to convert into vitamin A.

If you want to grow these monsters, remember the basics. Like marrows from temperate climes, they are vines that snake along the

ground and consequently require lots of room – at least 10 meters.

Plant the seeds a few centimeters deep in good soil – it will need to retain water – and the seedlings should sprout after seven to 10 days. Water heavily whenever the soil gets dry or when the leaves show signs of distress. A pump-

kin is more than 80 per cent water, so it needs plenty of it.

When the yellow blooms appear, they will be of both sexes. Distinguished by a bulb at the base of the flower, the female flowers require pollination. Normally this is performed by insects, especially bees, but since they are in such short supply, it may be necessary to hand pollinate by using a fine brush and mingling the pollen. The female flowers will die within a few hours if fertilization has not taken place.

The entire growth cycle may take in excess of 100 days, but the smaller tropical varieties should mature more speedily.

When a pumpkin is ready for the table, cut the stem far from the fruit – maybe six inches. This procedure will help to preserve it. Left without a stem, it will rot away. That is, if you leave it that long...

Catch Patrick online at PhuketGazette.net Sunday morning next week, when he explores the world of the sexually ambiguous papaya.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, email drpaccampbell@gmail.com. More about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com

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The many faces of infidelity



Balance Matters

Rita Dobson

OVER the past 42 years, I have listened to stories of infidelity, both from the victims' and betrayers' perspectives. Whether from clients, my own personal experience or those of family and close friends, infidelity frequently washes up on our shores.

Most victims that I have worked with become plagued with self doubt and intense anger. They frequently question their own being, what they did wrong and how their loved ones could treat them in such a way.

Others face bouts of vomiting, sleepless nights, anxiety, insecurity, complete obsession with the third party and even shame.

Betrayers often feel equally as lost and sickened by their actions.

I remember one particular woman in her early forties who had betrayed her long-term partner on a number

of occasions. She displayed a level of hopelessness far greater than any victim I had ever seen. She was left riddled with guilt, totally ashamed, confused and unable to justify her actions. Her partner, however, was able to help guide her through her infidelity. The relationship survived and became a stronger, more connected and fulfilling relationship. While some infidelities do lead to a break up, it is my personal belief that infidelity does not necessarily have to spell the end of a relationship.

When I look back at my own experiences with infidelity, I wish I had been more cognizant of some simple concepts, ideas and strategies that could have helped me. It is important to note that infidelity refers to any emotional or physical act that violates trust within a relationship.

We often view infidelity as just a physical act, but can engaging in intimate conversations online, playing pool on a regular basis with an attractive lady, flirting with golf caddies, hanging around in massage parlors, becoming overly familiar with your tennis coach or accepting late night calls of a personal nature from a co-worker

■ We often view infidelity as just a physical act, but can engaging in intimate conversations online, playing pool on a regular basis with an attractive lady, flirting with golf caddies, hanging around in massage parlors, becoming overly familiar with your tennis coach or accepting late night calls of a personal nature from a co-worker constitute an affair? ■

constitute an affair? The reality is that affairs can, and do, occur without sex being involved, generally originating as peer relationships in which platonic boundaries have been overstepped. Talking to your partner about his or her definition of infidelity is crucial to understanding where the boundaries lie, making the relationship feel clear and safe, and avoiding painful hurt in years to come.

Phuket, in particular, is a hotbed of temptation, with the high availability of commercial sex services in bars, clubs, brothels and massage parlors.

The simple availability of short-term partners in Thailand can add a new dimension to your previously thought-out relationship parameters. So make your expectations clear to your partner, discuss what you consider acceptable behavior and live by the



There are many reasons behind why a partner would commit adultery. Photo: Keith Allison

boundaries you have both agreed upon.

I don't believe that there exists a secret formula to know whether your partner is having an affair, but there are some common behaviors that may signal your relationship could be in trouble.

Awareness of these enables you to identify them and raise concerns with your partner, and may help to bring back a healthy relationship, before it reaches a crisis.

POOR COMMUNICATION

A lack of productive and meaningful communication may be a warning sign that your relationship is heading for trouble.

People in failing relationships communicate less. Being able to openly, honestly and respectfully communicate your work, life, money or sex concerns is vital for

a successful relationship.

A CHANGE IN SEX LIFE

A decline in sexual intimacy is common in troubled relationships. However, a sudden increase in sex caused by feelings of guilt or from a need to explore new moves learned outside of the relationship, can also be a cause for concern.

LACK OF TRUST

Whether your partner is not forthcoming in their whereabouts, are overly secretive about their cell phone usage or no longer share financial details, increased secrecy is never a positive sign.

A CHANGE IN APPEARANCE

A drastic decline in appearance of

both or either parties may signify that they no longer care and are unhappy in the relationship. Conversely, if you or your partner has recently become obsessed with their looks and pays excessive attention to their appearance, this could also be a sign of an affair.

Make no mistake, recovering from infidelity is a painful and emotional rollercoaster that takes time.

Rita Dobson, MBPS, BACP, is a professional counselor with a graduate diploma in psychology and an MA in counseling from Monash University. Rita has lived in Southeast Asia for more than 20 years. She has been working with youths in community centers, schools and young offenders' institutions, as well as supporting their families. Rita can be reached at rita@balancegroup.asia

Repairing relationships

Tips which can serve as starting blocks to recovery

- (1) Establish that the affair is indeed over.
- (2) The betrayer should be prepared to end all communication with the third party.
- (3) Keep communication open in a non-threatening manner.
- (4) Be prepared to discuss specific details of the affair.
- (5) Share feelings of hurt, anger, betrayal and distrust.
- (6) Understand the motivation behind the act, the "why". Was it a need for attention, excitement or revenge, a significant change in sex drive, attraction (physical, emotional, social or financial) or another reason?



Every relationship is different when it comes to reparation. Photo: Cat

This understanding leaves us better able to cope with the aftermath.

(7) Discuss what was lacking in the relationship.

(8) Aim to slowly build back trust. This can be achieved if

both parties are fully transparent and committed.

(9) Show appreciation and love to your partner. Reconnect your relationship through activities you enjoy together.

(10) Consider seeking help.



Infidelity does not have to lead to a break up. Photo: www.chromoz.com

Bowing to smartphones

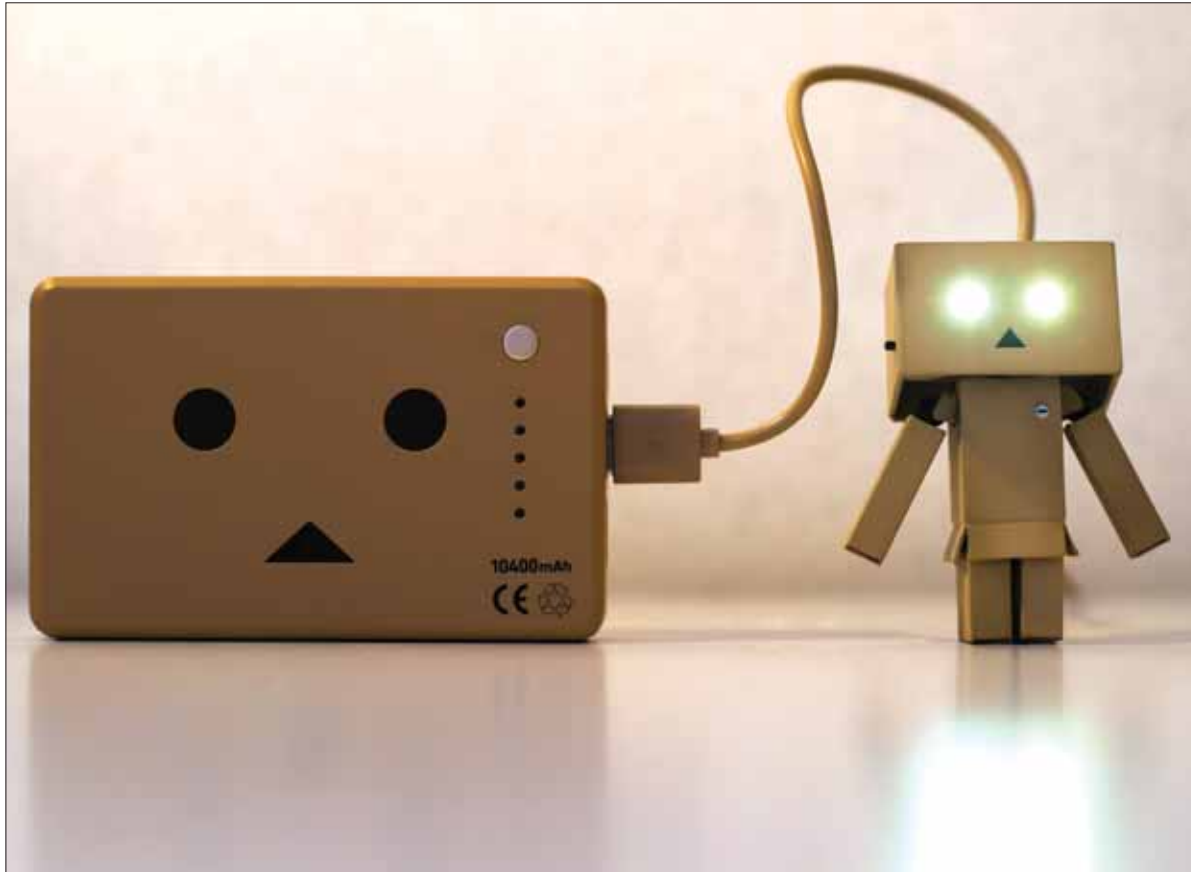
Island Fever
By Bill Barnett

HEADS bowed in silence have always seemed to elicit a tacit sense of reverence. Be it from religious fervor, or perhaps a strict upbringing, but some one-on-one time with God, the J-man or whatever icon takes your fancy remains a voice heard around the world.

These days, though, tilted heads and quiet means only one thing: the invasion of the smartphone. No one thing in recent history has captivated humankind as much as this simple battery-operated device. There is no need for the beads of the rosary, or chanting a mantra, as long as Instagram, WeChat, Facebook and the many other countless denizens of the net are just a few flicks of the finger away.

Heads bowed quietly around a dining table in a restaurant only mean one thing – Wi-Fi. Of course, heads pop up as soon as drinks or food arrive for the ritual pictures and permanent recording of plate-shots. In prehistoric times, cave people (give a shout out to gender equality here) carved pictures on walls that lasted millennia. The worry now is, will the Cloud always be with us? If not, our Instagram lives will have vanished into cyberspace forever.

My concern is not really the lack of dinner table chat, or the



HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO YOU: Are we becoming slaves to our smartphones? Photo: Takashi Hososhima

dying art of conversation, but a much more real and present danger which is a new generation of neck injuries. This is bound to happen. Forget Chernobyl, Agent Orange or any of those radiation scares. The fallout from stretched, out-of-shape necks is going to make Ebola seem like a play date for children at Disneyland.

I'm not a big one for evolution;

the times I have spent with monkeys simply has not resonated with me. Sure, they are smart, but what about pigs, dolphins and those clever birds whose names escape me? Could the smartphone decade be a giant step back in evolution, in which we revert to creatures that can only look down and not ever stare into the sky to see a sunset or else the stars?

Unless a selfie is involved, of course.

Perhaps talk is indeed overrated and staring down all the time does have benefits. You can spot dirt on a carpet, pick up lost coins and even make a fast dash home when you see your socks don't match. My mind shifts to the image of a giraffe with a smartphone. How exactly would that work? Will they

too become extinct sooner than later, like CDs, newspapers and big-hair rock bands.

My cynicism is on fire here, and yet, I have sat at the table of knowledge and slipped into the habit of lap surfing, or just checking in to see who is doing what on Facebook. Nostalgia remains a hobby of the old, and only ticks up on the fast track to the big sleep. Yet, this neck business has me really worried. I can see a whole new life for chiropractors, neck-brace manufacturers and a line of class-action lawsuits by television lawyers. It's going to get ugly out there.

As for our new-found converts to the latest religion of smartphones, where does the place old-school Bible thumping? If there is a God – I'm certainly praying to one every time I fly a low-cost airline carrier – then why hasn't he taken up a LinkedIn account or sent off a brief SMS from time to time? If those whacked-out crazies in Nigeria can send endless spam messages to me, where is the divine feedback?

Perhaps it's too much to ask for, and yes, evolution could push us down the upcycle to become neckless creatures permanently crouched and huddled over like spastic upright turtles. It's not a pretty picture, but certainly a better tale than X-Men. As for the sound of the human voice, frankly speaking, who needs it when you have WeChat?

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Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

AT FIRST blush you'd be hard pressed to find a link between Phuket's Chalong area and the world-famous Australian wine-producing region of Hunter Valley, some three hours' drive north of Sydney. But there's certainly one strong link in the friendly form of Greg and Liz Johnson, the founders of Delish Cafe located in the Fisherman Way Business Gardens on Rawai Road.

Greg and Liz moved to Phuket some years ago and decided to open Delish Cafe in December 2010, as exactly the sort of friendly Aussie-style hangout that they themselves would like to frequent.

Their hands-on dedication and friendliness have turned Delish into one of Phuket's best cafes, and every day it's full of happy locals and visitors alike enjoying superb breakfasts, Liz's wonderful home baking, some of the island's best coffee and the warm welcome they receive when they walk in.

Before moving to Phuket, Greg was a well-respected wine maker at the iconic Rothbury Estate in the beautiful Hunter Valley, and Liz opened and ran the first winery restaurant in that part of the world – the famous "Happy Valley" at the Drayton's Winery.

Delish is a popular hangout for cyclists in the south of the island, and one day, as I was re-hydrating there after a ride, I happened to mention to Greg and Liz that I was heading "Down Under" with my bicycle. The Johnsons imme-



Baz ditches his Phuket kit to get a taste of the Down Under on two wheels.

diately suggested that I do a bit of cycling around their old stomping grounds, the Hunter Valley, and gave me a few local celebrities to look up, if I made it there.

So it was that I flew into Sydney a few weeks ago to rediscover the joys of biking around that quintessential cyclist-friendly city where thousands of residents regularly bike to work, or to the ubiquitous beaches for sport, recreation and fun. There are many terrific parks, and cycle tracks seem to run everywhere, including over the Harbor Bridge itself and along the harbor foreshore, allowing marvelous vistas

of the iconic waterway and its famous Opera House.

One reason for being Down Under was to take my Godson for an evening Harbor Bridge climb to celebrate his 19th birthday. This we achieved on a fabulous October evening, with the city lighting up below us as we scaled the curving steel arches into the heavens – and as a huge cruise liner departed from its berth and steamed up the harbor with a thousand camera flashes popping pictures from its decks of us on the bridge climb above them.

I subsequently drove to the Hunter Valley and found one of the

bicycle rental shops which seemed to be everywhere as I travelled around in Oz. I hired a good mountain bike in the town of Cessnock and set off to cycle through some of the various wineries of this beautiful river valley. Not only is this a great source of exercise to counteract all the drinking and eating that you tend to do in the Hunter, but it gets you up close and personal with the rolling green hills, lush vineyards, blue skies and fresh country air.

You can plan your ride around, as I did, by visiting various winery cellar doors, tasting the fine local varietals as you go. This, of

course, has a built-in constraint as the local police are certainly on the look-out for imbibers who have gone over the limit... whether they are in charge of a car, or indeed a bicycle!

After a three hour-morning ride, I cycled west of Cessnock over to the stunning Mount View peak in the Brokenback Range and toiled uphill for a half an hour.

My reward greeted me when I breasted a green hillside along a dusty unpaved road, as I cycled through the gates of "Bistro Moline". The famous owner, Robert Moline, was initially recruited by Liz Johnson of Delish Cafe when he moved to the Hunter from France in 1973, and Liz had suggested that I look him up.

Robert went on to become one of the most important pioneers of the wonderful cuisine for which the Hunter is now famous and received The Order of Australia for his endeavors.

Robert opened his current restaurant, Bistro Moline, in 2011 serving outstanding French provincial cuisine in the most stunning surroundings overlooking rolling hills, terraced vineyards and silently grazing cattle.

As I sat down to a fabulous lunch washed asunder by a light wine from the Briar Ridge Vineyard, the vines of which were spread out before me, I realized that Phuket is the most amazing place for making possible the serendipitous sort of connections that had led me here. And so I raised a silent toast to Greg and Liz back at Delish in Chalong and wondered how I was going to get my bike back to the rental shop after such a delightful liquid lunch.

Celebrate charity cyclists' arrival from Sweden

EVERYONE is invited to join in the celebrations for a group of cyclists who are raising funds for a post-tsunami orphanage, and are on their final stretch toward Phuket, after having departed Sweden in March.

The group is expected to arrive at the Barnhem Muang Mai orphanage in Thalung at about 1:30pm on December 6.

Calle Wollgard and his team have already conquered 18 countries (including Iran), almost 16,000 kilometers of questionable roads, insane traffic, mountain passes, visa issues and countless other unexpected setbacks that lurk within the pages of an epic adventure.

Now, just hours from arriving at the Barnhem Muang Mai orphanage, morale is soaring.

"Everything is going smooth and easy now. Since we entered Thailand, it's all been flat, which feels like heaven after experiencing the mountains in southern China," Calle told the *Gazette*.

Though the mountains and snow of China were difficult, the team expanded

while there, picking up a fifth member who is now about to meet the children of Barnhem for the first time.

Kunn Lee, who was originally supposed to be cycling southern China and Tibet, changed his plans after meeting Calle, Fredrik Jessen, Tomi Blumen and Christofer Johansson in September, and is now heading toward Phuket.

Though close to the finish line, the team spent a few days last week in the small fishing village of Huai Yang in Prachuap Khiri Khan before the final push.

"We will stay in this village with some friends of mine for a couple of days just to relax and to get ready for the finish line on December 6," Calle said last week.

"Everyone is just so happy about the fact that we are so close. We just want to fast forward time and be at the gate of Barnhem. It's a bit difficult to explain really."

Though Barnhem means "home for children" in Swedish, it serves as a home to many in need, often accepting single mothers with children, and grandmothers with



The four Swedes and Mr Lee arrive in Thailand. Next stop: Phuket. Photo: Calle Wollgard

grandchildren who are unable to provide for themselves.

Those wishing to contribute should send Calle their name and how much they want to donate for each Swedish mile (10km) covered. All proceeds will go to Barnhem

Muang Mai, which was founded in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami disaster by a Thai-Swedish couple.

Calle and his team can be contacted at callewollgard@gmail.com

– Isaac Stone Simonelli



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THANYAPURA JUNIOR CHALLENGE

Children go the distance for fun

By Maciek Klimowicz

TRIATHLON is up there with the most demanding, high-performance sports. The idea of combining an intense swim, a high-speed bicycle ride and a long run into one, exhausting race is not for the faint-hearted. Or is it? More than 200 children, aged between 6 and 18, who took part in the Thanyapura Junior Challenge on November 29, proved that a triathlon truly is a sport for everyone.

Do today's kids spend all their time glued to their gaming consoles? Not the kids at Thanyapura. Especially as you can't just get up from your sofa and complete a triathlon – you need some preparation – and so do the children.

“We advise kids to prepare for the event through regular physical activity,” says Michael Dhulst, Thanyapura's director of sports. “You need the skill set. You need to know how to swim. You need to be able to ride a bike, and we advise to be generally active – it's something we promote here at Thanyapura.”

All this preparation is necessary not only to win the race, but also to make it to the finish line, something that is a primary goal for many amateur athletes out there.

“A triathlon always has two aspects,” says Dhulst. “There is the high-performance competition, where athletes race to the podium, but there's also a big group of people who simply want to challenge themselves, to prove to themselves that they can achieve.

“A lot of kids enter the race just for fun. Of course, once they jump into the pool, a bit of a competitive spirit kicks in, but in general it's all about fun.”

And it's fun for the family, with the track designed in a way that allows the parents to support their kids the whole way.

As far as safety is concerned, a set of provisions is in place to keep the event secure and fun.

The distances for each age group – 6 to 8; 9 to 12; and 13 to 18 years old – are adjusted to the age group's capabilities in accordance with international standards. There are eight lifeguards on duty, plus coaches from the aquatics team, as well as volunteers. On the bike and running courses, local police and Thanyapura's security guarantee safety and last, but not least, the event is organized in collaboration with Bangkok Hospital Phuket, so there is a medical tent and medical staff on standby.

In other words, it's safe, fun and good for the kids. “It's good for children to be physically active on a daily basis. It also helps them deal with problems, channel their stress and [encourages them to] interact with other children,” says Dhulst.

But perhaps what matters the most in the end is that kids simply love it.

The Thanyapura Junior Challenge was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationwide 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59.



Kids taking part in the swim leg of the Thanyapura triathlon.



The Thanyapura Junior Challenge is not just physically good for kids, it also helps them to channel stress and interact with other children.

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King's Cup Regatta ahoy!

RACING began on Monday in the keelboat and multihull classes in the 28th Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which has become renowned worldwide for its epic big boat battles. This year's regatta has attracted a fleet of 93 keelboats and catamarans from 16 countries, jostling in close-quarters competition in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday on December 5.

As of Wednesday, four-time King's Cup winner Neil Pryde and his advanced racer *Hifi* were neck-and-neck in their battle against *Team Beau Geste* in the pinnacle IRC 0 Class.

The *Phuket Gazette* wishes all competitors in each of the 14 divisions the best of luck in their races. May the winds be with you!

Photo: Guy Nowell

Check out the latest results at PhuketGazette.net

Sport

Laguna Tri-Fest goes Wild

SWISS Olympian Ruedi Wild produced a clockwork performance once again at Laguna Phuket to secure his first half-distance win at 2014 Challenge Laguna Phuket (CLP) in 4:02:43 last Sunday.

The win follows his debut title win at the 2012 Laguna Phuket Triathlon, which he successfully defended the next year.

World champion Melissa Hauschildt of Australia defended her title in the women's field with a time of 4:27:40, leading her nearest rivals by more than 10 minutes.

Wild was third out of the water (24m:24s) and then battled neck and neck with his pro mates on the bike (2:14:45) before claiming his win on the run (1:21:20). He crossed the finish line less than two minutes before Sweden's Fredrik Croneborg, who placed second with 4:04:02.

Hauschildt emerged second from the swim (24m:28s) behind Radka Vodickova of the Czech Republic, but then rode off with the lead on the bike (2:29:31) and carried through with a strong run (1:27:06) to win. Hauschildt



World champion Melissa Hauschildt celebrates her victory at the finish line with Candy. Photo: Laguna Phuket

finished almost 15 minutes before Parys Edwards of Great Britain (4:42:05), who won the 2014 Laguna Phuket Triathlon as champion in the women's field only one week earlier.

Among the greats racing were 2013 Challenge Laguna Phuket champion Rasmus Patraeus of Denmark; four-time Laguna Phuket Triathlon champion Massimo Cigana of Italy; and

multiple records holder and runner-up in the 2013 world championships Luke McKenzie of the US.

Joining them were Alberto Casadei of Italy, who was re-

cently-crowned dual 2014 Laguna Phuket Triathlon champion in a tie with Cigana; Till Schramm of Germany; and world-renowned triathlon sweetheart Belinda Granger of Australia.

Wild aims to come back for his fourth win next year.

"I always like to come back here because it means a lot to me. It's one of those races that you want to come to, and not one of the races that I feel like I have to do," he said.

"Although it's really hot and humid out, making the race really tough, the surrounding was nice and the hospitality is good here - so I'm happy!"

A field of about 550 pro and age group athletes from 40 countries jumped into the waters of Bang Tao Bay at 6:30am to tackle the 1.9km swim, followed by a 90km bike ride and a 21km run.

The first Thai male finisher was Phuket's own Jaray Jearanai who finished 18th overall with a time of 4:37:04, breaking his record from last year of 4:41:31.

- *Phuket Gazette*



The youth sailors opened the King's Cup racing off Kata. Photo: Guy Nowell

Youth dinghy racers in King's Cup foray

Phuket King's Cup Regatta

PROMISING young Thai sailors took to the waters in Optimist and Laser dinghies to mark the first competitive class racing action under the umbrella of this year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta, in the 5th Phuket Dinghy Series.

Twelve back-to-back races ran in front of the Sailing Club at the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Command at Cape Panwa, on Phuket's east coast, earlier in November, culminating in the final at Kata Beach last weekend to coincide with the launch of this year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Teerapong Torkratok sailed an excellent racing performance to emerge as winner of the Laser Class, with Nattapong Yongram claiming overall winner in Boy's Optimist Class.

Narinmas Nitsuwan won the Girl's Optimist Class race series.

"The dinghies are a key component of the King's Cup, and one of the things that makes this such a massive event for sailing in Thailand," said Kevin Whitcraft, president of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee.

"It is a huge encouragement for Thai sailing youth, and magnificent to see such strong progress year on year.

"Many of the dinghy sailors are now upper intermediate level, with consistent progress with each coming regatta."

- *Phuket Gazette*

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationwide 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59.

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