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Flyover approved

Public hearing approves Bt1.55bn bypass roadworks

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THREE public hearings have resulted in firm decisions as to what shape three major road projects on the bypass road will take, if 1.55 billion baht in funding is made available for them.

The final meeting, held on July 2 at The Metropole hotel and chaired by Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat, ended with firm resolutions of which projects to undertake to alleviate heavy traffic congestion along the bypass road.

The first resolution was that a four-lane, 570-meter underpass be installed under Wichit Songkram Rd at Darasamuth School Intersection to improve north-south traffic flow along the bypass road.

The project cost was estimated at 600 million baht.

It was also agreed that at the Samkong (Tesco Lotus) intersection about two kilometers to the north, a four-lane, 610-meter underpass costing 700 million baht is needed along the bypass road to improve traffic flow.

East-west traffic will pass over the junction via a 969-meter flyover connecting Yaowarat Rd on the Rassada side with Phra



RUSH HOUR: Traffic at the Darasamuth intersection. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Phuket Kaew Rd on the Kathu side.

At an estimated cost of 250 million baht, the structure would reach a maximum height of almost eight meters above the existing road surface.

The flyover would be designed in a Sino-Portuguese style, aimed

at making it a Phuket landmark, representatives of consulting firm Thai Engineering Consultants (TEC).

Both underpasses would feature drainage pipes, ventilation ducts, electric traffic signs, emergency electric power supply and safety equipment including tele-

phones, CCTV and fire-fighting equipment.

As for funding, the projects are already included in 10-year master plan for highway development for 2010 to 2019, but they must be funded through the annual fiscal budget. For that, they will be up against many other projects nationwide, explained Kasem Sriwaran, Director of Survey and Design Office at the Department of Highways.

"Construction at each intersection should take about two years to complete, but work will not start [at both intersections] at the same time," he said.

The meeting was attended by about 100 people, including local government officers and local residents. All participants voiced support for the projects in terms of reducing traffic congestion and improving road safety, but some voiced concerns about specific safety issues.

Arunee Sirisamurpak, Director of the Wichitsongkraam School, expressed concern for the safety of the school's 1,400 primary-level students when crossing the Darasamuth School intersection to reach the school grounds.

Continued on page 2

YOUR NEW-LOOK GAZETTE

FOLLOWING months of intensive work with content and design editors, we are happy to launch this week a whole new style for the *Phuket Gazette*. But the new format, type of paper and layout style are only a beginning.

In the weeks ahead, you will find more news, more features, more photos, more letters and more classifieds. You will note more reporters and freelance writers, and you will find the *Gazette* in many more places around the Andaman Region.

We've switched to a higher-quality paper. Note the crisper look of the text, and the cleaner and brighter graphics. Though whiter, the paper is also 'greener', produced from 100% EcoFiber.

Today's new look is all part of our ongoing commitment to Phuket – more investment, better facilities, and a firm belief that local residents will continue to enjoy a community newspaper of the type you are holding.

Wanphen's mom tells of her pain

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE MOTHER of Wanphen Pienjai, the bar hostess whose body was found stuffed in a suitcase in Phuket last week, has spoken of her anguish over the murder of her daughter.

Sa-ard Maliwan, 59, told the *Gazette* she is praying every day for police to catch the killer.

"He deserves to be punished hard for what he did to my daughter," she said.

Mrs Sa-ard lives in Petchabun Province with Ms Wanphen's two children, a 12-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl.

Ms Wanphen, 33, had worked in a doll factory but moved to Kata to work as a hostess at Sweethearts Bar in April this year, Mrs Sa-ard said.

The work enabled Ms Wanphen to support her mother and two children.

Ms Sa-ard said she had "no idea how to move on" after the death

of her daughter, but that her cousins had been visiting constantly to give her support.

"She was the only one who supported the family," Mrs Sa-ard said. "When she earned a lot, she sent us a lot. I live on about 100 baht a day."

Ms Wanphen used to phone home often. Her last call was on June 16, two days before she left Sweethearts Bar with a bearded Caucasian man now being sought by police.

On June 25, police called Mrs Sa-ard to give her the devastating news. "When I saw the body I was sure it was her because of the scar on her stomach," she said. Wanphen's body has now been confirmed through DNA analysis.

It is unlikely the family can afford to return the body home to Petchabun, which has prompted *Gazette* readers to call for organized donations to help Wanphen's family. See PhuketGazette.Net for full details.



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This Week

Dying to be slim?

Atchaa Khamlo sheds light on dietary pills and their availability on Phuket.

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Chef Ronnie Macuja teams up with the 'Best' at Vset.

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Phuket's Ironman on course to summit Mont Blanc.

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Tour one of Kamala's finest luxury offerings.

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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes.

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Fears of drought prompt dam plan

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE PHUKET Provincial Irrigation Office (PPIO) has proposed a 300-million-baht project to increase the capacity of Bang Wad reservoir out of fears that not taking steps now will leave Phuket residents high and dry in little more than a decade.

PPIO Director Weerawat Aungsupanith told the *Gazette*, "We are working together with Phuket Provincial Office and Kathu Municipality. The PPIO has already finished the study and design process and we expect the budget to be about 300 million baht."

"This will be the first time our organizations have worked together. We [the PPIO] have prepared an Memorandum of Understanding and sent it to the Provincial Office and Kathu Municipality and are waiting for their opinions."

Mr Weerawat said the plans call for raising the ridge of the nearly one-kilometer-long dam by about 1.5 meters to boost its capacity from 7.3 million cubic meters to 10.6 million cubic meters.

If completed, the project will boost the reservoir's capacity to



IN STORE: Bang Wad reservoir is only half-full. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

20 million cubic meters of fresh water a year, up from its current capacity of 14 million cubic meters a year, he added.

PPIO water management department chief Issara Anukool said that Phuket's demand for fresh water this year stood at 51 million cubic meters.

However, with existing infrastructure, Phuket can supply only 46 million cubic meters of fresh water per year, well short of the demand, he said.

Mr Issara said that in 13 years,

Phuket's yearly demand will have increased to nearly 78 million cubic meters.

This year, however, infrastructure was not to blame for shortages.

Although Phuket's fresh water capacity, currently held in reservoirs, streams, underground and other sources, is only 50% full at about 11 million cubic meters, the volume of water in reserves now could sustain the island until January even if there were no more rain, Mr Issara said.

Public gives nod to bypass traffic jam plans

From Page 1

"Another problem is that noise during construction will disturb classes because the school is quite near the road," she added.

Watcharin Dumlak said, "I agree with the project, but not with the Sino-Portuguese design. It could be any style that expresses Thai culture. When tourists arrive here, they know this is Thailand. The Sino-Portuguese style might confuse them, making them wonder if this is Thailand or some other country."



The approved plan for the Darasamuth Intersection. Image by TEC

Another local resident said that road signs informing the public about the project should be in En-

glish as well as Thai so that foreigners can keep abreast of developments.

Illegal tour guide crackdown looms

By Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein

KATHU Police are setting up a center to crack down on unregistered operating in Patong.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayaphan Pukbuakhao said the new center, based in the police box at the beach end of Soi Bangla, is to open in about one week.

The Bangla Police Box was chosen as tour buses organized by up to 50 different tour companies stop in front of it to let passengers alight and explore the nightlife of Soi Bangla, a walking street blocked to traffic from 6pm daily.

Work is underway to create a database of registered tour guides and the companies they work for, Col Arayaphan said.

"We know most of them. If any unfamiliar ones appear we will ask



The crackdown is unlikely to affect the many sex-show street touts.

to see their licenses. We will fine anyone caught working illegally according to regulations," he said.

According to one local media report, the initiative was also geared toward ridding the area of street touts who get a commission for bringing foreign tourists into establishments that advertise a variety of entertainments, including sex shows.


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Phuket surf claims two, endangers 170

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE ROUGH surf that arrived with the monsoon season has claimed two lives and resulted in at least 117 swimmers being dragged to safety ashore between April 26 and June 25, according to statistics recently released by the Phuket Lifeguard Club.

The club has 83 lifeguards stationed at 13 beaches on the island. During their first three months patrolling the beaches, the club recorded 170 "incidents", involving 71 Thais and 99 foreigners.

The number of "near drownings" is the highest on record for a three-month period, with 54 Thais and 63 foreigners plucked from the sea just in the nick of time.

Patong Beach recorded the highest number of incidents: 68.

This figure comprised 44 near drownings, 16 jellyfish stings and eight others, including three injuries sustained in jet-ski mishaps.

Mai Khao and Kata Noi beaches have recorded no incidents since the Phuket Lifeguard Club started their patrols there.

Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization Vice-President Soratham Jinda said that despite best efforts by Phuket lifesavers, many tourists continue to needlessly endanger themselves by ignoring lifeguards' warnings and entering treacherous surf conditions.

Helmet crackdown gets national-level support

By Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein

IN PHUKET on July 7 for a one-day inspection tour, Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Senniam was so impressed with Phuket City Police Station's helmet crackdown efforts that he has asked the Governor's Office to extend the initiative throughout the province.

After joining some 30 officials in viewing the now-compulsory road accident movie for traffic law violators, Mr Thavorn voiced his strong support for the initiative and revealed that he lost his younger brother Khamnueng Senniam in 1982 to head injuries sustained in a motorbike accident.

Mr Khamneung died of a cerebral hemorrhage seven days after his head hit the pavement because he was not wearing a helmet at the time, Mr Thavorn said.

The deputy minister said that on the way from Phuket Airport to the police station he observed that more than 95% of motorbike riders were wearing helmets.

The fact that so few people failed to don them indicated the project was effectively increasing public awareness, he said.

"I would like the other police stations [in Phuket] and provinces to campaign as seriously as Phuket City Police Station to get



IMPRESSED: Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Senniam. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

people wearing helmets. Also, I will suggest this project in other areas," he said.

Noting that police were allowed to keep 35% of proceeds from fines collected from traffic law violations, he said that the public awareness campaign showed Phuket City Police were more interested in public welfare than their own purse strings.

Under the Phuket City Police campaign, people caught without

helmets have their details entered into a database and possibly facing disciplinary action at work or school.

Offenders will be also forced to watch a movie showing graphic images taken from road accident scenes.

The first crowds of obligated spectators filed into Phuket City Police Station July 6 to view the film, which is intended to help enforce the long-ignored "helmet"

law. The crackdown, announced in April, was set to be brought into effect July 1, when police were to begin issuing fines to anyone caught on a moving motorbike without a helmet.

However, faced with the enormity of the task, police decided to extend the public awareness campaign a few months, during which time offenders will have their licenses seized.

Offenders will have their driving licenses returned only after they have viewed the locally-produced movie with graphic images showing in detail that a fast-moving human skull is no match for asphalt.

Traffic Police Officer Phaisan Rodthieng said that the road safety campaign would also include shaming offenders and possibly setting them up for admonishment in the home or workplace.

"We will record all of them and inform their schools or the companies that employ them. The schools will cut their student's behavior grades, while companies will issue warnings to their employees.

"For example, Bangkok Hospital Phuket will give staff warnings each time they are reported and will terminate their employment if they are reported three times," he said.

Murder suspect turns self in, claims innocence

POLICE have announced the arrest of the third suspect wanted in connection with the June 26 shooting murder of 17-year-old Witarn Chuaykuea at a Phuket Town gas station.

Watcharin "James" Limmanee, 21, handed himself in to Phuket City Police Station last Thursday to proclaim his innocence.

Narongchai "Tan" Boonprom of Nakhon Sri Thammarat, arrested earlier, confessed to shooting Mr Witarn in the face with a sawed-off shotgun in a fit of jealous rage.

He claimed that Mr Witarn had been "hanging out" with his ex-girlfriend, who Mr Narongchai had broken up with about two months earlier.

At the press conference on July 3, Mr Watcharin said he did not know the other two men would attack the youth when he was asked to join them.

All three men arrived at the gas station on the same motorbike.

Mr Watcharin maintained that he was not involved in the fighting that led to the shooting.

Many witnesses could be called to testify with regard to Watcharin's claim, as the shooting took place early Saturday night at one of the busiest gas stations in Phuket.



SHAME: Murder suspect Watcharin 'James' Limmanee hides his face.

Teen held over karaoke killing

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET City Police have charged a young man with murder and issued an arrest warrant for his father, after the pair allegedly stabbed to death a Phuket man at Chumporn Karaoke, on the corner of Kwang Rd and Chao Fa East Rd in Wichit, on July 4.

Surasak Winijnantwat, 58, suffered multiple stab wounds and was pronounced dead on arrival at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Jathuphum 'Ger' Chokethawee, 18, was arrested the next day. He has thus far denied the charges,

saying he was staying elsewhere near Phuket Town at the time of the incident, police said.

His father, whose name was given only as "Griangrai", is still sought by police.

The violence began after Mr Surasak Winijnantwat taunted Mr Jathuphum and Mr Griangrai by referring to the young suspect as his "stepson" and telling the father-son pair to not "show off" to impress the karaoke hostesses, police said.

Mr Surasak had a relationship with Mr Jathuphum's mother before the young man was born, the police investigation has revealed.

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Full-Moon frazzled farang in BB rampage

KOH Phang Ngan police in Surat Thani Province came under a hail of BB gunfire when they tried to subdue a middle-aged Swiss tourist on a rampage in a shop stocked full of weapons.

Boom BB Guns shop owner Manop Wongtawan on the morning of July 4 called police to his store, which sells BB guns as well as knives and other weapons apparently in demand on the tiny resort island, famous for its drug-fuelled, all-night "full moon" parties.

At the scene, officers were met by a crazed-looking Caucasian tourist brandishing a gas-powered soft air gun and throwing around Mr Manop's wares.

Police approached to try and calm down the man, who appeared to be around 40 years old.

Their overture was met by a hail of plastic ball bearing gunfire.

Somewhat calmer than their military colleagues in Bangkok in May, the officers decided against returning fire with live rounds and instead beat a hasty retreat while the tourist continued to smash up the contents of the gun store.

'Police approached to try and calm down the man, who appeared to be around 40 years old... Their overture was met by a hail of plastic ball bearing gunfire.'

QUEER news

Police then persuaded the shop owner to brave the wrath of the freaked-out *farang* and remove serious weapons including samurai swords and a baseball bat from inside the store to prevent the incident from escalating. The stand-off lasted about two hours before police charged the troubled tourist and disarmed him.

Officers took the man to Koh Pha Ngan Police Station, but when they arrived the recalcitrant man refused to get out of the police car.

Passing tourists were called in to help negotiate with the man,

who refused to give his name but said he came from the European bastion of neutrality, Switzerland.

Witnesses told police they had seen the man wandering around the island since the previous week's full moon party. He reportedly spent the party and the following week wandering around looking vacant and paranoid, repeatedly mumbling to himself, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to."

He allegedly assaulted a bar girl and some passing tourists, although police were apparently not called in to deal with those particular incidents.

Mr Manop has demanded 100,000 baht in compensation for the damage done to his shop.

Police said they would wait for the frantic *farang* to calm down before questioning him further.

Source: Khao Sod

Diet pills:

THE death of an 18-year-old girl in Nonthaburi allegedly through taking diet pills has reignited the debate in Phuket over the safety of diet pills and their availability online. The *Gazette's* Atchaa Khamlo reports.

ACCORDING to the father of the girl in Nonthaburi, unnamed for legal reasons, his daughter complained of feeling tired and went to bed early on May 30. By the next morning she was dead.

The death of the much-liked girl caused such outrage that it spurred the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take legal action against the makers of L-Carnitine Plus+ and Paody Slim Capsule, which the girl had been taking to lose weight.

The products were reportedly easily obtained by the girl by ordering them through the internet.

In the ensuing publicity, Public Health Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said the FDA and police had indicted Advance Bio Product over its L-Carnitine Plus+ on December 25 last year and that the case was still in court.

That particular product, not to be confused with other legitimate, FDA-approved products containing L-Carnitine, was allegedly unauthorized and boasted of stimulating the body's metabolism. The product also contained a weight-loss substance called Salbutamine, which is a potentially dangerous drug to be used only under a doctor's directions.

Mr Jurin pointed out that the "Paody Slim Capsule" found at the girl's home did not have an FDA registration number prominently displayed on it and was suspected of also containing a banned weight-loss substance.

The failure to display an FDA number is punishable by a fine up to 30,000 baht, while adding the weight-loss drug is punishable by up to two years in jail and a 20,000-baht fine. The exaggerated advertising used in hawking the products can incur a further three years maximum in jail and/or a 30,000-baht fine.

Mr Jurin also urged the FDA to work with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to shut down websites that promote weight-loss

products not approved by the FDA.

Not a month after the Nonthaburi girl's death, diet pills were the prime suspect in another death which struck a grave chord with the many female teenagers in Phuket who take diet pills so they can be "fashionably slim".

On June 21, a teacher at Chulalongkorn University Demonstration Elementary School died of a heart attack. Although the results of an autopsy of his body have yet to be released, police are investigating whether diet pills played a part, combined with taking too much exercise, as the teacher weighed 160kg and stood only 165cm tall.

In Phuket, these fatal reminders of how dangerous "dying to be slim" can be may finally be getting the message through. One 17-year-old female student at Satee Phuket school who used to take diet pills told the *Gazette*, "It was good at first, as the pills stopped me from feeling hungry. It seemed like they were suppressing my appetite."

She said she bought the pills from a clinic suggested by a friend.

"But after taking the pills for two weeks, I then started feeling dizzy and disoriented. One day, I stood up and I started tottering. I had to ask my friends to hold me so I would not fall down."

"In the beginning, it took just a week to lose about two to three kilograms. But when I stopped taking the pills, my weight went back up to more than what it was before I started taking them."

"I will never go back to using that kind of medicine again," she said.

But it's not just young women who are willing to try risky pills just to lose weight.

A 28-year-old man, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette*, "My girlfriend once suggested that I try diet pills ordered via the



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Dying to get slimmer



Wasinee Reerop with her FDA-approved supplements. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Internet; pills that were not approved by the FDA.

"The medicine seemed very popular at her workplace, as many of her colleagues were taking it. I took just one pill and it made my heart beat so hard that I didn't have the energy to do anything. That's when I asked her to give the pills back to her friends."

Wasinee Reerop, 31, opened her three, now very successful, Lan Ngarm healthcare shops in Phuket more than three years ago. She used to sell such diet pills in her shops, but doesn't anymore.

"A month before the sad story [in Nonthaburi] happened, we used to sell diet products from China, but then officers from the Public Health Office came to check which products we sold and told

us which ones we were not allowed to provide. So we removed them from the store."

"Anyone looking to use diet medicine should be very careful about fake brands," Ms Wasinee warned.

She should know. "I also used to take diet pills from a clinic, but they gave me the shakes," she told the *Gazette*.

Ms Wasinee explained that her shops were licensed to sell dietary supplement products, some of which contain legally approved L-Carnitine.

"We have never received a complaint about side-effects of any of the diet products we have sold since we opened nearly four years ago. Most of our diet products are sourced from direct sales through

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| Milk, whole, 250ml | 8 |
| Codfish, cooked, 113g | 4-7 |
| Chicken breast, cooked 113g | 3-5 |
| Ice cream, 125ml | 3 |
| Cheese, cheddar, 56g | 2 |
| Whole-wheat bread, 2 slices | 0.2 |
| Asparagus, cooked, 125ml | 0.1 |

Source: Office of Dietary Supplements at the US National Institute of Health

genuine sales representatives. All the products must have FDA labels proving that we have permission to sell the product," she explained.

However, she pointed out that less scrupulous dealers on the Internet advertised incredibly similar-looking products with packing in slightly different colors and, more importantly, products that were not approved by the FDA.

She added that although the

Thai Public Health Ministry limits diet pills for sale to 250 milligrams per pill, variants sold on the internet were 500 milligrams.

"About 70% of the people who walk into our stores are looking for diet medicine, but most of them are teenagers starting their third year of secondary school [about 15 years old]. Some of them already have good figures, but they still ask for diet drugs.

"But we don't sell them to any-

one under 18 years old," Ms Wasinee said.

Of the 146 medical clinics registered on Phuket, 57 have permission to order diet medicine from the FDA and sell it.

Public Health officer Ekkarin Warittikorn said his office takes this issue seriously.

"We check all clinics and stores that sell dietary supplement products every year and we keep our eyes on suspicious clinics and follow up on any vendors that we receive complaints about.

"If we find any vendor breaking FDA regulations, such as selling banned diet medicines or selling diet pills without the correct license, we will issue them a warning.

"But if they don't listen to our warning, we will take legal action," he said.

Personally, Mr Ekkarin doesn't understand the desire to take such risks to lose weight.

"They are better off just eating less carbohydrates and doing more exercise. That's much better than taking diet medicines," the health officer said.

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Red Cross launch July blood drive in Phuket

THE Phuket Chapter of the Thai Red Cross Society has arranged for its mobile unit to start yet another tour of the island, accepting blood donations at the following places and times throughout the month of July.

July 13 (11am to 4 pm): Phuket FantaSea, Kamala

July 17 (10am to 3pm): Royal Palm Beach Front Hotel, Beach road, Patong

July 18 (9am to noon): Chalermprakit School, Saphan Hin, Phuket Town

July 19 (noon to 7pm): Tesco Lotus Phuket, bypass road, Rassada

July 20 (10am to 3pm): Laguna Beach Resort, Cherng Talay

July 22 (9am to 3pm): Satree Phuket School, Damrong Rd, Phuket Town

July 30 (noon to 7pm): Phuket International Airport, Mai Khao

July 31 (10am to 4pm):

HomeWorks Supercenter, Wichit Supplies collected will be used to boost stocks at the Andaman Region Office of the National Blood Bank on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd, near the Land Transport Office at Saphan Hin.

People seeking to donate blood may also visit the blood bank at the following days and times: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:30am to 4:30pm; Tuesdays, Thursdays: 8:30am to 8pm; Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 9am to 3pm.

For more information call the National Blood Bank at 076-251178.

The blood bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket Town also accepts donations Mondays to Fridays from 8:30am to 8pm as well as on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30am to 3pm.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Soul of Asia at Surin Plaza remains open as normal

Gang of six nabbed in Bangkok, say police

POLICE have arrested six pick-pockets who they say stole more than 100,000 baht a week from victims at Klong Thom Market and other popular shopping areas in Bangkok.

The suspects, all from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, allegedly traveled to the capital every weekend to carry out thefts in busy shopping areas, police said, adding that the gang regularly returned home with around 100,000 baht in loot.

The gang of six was nabbed on July 4 by Bangkok Metropolitan Police while allegedly trying to rob people at Klong Thom market after one member was seen "sizing up" a victim.

Police arrested the five other members and say they found them with a "freshly stolen" wallet with 20,000 baht, another 28,000 baht in cash and foreign currencies including 5,000 Indian rupiah and 145,000 Iranian rials.

In addition to a 17-year-old youth, the gang was made up of alleged leader Surachart Maneupphatham, 20; Somphong Chaowana, 18; Jaral Phromyote, 27; Somboon Jaemjamras, 37; and Jaroen Aramsri, 59, a driver who allegedly took the group to and from Bangkok every weekend.

Police said they were still hunting several Vietnamese and Cambodian gangs, who were good at cutting out purses and pockets of people's pants while their victims were still wearing them.

They were also chasing a Thai gang of women and children from Bangkok's Klong Toei slum, police said.

— The Nation

Red shirts still missing

By Pongphon Sarnsamak

THE protest and riots in Bangkok ended more than a month ago, but Phaitoon Moondee, 60, is still waiting for her son to come home. "I just want to know whether he is still alive," she said.

Her son, Phuwanart Moondee, 32, went back and forth between their home in the Northeastern province of Sakon Nakhon to the protest sites in Bangkok from April 23. He was joined by many friends from the same village.

It was Mrs Phaitoon herself who asked her son to join the fight for democracy and stay put until the red shirt protesters won.

"I told him to not leave his friends, whatever happened. But since the demonstration ended on May 19, he has never come back," Mrs Phaitoon said, trembling.

Mr Phuwanart last called his mother to say he was safe on the morning of May 17.

Youngsters who traveled with Mr Phuwanart said they saw him the next evening at Ratchaprasong intersection and asked him to take a bus home, but he refused.

He has not been seen since.

His mother has asked the Mirror Foundation for help finding her son. She provided information about her son's appearance and personality, providing the foundation's missing persons center with photos in the hope that they will find him. She also notified police.

The center said Mr Phuwanart is among 35 people reported missing since the May 19 crackdown.

The center's chief, Eakalak Loomchoomkhae said there were many reasons to explain why some protesters have disappeared.

Many had gone into hiding because they were afraid of being arrested for attending the demonstration, he said.



H1N1 jabs continue

THE Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has prepared 2.1 million doses of a new vaccine cocktail against three flu viruses, including H1N1.

The vaccine will be provided to six million high-risk people across the nation from July 1 to October 31 under a World Health Organization project that runs from July 1 to October 31.

A recent report from the ministry shows that the virus has infected 6,679 people this year, killing three of them. About two to three people come down with the A/H1N1 flu weekly, according to the MoPH.

Of 86 people recorded by the center as missing, 51 have been found. Of the 35 still missing, 26 told relatives they planned to join the red shirt protest.

Most people who were found

did not give any explanation about why they disappeared when they contacted their families, Mr Eakalak said.

The center has a limited capacity to search for the missing as

there are only two people working on that task, he said.

The center asked Kanit Na Nakhon, the man picked by the government to chair an official panel to probe the crackdown, to set up a subcommittee to search for people still missing.

"We must have answers for their relatives on whether they have died or are alive," he said.

"If we don't have any answers for their families, it could be another source of conflict in the future."

Kritaya Archavanitkul, deputy director of the Institute for Population and Social Research, said finding missing people this time around was more difficult than after the "Black May" crisis 18 years ago because the Abhisit government's state of emergency obstructed fact finding.

Ms Kritaya, who conducted an academic study entitled Missing, Dead and Injured in the 1992 Political Crackdown, said, "Everything related to the crackdown is now under the carpet. We just have a blurred picture of how people died, got injured and disappeared."

In 1992, at least seven leading universities, educational institutes and state agencies teamed up for over two years to seek out missing people. To date, about 2,030 people from the May 1992 incident are still missing, she said.

"Nowadays, forensic science is more advanced, but we have found that their work has not been so efficient and that they side with the government," she said.

— The Nation

Haad Yai pair face charges over sex-slave trafficking, extortion

A MAN and woman have been charged with human trafficking and illegally detaining a woman for ransom, Social Development and Human Security Minister Issara Somchai said on July 5.

Sriwan Chaisri, 36, and her

driver Somkid Thongchuchay, 47, both residents of Songkhla's Haad Yai District, were arrested, with 45,000 baht in cash seized as "ransom evidence" at Ms Sriwan's home in Haad Yai.

The victim's daughter alerted

the Prachabodi Center, a 24-hour hotline handling human-trafficking cases.

The daughter said that her 35-year-old mother, a Thai, was lured to work at a karaoke bar in Malaysia, where she was ordered to do sex work. The venue was owned by Ms Sriwan's husband, the daughter alleged.

When her mother refused, her family was told to pay 95,000 baht to secure her release.

Officials organized a sting operation to pay the "ransom" and arrested Ms Sriwan and Mr Somkid.

However, the pair have denied any wrongdoing.

— The Nation

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Phuket Kusoldharm honored by League of Foundations

THE Southern District chapter of the League of Foundations of Thailand bestowed its Number 1 Foundation award for community service on Phuket's Kusoldharm Foundation June 25.

The announcement was made at the Southern District meeting at Krabi Provincial Hall in Krabi Town.

The League, which is under Royal patronage by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, represents all registered Thai foundations and charities.

The Southern District, or District 11, includes Phuket, Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phang Nga, Ranong, Krabi and

Chumphon, and is headed by President Chuan Phukaoluan, former Mayor of Krabi and President of the Sriphong Phukaoluan Foundation.

At the League of Foundations' district-level meetings each year, the board of directors from Bangkok come to provide logistical support and give awards to foundations providing outstanding services.

As host of the event, Mr Chuan introduced the League of Foundations' Vice-Chairman, Soojit Neemitgon, who provided the theme for this year's meeting by stressing the importance of emergency-aid workers and first-aid responders in saving

lives after accidents, fires and natural disasters.

Research has shown that local communities are the most effective at providing relief in the initial stages of emergencies, and usually account for the majority of aid provided during this period.

First aid responders are now recognized as the critical difference between life and death for many emergency victims, and the lessons learned from the 2004 tsunami confirmed this.

Following this line of reasoning, the league awarded the Kusoldharm Foundation in Phuket, which has been active for

33 years, providing first aid and other emergency services incorporating more than 30 emergency vehicles.

The foundation was active in the 2004 tsunami and was prominent in the One-Two-Go air crash emergency response three years ago.

The League of Foundations national meeting will be held later this year in Bangkok, and national awards will be given by the Royal Family to foundations recognized as the best in Thailand.

For more information on the League of Foundations visit www.sormorthor.com.

— Robert Reynolds

New elephant hospital to open in Krabi

THE recent commitment made by Bangkok Hospital to build an international medical center in Ao Nang has been bolstered by news of another 'big' hospital arriving: an elephant hospital.

There are six elephant hospitals in Thailand: four in Lampang, another in Nakhon Pathom, and one in Kanchanaburi.

While there are more than 800 elephants working in southern Thailand, there are no permanent medical facilities in the region to care for the animals.

If an elephant is seriously ill, it must be shipped by truck to one of the hospitals in the north.

The elephant hospital in Krabi is to serve all Southern Thailand. A 20-rai site in Klong Thom has been chosen and plans are being drawn up. Included in the facilities will be offices, storage facilities, a laboratory and the elephant residences.

The elephants will be cared for free of charge and the facility will also serve as a center for academic and scientific research. Construction is expected to start in 2011.

— Phuket Gazette

Centre Point bar hall to get multi-story makeover



By Robert Reynolds

WHETHER you fancy Thailand's ubiquitous "bar-beers" or avoid them like the plague, they are the mainstay of the Thai "entertainment" tourist industry.

In Krabi, and particularly in Ao Nang, the bar scene is fairly relaxed compared with Pattaya and Patong.

The two main centers for those looking for a cold beverage and/or warm companionship are set off the main road, which has kept Ao Nang more of a family-oriented tourist destination.

One area, a soi across from McDonald's named Soi RCA, is referred to by the locals as Soi Disappointment. The reference to disappointment is not difficult to



BAR BEER A GO GO — GONE: The remains of the old Centre Point bar complex. Photo: Robert Reynolds

figure out. The other major entertainment area, called Centre Point, is set back off the main beachfront road. Opened for some 10 years, the owners have decided to redevelop the former hodge-podge of bars. The new structure, will en-

compass three stories and a total of 27 units. The first floor will be family oriented shops, bars and restaurants and the second and third floors will be bars.

Most of the previous occupants of Centre Point have taken units

in the new building and it is already completely leased out. Set to open next high season, the new venue is expected to be a more pleasing visual structure than the previous incarnation, and less odorous too.

THAI cooks up Krabi catering

THAI Airways International has begun construction of a catering facility at Krabi International Airport, expected to be completed around November.

Teerapol Chotichanapibal, managing director of Catering Department, said the THAI board of directors approved the 34-million-baht construction cost for the

facility, which is designed to produce 1,250 meals per day specifically for customer airlines.

Starting November this year, through the added production provided by the new facility, THAI expects to serve four customer airlines: Nok Air, Finn Air, TUIfly and Thomas Cook Airlines.

— The Nation

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Put heads together to save lives

AS I was driving along Phuket's busy streets this past week, I couldn't help but notice a surprising effect of the new helmet crackdown – it's plainly working.

There have been claims of numbers reaching as high as 95% – I'm not so sure about that – but having lived on the island for over five years, I can say there has definitely been a noticeable increase of protected heads [*Gazette online, Phuket City Police crash helmet campaign gets high-level backing, July 7*].

It will be interesting to see if the police have the perseverance to consistently enforce the laws and make the change permanent. If they do, one can't help but think, "Look what the police can do when they put their minds to something!"

*Baxter Collins
Phuket Town*

Kudos to the cops

FINALLY there are results to show that authorities are doing something for the good of the citizens and not their pockets, and what better way to ensure messages hit home than by illustrating the grave consequences of careless actions.

The Phuket City Police deserve a pat on the back for the great job they're doing enforcing and effecting the use of helmets.

Instead of fining motorists on the spot and letting them leave – regardless of whether or not they have a helmet – they are taking their licenses from them and making them come to the police station to watch a video filled with graphic accident footage showing what happens when you come off a bike

Hard lessons in battling ignorance

PHUKET City Police are to be commended for not giving up the fight in their effort to get all motorbike riders in the district to wear safety helmets.

Unfortunately, the entrenched carelessness that has persisted on Phuket roads for generations means they face a long, uphill battle against a notoriously stubborn opponent: ignorance.

Despite a two-month public relations campaign that saw thousands of free helmets given away and countless verbal warnings, compliance with the helmet law among motorbike riders is still far from perfect, especially among children and other pillion riders.

July 1 marked the D-day, when police were to begin issuing fines against all helmet law offenders in the district. Unfortunately, and as predicted in this space soon after the campaign was announced in late April, the scale of the problem and lack of police manpower resulted in a "non-starter".

But rather than give up, Phuket City Police employed a new tactic: seizing the licenses of violators caught at police checkpoints and not returning them until the offenders view a short film with graphic images of the kinds of severe head trauma their recalcitrance puts them at risk of. It is expected this will continue for about two months before fines will be issued.

Soon after its launch, the "scared straight" public relations campaign got a strong show of support from Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Senniam, whose younger brother

without a helmet.

I think the "naughty school boy" method of pulling the culprit into a detention room by the ear to show him the error of his ways is a step in the right direction.

There is a proverb that says, "Give a man a fish and you'll

feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime."

I believe that imparting knowledge is the best charity. I also believe it is the method by which you communicate a message that can positively influence future actions.

Phuket Gazette

succumbed to a cranial hemorrhage after his unprotected head hit the pavement in a motorcycle accident in 1982.

Mr Thavorn said he would like to see other police districts on the island adopt similar campaigns and would suggest similar projects in his visits to the other 13 provinces in the South, where he is responsible for overseeing that government polices on health and human security issues are implemented.

Numbers alone reveal why across-the-board helmet use is essential for Phuket. According to Ministry of Public Health statistics, the province consistently ranks in the top five of Thailand's 76 provinces in terms of the incidence of road accident injuries and fatalities, often taking the number one spot. The majority are young people on motorbikes without helmets.

While these incidence-rate statistics are no doubt skewed because they fail to take in account Phuket's huge migrant population, the fact remains that 15 deaths a month is an unacceptably high figure that could be dramatically reduced if the Phuket City Police effort is successful.

The Gazette would once again like to suggest that the police put particular enforcement emphasis on protecting children by setting up random checkpoints in front of schools every morning.

most people would rather pay for their misdemeanors with money and not their time.

*Lee-Ann Butler
Phuket*

Shape up the ships

THE news about the full moon party boats colliding does not surprise me at all [*Phuket Gazette, Boat collision mars full moon party, July 3*]. I have traveled on these boats and have, on most occasions, wondered if my life was perhaps in danger whilst doing so.

The night ferry from Surat Thani to Koh Pha Ngan in particular, is made from wood that looks like it is about to break at any moment. It can't be younger than 50 years old.

Not to mention the boat between Koh Pha Ngan and Koh Tao, which was swaying so violently that the passengers were crying hysterically, praying, vomiting and frantically trying to get life jackets on.

When we eventually stepped onto dry land and confronted the crew about this, they were totally unfazed and explained that this was a common occurrence and "no problem".

Something really needs to be done about water transport safety in that area, before a serious tragedy occurs.

*Rebecca Hammersmith-Holden
UK*

Keep Wanphen in the news

I urge the *Phuket Gazette* to keep the story of murder victim Wanphen Pienjai in the news.

It will serve as a reminder to everyone, including the police, that the killer is still out there.

It will also remind people of the tragedy and encourage more to donate to her family.

Name and address supplied

Phuket Gazette

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Issues & Answers...

Tired of losing sleep over noisy nightclub in Patong

There is an unnamed club adjacent to the Buzz Club on Siriraj Rd in Patong that is way too loud and disturbing the peace of our neighborhood between 2am and 8am. No-one wants a repeat of the physical violence against residents who approached personnel of other clubs directly, or of death threats after police gave the names and addresses of complainants to the club managers. Where do neighborhood families seek safe recourse from the irresponsible "corporate citizens" who shatter the ability of others to live in peace?

*Name supplied
Patong*

An officer at Patong Municipality Health and Environment section replies:

Please come to our office and fill out a complaint form. We will

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to:
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Fax: 076-615240 or submit your issue at
www.phuketgazette.net

not disclose your name in public. Upon receiving your complaint form, we will send our staff to check the venue.

We will first ask the manager to turn the volume of the music down. After one week, if they are still loud, we will send them a warning letter.

Should that fail, we will notify the chief of the Health and Environment section to review and proceed on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that we have been unsuccessful in shutting down any businesses in our area for such complaints.

For more information, please contact Patong Municipality at 12/3 Ratpatanusorn Rd, T. Patong, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120 or call us

at 076-344275 and fax 076-344255, 076-342080.

Blowing a fuse over Internet connection

I would like to ask someone from TOT to explain why it is so difficult for them to take better care of their cable network and to fix it properly.

Every time it is a bit windy or raining, Internet access in our area suffers from disconnections. Mostly it lasts for just a few minutes, but disconnections are something you can work towards fixing. There are zip ties and insulation tape available in these modern times, so please use them.

Cable networks in Thailand are the likes of which I have never seen before in my life, with wires dangling down to the streets and broken tree branches hanging in the overhead cables. Is that really necessary?

If your customers do not pay enough money to fix little problems like these, increase the

Stepping up to save sea otters



Sang Podmee, 45, is the president of a local fisherman's association based in Bangla village in Pa Khlok and has initiated a project to preserve the habitat of sea otters, now a threatened species on Phuket.

Here, the father of two talks about why sea otters have all but disappeared from Phuket, what his organization is doing to bring them back, and his desire for future generations to continue protecting the environment.

FOR ABOUT eight months now, fishermen have been spotting sea otters, animals that have not been seen in this area for a long time. They used to be hunted for their fur and for food, but nowadays we are trying to protect this area as a "sea otter preserve", preventing people from capturing them by strictly enforcing wildlife conservation rules. If people continue to catch the otters, they may disappear from Phuket altogether.

In April, we found seven otters about the size of kittens. They can grow to the size of a small dog. For now, there are around 30 sea otters living in the mangroves around here.

They are always in search of food. Their diet includes fish, shrimp and other aquatic animals. Their hunting grounds lie along a section of coastline that stretches about 20 kilometers and includes the bay areas of Sapam, Koh Kaew, Ta Ruea, Bangla and Yamu, a total of about 1,000 rai of man-

FIRST PERSON

grove swamp and forest land.

We also try to find sea otters habitats. If we find them, we can educate people by allowing them to come and study the otters. Nowadays students and interested people often come to us to learn about aquatic life and the mangrove forests.

To see the otters, we must walk between 500 meters and one kilometer into the forest, at either high or low tide.

In 2007, we spotted more than 20 otters, but these days they are afraid of people so we don't see them as often. People started hunting them, so they fled the area. That's why our sea otter preservation club, with about 30 members, is trying to stop local people from killing the otters. Most of those killing the creatures for food were from Isarn or were alien

workers living by the hundreds in nearby camps.

We told the camp managers not to allow their workers to catch the otters. It was successful; since then the creatures have started to reappear. We are, however, continuing our efforts to preserve the habitat of these animals.

Pa Khlok is abundant in mangrove forests because the local people here work together to preserve the environment. We are active in planting trees and trying to increase marine life populations.

We also teach the younger generations about sea otters and how to preserve their habitat. We have a Loving Forest Youth Group that is active in preserving the sea otters, planting trees, working fisheries and educating visitors.

In the future, this area will probably be developed as the first place on Phuket for tourists to see and learn about sea otters and mangrove habitats.

Compiled by Atchaa Khamlo

The race for eco-friendly

THE RACE is over. More than 5,000 people took part in the Phuket Laguna International Marathon, the half-marathon and the other various runs and walks on the big day.

Charkrit Boonkong won the main event, while Thanyathorn Samutnoi won the women's marathon in record time. Kids took part in their own races. It was a real family morning out. Although some eyes were bleary from the early start, everyone had a sense of achievement.

I took part in the 5km walk for charity, well worth the dawn wakeup call. It is a fantastic annual event on the Phuket calendar.

The disappointment came afterwards. I live close to the route of the race and days later the sides of the roads near where drinking stations were sited were still littered with hundreds of discarded plastic bottles.

To compound the problem, some local workers came with their machines to trim the roadside vegetation, in the process mincing the bottles and thus guaranteeing that much of this unwelcome waste would remain to blight the environment for a lifetime. When you consider that it takes hundreds of years for most plastic bottles to biodegrade, the use of the word "lifetime" is not an exaggeration.

A few years ago there were complaints about this post-race eyesore and at subsequent events there were genuine efforts to leave the environment as it was found.

But this year something went wrong.

Island View

By Michael Benjamin

'When you consider that it takes hundreds of years for most plastic bottles to biodegrade, the use of the word "lifetime" is not an exaggeration'

All this in the face of mounting concern nationwide over the country's apparent love affair with things plastic, particularly bags.

In Phuket, there has been much debate in a retail industry under pressure to take assertive action to help reduce the estimated 60 tonnes of plastic dumped each day as landfill at Saphan Hin. This newspaper has been a vocal supporter of the use of cloth bags. I have its sticker on my car.

Last month the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration renewed its "No Bag, No Baht" initiative, encouraging cash discounts for those who use their own cloth bags in a city where 600,000 new plastic bags are introduced each day.

The bitter irony here is that on its own website the marathon has a section called, "How you can be a responsible eco-runner". One of its suggestions strikes a chord: "Leave nothing but your footprints on streets, trails and fields."

Somehow, this time, someone forgot those words of wisdom.

Addressing the issues that affect you...

charges for providing your services, but do not deliver a poor service like this.

I suggest a team of two people not just one person drive around all day, checking cables and fixing small problems like these.

I guess the job would be done in about a year and your customers in Phuket would be happy.

*Moskito
Rawai*

An officer at the TOT office in Chalong replies:

Sometimes Internet access is cut off because the rain and the wind is so strong it actually breaks the cable connections.

When your Internet access cuts out, please call 076-367222 to notify us at our Chalong office so we can send a technician to check the connections near your place.

Please give us your TOT phone number that you use to connect to the Internet to make it easy for us to find out where the connection has broken.

Alternatively, you can call our

contact center at 1100 to notify us of your problem.

All calls to the call center that require action are logged into our computer, which continues to remind us about all outstanding problems that need to be fixed. If you have called to notify us of your problem and it still has not been fixed, then don't worry as our computer will keep reminding us until it is done.

That said, there are other companies that also provide internet access now. Please make sure you file a complaint with the right company about wires hanging down in the street.

For more information, feel free to drop into our TOT branch at 17/4 Chao Fa West Rd in Chalong.

Does this road have a name?

When are they going to name the "new road" that cuts between Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West, running from Phuket Software Park to Dowroong School? I

can't find a name for it on any map except for one that gives it the name "Phang Muang Road".

I know that is the same holding name they give all new roads until an official one is assigned because a new road in Patong has the same name.

So why don't they give it a name? It was completed years ago, so what is the delay?

Name and address supplied

An officer at the Phuket City Municipality Engineering Section, replies:

We still do not have the name for this road as it falls under the responsibility of two offices, Phuket City Municipality and Wichit Municipality. We are calling it PHRB14 [the code for new roads] for now.

An officer at the Wichit Municipality Engineering Section replies:

That road marks the boundary between two responsible municipalities, so for now we are not

sure who will take action on it and we cannot name the road. For now we are calling it *thanon tessaban tat mai* [new municipal road].

The *Gazette* notes: Ekwahnit Road, which runs past Surakul Stadium, also forms a border between Phuket City Municipality and Wichit Municipality, yet it was somehow assigned a name about five years ago.

High and dry in Rawai

We have been without water for the past few days and before this there has been little or no water pressure over the past few months.

We were told that the water mains pump for the Rawai area is broken and that it will take a month or longer to fix.

Now we have water delivered at a cost of 400 baht each time so we can fill our 4,500-liter tank. As we have a restaurant, the cost of water is 1,800 baht a week.

Is there any compensation available? Are there water tanks available for temporary use?

Name and address supplied

An officer at Rawai Municipality replies:

You first need to find out who is providing your water: the Provincial Waterworks Authority or Rawai Municipality.

If you use water provided by Rawai Municipality, please let us know where your restaurant is and we will deliver water to you free of charge.

Also, if there is a problem with a pump, we can send our staff to check.

However, please come to our office and let us know where you live.

Our office is on Viset Rd, in Moo 6, T. Rawai, A. Muang, Phuket 83130. You can call us at 076-613801 or send us an email at info@rawai.go.th.

If you use water from the Provincial Waterworks Authority, please call them at 076-319173.

On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*



ISS Facility Services Company Ltd, recently appointed **Scott Duncanson** as General Manager for their operations in Southern Thailand. The company specializes in security and office and property support services. After four successful years at Property Care Services (Thailand) Ltd, Mr Duncanson is looking forward to his new role and opportunities at ISS.



Phuket International Academy day school has appointed **Kanittha Suksawaschon** as the School Director. Ms Kanittha has a Bachelors Degree in Education and post-graduate in Educational Administration. Prior to her appointment, Ms Kanittha was a taught bilingual and foreign students for two years, and brings with her over 16 years teaching experience.



Indigo Pearl has promoted Chef **Appadoo Pravesht** to Executive Chef. Mr Appadoo joined Indigo Pearl in February 2007 as a Sous Chef and was promoted to Executive Sous Chef in early 2008. Since September 2008 Mr Appadoo was in full charge of the kitchen department and showed that he has what it takes to be a leader for the eight outlets.

Watching your bottom line

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

WELCOME to a new column for the *Phuket Gazette*. Every fortnight I will aim to explain some of the pressing financial issues that impact many of the residents here on paradise island. We may live in one of the most idyllic places in the world, but unfortunately we are not immune to the financial whirlwinds that frequently disrupt our evening aperitif.

In upcoming issues, this column will look into issues regarding pension arrangements and how they have been affected by the growing strength of the Thai baht. Offshore pension schemes can help many people avoid being trapped into assets purely denominated in their native currencies. I will look at the benefits of regular saving plans that will, over time, smooth out the inconsistencies of volatile markets and can provide a nest-egg for the future.

I will also look at global investment opportunities and the tax-efficient ways and means of accessing them. Don't worry,



EYES ON EUROPE: Phuket retirees with savings tied up overseas will be keeping an eye on troubled Greece Photo: AFP

these tips are not valuable just to the very wealthy – just about everyone can benefit!

Over the past 16 years, the purchasing power of expats in Thailand has generally declined. The good old days of generous expat packages with accommodation and school fees included are largely a thing of the past.

This is partly due to the growing expertise and knowledge of local Thai employees, which is a good thing for the development of Thailand. However, a significant change in circumstances for long-term expats has been the decline of the purchasing power of their native currencies. Obviously, these have been dramatically highlighted

recently due to the catastrophe known as the Greek economy, and its subsequent effect on the euro.

The British pound has not escaped the carnage of a broken financial system although, ironically, not joining the euro all those years ago is being increasingly seen as a "dodged bullet".

Even so, believing that the euro

and sterling will rebound to previous levels in comparison to the baht is naïve. Even the Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz, a long-time advocate of the euro, now believes the future of the single currency is in doubt.

The strength of Asian currencies, including the baht, is probably a generational change, not a short-term trend. The US dollar is still seen as a "safe-haven" currency in times of economic turbulence, although it can be argued that this status is increasingly being questioned. However, even with the strength of the US dollar against the euro and sterling, the baht has continued to appreciate against all three.

Unfortunately, the baht's growing strength is likely to have a negative impact on Phuket's all-important tourism and property markets. With many expats here linked to these important industries, the effect on their net wealth and income can be painful. The days of cheap holidays in Thailand due to its weak currency are probably over.

During the last couple of years, the developed world's governments have spent massive amounts of taxpayers money to prop up the global financial system, in effect transferring the problem from the private sector to the public sector.

It is becoming increasingly clear that our future financial security will be determined more by our own prudent planning and a more realistic understanding of what our governments can (and cannot) provide us in our later years. Prudent financial planning is vital to ensure we do not end up in the position of relying on handouts.

Organizing one's finances in a sensible way is a logical part of life which, unfortunately, is often overlooked by many people to the detriment of their later years. Starting as early as possible is one of the key elements to strive towards. However, it is never too late to reassess one's assets and financial commitments.

Bill Anderson is the Associate Director at MBMG. Email him at bill@mbmg-international.com

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Outrigger HQ doors open

By Alexandra Andersson

OUTRIGGER Hotels and Resorts Asia, has officially established Phuket as its Regional Operating Headquarters (ROH), approved by the Thai Government's Board of Investment, under the Ministry of Industry.

On June 30, Phuket Governor, Wichai Praisangob gave Outrigger the certification and congratulated them on being the first official ROH in Phuket.

There are currently over 80 companies with ROH permits operating in Thailand, including leading travel companies such as Amadeus Asia, Diethelm Travel Asia, Exotismo Travel Group and Dusit Worldwide. Other major ROH brands in Thailand include Bumrungrad International, Chevron Asia, ExxonMobil and General Motors Southeast Asia. Outrigger is the first company to make Phuket an Asian headquarters recognized by the Board of Investment.

Outrigger's new ROH is located in Cherng Talay. "We are a resort company so have chosen a resort location," said Outrigger's Senior Vice President, Asia, Mr



ALL SMILES: Outrigger President David Carey (center) with his team.

Darren Edmonstone. "Our expertise since our formation in Hawaii over 60 years ago pertains to warm climate resort holidays. Phuket with its great aviation access, human resources and culture of hospitality is a perfect regional headquarters for us in Asia," he said.

ROH status gives Outrigger unique privileges and responsibilities in the areas of taxation, human resources, research, prod-

uct development, sourcing of raw materials and parts, credit management, marketing, sales and technical support.

The Thai Government created the ROH program in 2001 to reinforce Thailand's position as an important business hub.

The Government's position is that the establishment of more ROH in Thailand by major foreign companies generates considerable

benefits for Thailand and accelerates economic growth.

According to the Government, the economy benefits from expatriate managers spending on housing, education, shopping and dining. It is also widely accepted that ROH attract international events and meetings, ushering more visitors to Thailand. Another benefit is that Thai employees have more opportunities to

become regional managers with enhanced skills, greater responsibilities and higher salaries.

"The quality of Phuket's existing human resource pool is excellent and improving all the time.

"Furthermore, with a headquarters in Phuket, we can easily access resort areas of potential business interest in India, Indonesia, Vietnam, China and around Asia," Mr Edmonstone said.

Inside Outrigger's new Asian HQ in Cherng Talay.



Thai 7-Eleven pips Taiwan

THAILAND has overtaken Taiwan as host to the third-largest number of 7-Eleven convenience stores in the world, behind only Japan and the U.S.

The number of 7-Eleven outlets in Thailand reached 5,500 this year, surpassing Taiwan's 4,000 stores, but behind Japan's 12,000 stores and the U.S.'s 6,000.

"We expect the total number of stores to reach 7,000 by 2012, enabling us to replace the U.S [as World Number Two]," said Suvit Kingkaeo, Senior Deputy Managing Director of CP All Plc, operator of the 7-Eleven franchise for Thailand.

There are over 100 stores in Phuket, most of which are located in the Patong district.

With a nationwide annual ex-

pansion plan of 450 more stores, the chain aims to fulfil their goal of "serving communities with ease and convenience".

Samrej Zeepongsekul General Manager of CP All Plc does not think these expansions are excessive or damaging to local businesses and shops:

"7-Eleven in Thailand has repositioned itself as a convenience food store totally different from local traditional retailers. In a sense, they no longer have to worry that we are going to compete with them," he said.

The 24-hour convenience stores were introduced in Thailand around 20 years ago and now offer various services, such as paying bills and providing mobile phone SIM cards.

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Phuket through the looking glass

By Lesley Chittayanon

FROM an aesthetic point of view, Phuket is an endless slideshow of exquisite scenery. Idyllic beaches, tumbling waterfalls and forest-capped karsts are some of the region's most photographed features.

An image of a dazzling white sandy beach makes an attractive screensaver and is sure to impress colleagues, but by spinning around 190° and recomposing your shot, you may capture a scene which tells so much more about the setting.

For example, a photo of a beachside *som tam* (papaya salad) vendor, her face deeply creased from a lifetime's worth of smiles and trials, is a reminder that "paradise" is a wearing workplace for some. The genuine warmth of the local people is also radiated from this single image. In fact, there are enough threads to spin dozens of tales, while the postcard beachscape shot is usually only worth a handful of over-used adjectives.

Early risers will be rewarded; not only does the morning light enhance the warmth of photos, but it is the best time to observe the local culture.

A saffron-robed monk wandering barefoot along an empty street lit by the glow of a rising sun is a peaceful and calming image. As locals offer alms, a close-up of their closed eyes and grace-



IN FOCUS: Photography tours around the island can unearth beauty in some strange places. Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

ful *wai* frames this religious ritual perfectly.

Fresh markets are busy hives of color, variety and chatter. Focusing on these three aspects can help convey the lively atmosphere of the market. Resist the temptation to squeeze too much into one shot, often an isolated object, gesture or expression provides more insight about a place than the whole scene.

Displays of fresh produce are colorful and arranged with skillful presentation, while textures and shapes are often quite peculiar, this unlikely union makes the perfect subject for close-up photography. Most compact digital cameras have great capacity for taking close-up shots; just set it to macro. If you can't focus, take a step back and try again.

Downtown Market, Phuket's

longest running market, on Ranong Road in Phuket Town, is the best bet for an early morning shoot as vendors set up shop from 3am.

Bangkok-based travel photographer, Marc Schultz, is renowned throughout Thailand for his outstanding work. His first photo book *Thailand - a taste of paradise* was published in 2008, and he recently collaborated on a

travel book which will be on the shelves later this year, called *To Thailand with Love*.

"One of my favorite places to photograph is the Sino-Portuguese quarter of Phuket Town. The old shophouses are so charming with their beautiful colors and old design. It's a gem of a location and an easy subject to photograph," says Marc.

He has experienced much of Thailand through the lens of his DSLR and advises on composition by saying, "I think the key is to capture vignettes of a place rather than just a wide-angle shot. Tightly cropping and isolating subject matter affords a more intimate take on the culture."

"Photos should only hint at a place and its people. Think about the aspects that you find most charming about a place, then try to isolate them with a shallow depth of field," he adds.

Temples offer the ideal setting for sharpening your photographic skills. Now that the monsoon season has swept in, a temple photography tour of Phuket could be the ideal way to spend a rainy day. Try focusing on details such as a resting hand of a Buddha image or an ornate repeating pattern. Heavy shadows and high contrast lighting accentuate the spirituality of the scene, so have a good look around before you set up your shots.

Daily life in Phuket is an eclectic collage of potentially great shots. We are surrounded by interesting subject matter, but it needs to be composed carefully and economically.

Turning your back on the obvious and trusting your eye to lead you to a more visually arresting composition is a step towards a more captivating image.

Cultural references enrich the contextual information of a picture, so identify the detail that first caught your eye and single it out.

Spending a day or two exploring Phuket through the lens of your camera is sure to be an eye-opening experience. Shoot beyond the sunset and you will discover that the vibrancy of local culture can be captured just as vividly.

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Time of the tiny menace

With dengue fever and chikungunya rife on the island, the *Gazette* gets under the skin of the *Aedes* mosquito.

By Alexandra Andersson

THE ONSET of monsoon season has delivered a swarm of inconveniences, the most stinging of which comes in a small but potentially deadly form: the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

This tiny insect is the cause of much more than an itchy irritation. It is the carrier of both dengue fever and chikungunya, two diseases that are currently affecting a soaring number of people in Phuket and Thailand.

This year, dengue has seen an exponentially higher incidence rate than expected throughout Thailand. During the last week of June alone, there were 26,185 dengue infections and six deaths reported nationwide. Phuket has seen at least 213 cases in the first half of this year; a far cry from the year-end target of less than 170.

The *Aedes* mosquito is most common in urban areas and human dwellings, and unlike other mosquitoes, is active all day, creating a need for 24-hour precautionary measures.

It is easily distinguishable by the white markings on its body, and is thought to have originated in Africa. Because the diseases are transferred from human-to-human with the mosquito as a vector, as the number of human incidences increases, so does the rate of infection.

Dengue fever becomes apparent approximately one week after being bitten. The common nickname "breakbone fever" speaks for itself concerning the symptoms. Severe headaches, high bouts of fever, aching of the bones, joint and muscular pain, nausea, vomiting and a red body rash are standard symptoms of being infected.

This nightmare can continue for 10 days, and complete recovery may take about a month, or even longer in extreme cases. Fatalities, however, are uncommon with the standard dengue varieties.

There are four different strains of the disease, all of which exist in Phuket. An infection of dengue does produce lifetime immunity to that particular strain, but puts you at risk of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DMH) if infected again with one of the other strains.

DMH is a more severe form of the viral illness, which causes hemorrhages in the body in addition to the other symptoms. Unlike dengue, DMH can be fatal.

Chikungunya, another long and painful disease, is also spread by the same pest and is widespread in the south of Thailand. At least 946 cases have been reported in Thailand so far this year.

The symptoms are similar to dengue, but the joint and bone pains (arthralgias or arthritis) may persist for several months, hampering your long-term mobility and may require physiotherapy. Fatalities with chikungunya are thankfully, also rare.

Because these diseases are viruses, no vaccine exists and treatment for them only relieves the symptoms. Rest and adequate fluid intake are the most important methods of treatment. Aspirin and other blood thinners should be avoided if DHM is contracted, as they increase the chances of hemorrhaging.

Babies, the weak, the old and those who have already endured dengue should be especially safeguarded.

There are many precautionary measures which can help reduce the chances of infection.

Firstly, make it difficult for mosquitoes to breed or lay eggs. The *Aedes aegypti* is partial to clear water, so open water containers, such as toilet bowls and exposed water tanks are the mosquitoes' favorite household breeding ground. Keep these sealed year round, and empty or treat other water containers such as pet dishes, pools, flower pots, ponds and bird baths regularly.

Secondly, keep mosquitos away from skin. Mosquito sprays and clothes work well when



PESKY PHUKETIANS: *Aedes* mosquitoes, the unwanted island residents, are spreading viral diseases. Photo: Wikimedia

combined with mosquito nets, coils and the various electronic repelling devices. Having the house sprayed is also an option.

Mosquitoes are said to have a strong distaste for fish oil, vitamin B and citronella, so taking pills containing these

substances may help repel the pest.

The key is to use a combination of these methods on a regular basis.

New Treatments for Keratoconus

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The sweet swoon of bloodlust

Film

By Scott Phillips

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse

Director: David Slade

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner

Genre: Romance/Thriller

Gazette Rating: 2.5/5

IT HAS been said that the key to the *Twilight* series' success lies in the exemplary behavior of its two male leads. More than one woman has told me, "*Twilight* should be required viewing for every guy who has ever pursued a girl".

Apparently, Edward (Pattinson) and Jacob (Lautner) are the perfect men, originally created in the image of author Stephanie Meyer, and met with such resounding approval from the fairer sex that it has become one of the most successful franchises in film history.

Both Edward and Jacob have threatened to kill Bella (Stewart) on account of their uncontrollable aggression. Both have snuck in

through her bedroom window at night while she was sleeping. Both have driven like bats out of hell when Bella has been their passenger. And both have creepily followed her every move so that they can interfere in case she ever finds danger.

I must be missing something.

The third installment welcomes back these teenage "role models" for another session of teen-angst romance amidst vampire and werewolf lore.

The story is more or less a variation of the first two. Teenage Bella is still in high school, and her 110-year-old vampire boyfriend is doing everything to keep her away from danger. Another bloodthirsty vampire has targeted Bella for destruction, leaving it to Edward to keep her safe. In order to achieve that, he must call on the help of his sworn enemy – the topless and incredibly ripped werewolf Jacob – who also is in love with Bella.

Meanwhile, the heroine struggles with her impending decision of whether or not to become a vampire after she graduates.

Of course, she is completely helpless as chaos ensues and she



The red-hot *Twilight* trio returns for the third installment of the series.

depends entirely on the belligerent men to use their propensity for violence to protect her. This might suggest that the grown women who praise *Twilight* are saying more about themselves than they are the series, but I won't go there...

Eclipse delivers exactly what it's expected to – and is already a resounding success. Its opening day was the biggest Wednesday premiere in history, raking in US\$68.5 million in one night.

Does it deserve such kudos in the history books? Apparently so, despite most men's instincts. Let's be honest – the *Twilight* series has found a niche and played it perfectly. There is a huge audience of young women around the world who like to go to movies in droves to be swooned by a beautiful young cast (apparently vampires don't bite the ugly) amidst a supersappy plot, hit soundtrack and a

spot of action to tie it all in.

To its credit, *Eclipse* is the best film in the *Twilight* series. The fight scenes are choreographed to true blockbuster standards and the special effects are far more polished than the previous episodes. The romantic scenes between Bella and Edward do not feel as painfully forced as they did in the first two, though they still lack the chemistry to justify an epic romance.

But where *Eclipse* improves on its predecessors, it still lacks in storytelling. At times it is a typical overachieving adaptation of a hit novel, all too frequently trying to cram as much of the book into a two-hour time slot as possible. The result is often a flooded mess of a plot that never slows down enough to make the audience actually care about its characters.

The only character one can truly sympathize with is Bella's dad (Billy Burke), the town policeman. This poor uninformed man actually thinks he's living a normal life as his daughter gets tossed back and forth between overly-possessive vampire and werewolf circles. Someone should really fill him in, cause he's got a gun.

What else is on...

The Karate Kid

Director: Harald Zwart

Starring: Jaden Smith, Jackie Chan, Taraji P. Henson

Genre: Action/Family

Gazette Rating: 3.5/5

SET IN China, 12-year-old Dre Parker (Smith) finds himself in the apprenticeship of Mr Han (Chan) to learn karate so that he can deal with the class bullies that are preventing him from pursuing the girl he has fallen for. Though it will undoubtedly be subject to the nostalgia of fans from the classic 1984 version, this is one remake that holds its own and is sure to please those looking for a fulfilling family feature.



Knight and Day

Director: James Mangold

Starring: Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz, Peter Sarsgaard

Genre: Action/Comedy

Gazette Rating: 3/5

JUNE Havens (Diaz) is thrust into a life-or-death scenario when undercover agent Roy Miller (Cruise) survives a mission that was supposed to claim his life. They make their way around the globe and discover plenty of twists and turns as they struggle to stay alive. Don't expect anything more than a cut-and-dry action/comedy that showcases the charm of its two lead superstars, and you won't be disappointed.



That Sounds Good

Director: Kittikorn Leowsirikun

Starring: Montol Jira, Ramita Mahapreukpong, Rattana Eertaweekul

Genre: Comedy/Romance

Gazette Rating: 2.5/5

A VIETNAMESE holiday for two Thai girls turns into an unexpected love triangle when they meet a lone traveler who, of course, welcomes the attention and begins traveling with the girls. Though the plot can be seen from a mile away, the film manages to pull through a mildly entertaining story with a few laughs.



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DYNAMIC DUO: Chef Ronnie Macuja and his kitchen disciple, Khun Best (glasses) work their magic at Vset.



Substance, style and simplicity

MOST hotel website writers seem to be ardent bird-loving aesthetes. The amount of ornithological-related vocab in their writing is astounding.

"Perched on a cliff overlooking the crystal-clear waters of the Andaman...", "Nestled in the verdant jungle..."

But wait till you get to the spa section. There, you'll be bombarded by luvvy-luvvy raspberries such as, "Pampering in a serene sanctuary of the senses" when all they're offering is a rubdown, ambient background music and charging top-dollar for smearing punters with mud.

Most islanders will agree that this "mud speciality" is available free nearly anywhere on Phuket.

There's no doubt about it: Purple prose, hyperbole and advertorial-like content can be off-putting – as one reader recently claimed that my writing is, in the letters page two weeks ago.

But consider this: many restaurants would like to be featured in the *Gazette*, yet not many are.

Why? Because traipsing up and

down this fair isle for close to 15 years has bestowed experience of the best and the worst on offer in Phuket.

And even some of the best don't escape a good drubbing for poor lighting, unbearable levels of noise, overcharging and worst of all: pretentiousness. So why write about the mediocre and the unacceptable when readers can be guided towards premium choices?

Enter Ronnie Macuja, one of the best chefs on the island, who recently moved to a new venture in Chalong.

Ron was, for many years, top honcho at Sala Bua in Patong. People would wander in, guidebooks in hand, and ask if the legend was there. And he was – for all of 10 years.

But he realized that an opening in Chalong, next to Kan Eng at Chalong Pier was his future niche, alongside his new kitchen partner, Khun Best.

So here we go: "Nestled in a seaside enclave, with stunning sea views of Chalong Bay and enchanting Koh Lone along with

On the Menu

By Wilko

romantic sunset vistas, discover the treasure trove of harmonious flavors, balancing east-meets-west fusion of flavors that is Vset restaurant."

No, scrub that.

The simple and surprisingly effective surroundings, largely made up of unstained teakwood, tiled flooring, a high thatched roof and discreet lighting, deserve admiration. Vset is stylish.

The diner in the corner dressed

exactly like me, scribbling away in a notebook, turns out to be a ceiling-to-floor mirror image – nice touch. Vset covers 100 seats inside and out, but definitely feels intimate.

With a compact wine list of eight reds and eight whites, it's obvious that a lot of thought has gone into it and the Cloof Cellars' "Very Sexy Shiraz" (1,590 baht) is excellent.

The starters of mixed rocket salad, granny smith apples, ginger and cranberry dressing (340 baht) is tasty without being overwhelming.

Much recommended is yielding

to the temptation of a daube of Wagyu beef cheeks with pea-taragon purée, cassoulet of fava beans and candied baby shallots (690 baht).

Khun Best and Ronnie delivered the goods in style, as they also did the sautéed rock lobster tail, pan-seared red snapper and a range of desserts.

This newcomer is headed for great things.

But don't believe this hyperbole: check it out yourself.

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By Bruce Stanley

KEVIN Quilty is the Managing Director of Sunsail Thailand, the world's largest yacht charter agency. He grew up in Hastings on the south coast of England and as a young man moved yachts with his father along ports and marinas.

He took courses with the Royal Yachting Association in sailing, navigation and skippering.

By 1988 he was working at Brighton marina by day and playing drums in a band, *Flowers of the Past*, by night.

"I had a few great years delivering mainly new boats along the Channel coast and playing music. At one point, our band hit #20 on the Independent charts."

By 1991, Kevin was ready for some adventure away from England. He left the band and headed to Greece where he was hired by Sunsail to run boats around the Ionian Sea.

"Sunsail had sailing holidays where I would run a flotilla of yachts, up to 12 in a group for up to two weeks. Our clients would rent yachts and sail them during the day and then we'd meet up at night in a pre-assigned port. I was in charge of the whole fleet."

He was invited by Sunsail to set up yacht charter bases in South-east Asia in 1992.

"We put twelve 32 to 43 foot Beneteau sailing yachts on a freighter and sent them to

Kevin Quilty

EXPAT
gallery

Langkawi. We opened our Sunsail office at Laem Prow on the north of Phuket and moved into our present premises in the Boat Lagoon in 1993."

Kevin has spent the past 18 years developing the Sunsail bases on Phuket, Langkawi, Koh Samui and Koh Chang. He even opened a yacht charter location for the company at Nha Trang in Vietnam and managed the operations for several years.

He has been active as an advocate for the development of yachting in Thailand. As Chairman of the Marine Alliance of Thailand, he worked hard to have import duties on pleasure vessels reduced, thereby encouraging the growth of the yacht charter industry.

"With the reduction of import duties down to zero, we've been able to import 40 yachts to boost our charter fleet and expand our business. We are looking to develop new destinations for Sunsail around Southeast Asia."

With the growth of the yacht

charter business in Phuket, TUI, the world's largest tour operator and current owner of Sunsail, opened a new brand, Moorings, offering 46 foot catamarans for charter under Kevin's management.

He used to spend much of his free time at his vacation home on the beach at Khao Lak, but during the 2004 tsunami he and his wife were both caught in 12 meter waves and carried two kilometers inland. But this trauma has not kept him away from the water.

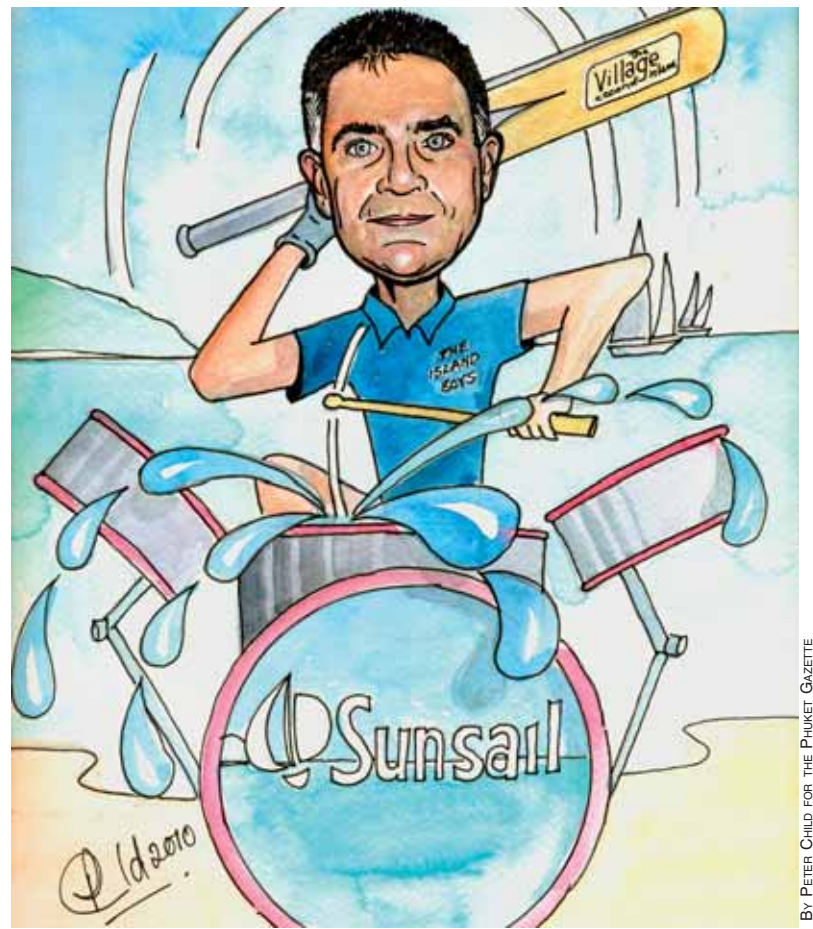
He currently serves as the local Principal for the Royal Yachting Association School which offers five-day sailing courses, ranging from beginner to yachtmaster level. The courses are conducted at the Ao Po Marina.

He is also active with the region's many yachting regattas, where he joins a Sunsail charter yacht as part of the team.

"We usually have as many as 15 of our yachts racing in the annual King's Cup Regatta," he says.

When not pursuing his nautical interests, Kevin plays cricket for the Island Boys team sponsored by The Village.

He is also a regular supporter of many of Phuket's charity events, by donating week-long charters on a Sunsail yacht.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in 'Expat Gallery' are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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'Don't worry, I am exhausted, but safe'

Despite fatal climbing accidents in the Alps this week, Phuket's Ironman is on course to summit Mont Blanc.

By Fraser Morton

FRIENDS and family of a Phuket Ironman athlete currently climbing Europe's highest mountain will be praying for his safe return home after hearing news of two climbers falling to their deaths in the region earlier this week.

Les Bird, 59, who lives in Cherng Talay, is attempting to reach the 4,810-meter summit of Mont Blanc in the French-Italian Alps.

He is climbing to raise money for children under the care of the Child Watch Phuket foundation.

As this newspaper went to print, British-born Les was in contact with the *Gazette* via SMS messages from the mountain and over email from his base camp in the Chamonix Valley.

Climbing with fellow Briton and former SAS soldier Harry Taylor, the pair have been altitude training in the feared Mont Blanc massif for the past week, in preparation for their climb to the summit, beginning July 8.

On July 6, Les wrote: "Just back down after 28 hours on Mont Blanc. Four hours sleep last night. I am exhausted, but safe."

The next day's message was more chilling: "British climbers killed on Mont Blanc. Not me."

"We found out about their deaths when we walked into the memorial ceremony directly under the Giant's Tooth ridge, on the mountain. Very sad," Les wrote.

Unbeknown to Les and Harry, news of the British couple's deaths had already reached the British press. The victims, a 38-year-old man and 20-year-old woman, fell over 300-feet to their deaths while climbing near where Les and Harry had seen the couple earlier that day.

"We met those two climbers in a halfway hut on the mountain during our climb," Les wrote.

"I only said 'good morning' to them as we were in a hurry."

Police in the nearby town of Chamonix said the couple – who have not yet been named – both died instantly.

Each year, the mountain claims the lives of at least a dozen climbers trying to reach the summit.

But Les, with only three years' climbing experience – gained 40 years ago in his native England, wrote that he is still determined to reach the top. If successful, it will take Les and Harry three days to reach the summit. Arriving in the region on July 4, the pair spent three days making increasingly higher training ascents and then coming back down, in order to adapt their lungs to the thin air.

"Today was an epic day," Les wrote on July 7. "We traversed the Glacier du Geant at 3,500 meters in the shadow of the Mont Blanc summit. It took five hours of very hard traversing in crampons."

But before reaching the glacier, the pair had to descend the Col du Midi, a one-foot-wide ice ledge overhanging a 200-meter sheer drop.

"It was seriously scary, and when we reached the base of the Col du Midi, we heard shouting from the top. We could only assume someone had fallen. There was nothing we could do. A rescue helicopter arrived within five minutes and we assume whoever it was that fell was rescued, I hope," Les wrote.

As Les and Harry crossed the Glacier du Geant, a monolithic serac stretching 10 kilometers in length and covering a 230-meter deep crevasse, Les said he fell through snow countless times.

"Today [July 7] the ice was covered by about one-foot of snow, so it was impossible to see where the weak spots in the ice were," he wrote.

In order to make their crossing safer, the pair teamed up with two French mountaineers and roped in together. Roping in was a big worry for Les. At six feet four inches tall and weighing 90 kilograms, Les was by far the heaviest in the group, and if he fell into the crevasse, it could have easily caused the others to fall with him.

"I fell about a dozen times through a foot of snow before hitting the ice surface. Each time I thought I was going all the way."

As temperatures rose to 13°C, the team began to worry that holes might start to form in the ice.

"We had to get across the glacier fast. It's getting so hot now that there is a chance of avalanches, and we were climbing today on the side of Mont Blanc with 1300 meters of snow immediately above us," Les wrote.

After five hours of grueling work in crampons, the team made it across the glacier, ending their day's trek at the base of the Giant's Tooth.

It was at this point that Les came across the memorial service for the British climbers who had died the day before.

"A sobering moment and a reminder of just how powerful nature is," Les wrote.



PHUKET MAN vs MOUNTAIN: Les Bird at 3,500 meters on Mont Blanc on July 7, the day before he set out for the summit. Photo: Harry Taylor

Les and Harry hope to reach the summit on the morning of July 9, plant the Thai national flag at the top and then make the two-day decent, camping overnight before heading back to base camp.

As Les and Harry set out on their final push to the summit on July 8, the weather forecast over the Mont Blanc massif was for "Clear skies, scorching heat – a maximum of 13°C – but at the

summit the forecast was 0°C."

On July 9 and 10, when the pair will be making their slow decent down Mont Blanc, thunderstorms were expected.

"I'll write as soon as I'm back down," Les wrote in his last SMS message before setting out.

To help Les raise one million baht for children visit W: childwatchphuket.org or W: phuketgazette.net

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Phuket Gazette



June 6-August 8. Belly Dancing Courses

The 10-session course "Introduction to Baladi" teaches beginner techniques for aspiring belly dancers and is being conducted by the famous Malika. All beginners are welcome. Participants need shorts and a hip scarf to start. Tickets are 600 baht per person, per session. Held Sundays from 12:30pm-2pm, RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com

June 6-July 18. Brazilian Soccer Sundays

Beginning with just four children back in 1996, the Brazilian Soccer School has quickly become one of the largest and respected soccer training camps for children in the world. The seven-week course is being held every Sunday until July 18 at Royal Phuket Marina. The price is 2,450 baht per child, per course. For further information contact Martin Hill. T: 085-331 0295 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com

June 11-July 12. World Cup action at Radisson Plaza

Catch the all the action from the World Cup final live on the big screen at the Octo Lounge. Enjoy a 25% discount on all beverages during the match. Guess the game's result and win a Radisson World Cup Signature Cocktail. From 6:30pm-4am at the Octo Lounge at Radisson Plaza. For further information contact Khun Anothai. T: 076-602500 E: pr.phuket@radisson.com W: radisson.com/phuketth_plaza

June 22-July 22. Formula 1 at Radisson Plaza

Catch the all the Formula 1 action live on the big screen. Specialty red and white wines from Spain are available during the race at 195 baht++ per glass. Order a Formula 1 pizza and receive two bottles of Singha beer for only 350 baht++. From 7pm-10pm at the Octo Lounge at Radisson Plaza. For further information contact Khun Anothai. T: 076-602500 E: pr.phuket@radisson.com W: radisson.com/phuketth_plaza

June 26-August 20. Summer Family Festival at Laguna

The Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival is for both kids and parents. There will be a bouncy castle, flying trapeze, "Kidz

Phuket International Women's Club Couples and Friends Dinner - July 14

The annual mid-year get-together of members of the Phuket International Women's Club, along with their partners and friends, will be held at the The Blue Elephant restaurant and will feature a buffet of Thai fusion delights. The cost per person is 600 baht, which does not include drinks. The owner has pledged to donate 30% of all proceeds from alcohol sales to breast cancer research. Dress is smart casual. From 7pm at The Blue Elephant on Krabi Road in Phuket Town. For more information contact Carole Dux. T: 085-782 1332 E: mummydux@hotmail.com W: phuketiwclub.com



WHAT'S ON IN Phuket

Lounge" with movies, video games and more to keep the young ones occupied while parents relax with happy hour prices and barbecue fare in the Festival Beer Tent. From 2pm-midnight at Canal Shopping Village. For further information contact Chureeporn Manabutr. T: 076-362330 E: shopping@laguna.phuket.com W: lagunaphuket.com/familyfestival

July 12-16. PIA Sports and Leisure Club Brazilian Soccer School Camp

Daily training at the camps will include unique FDS moves, turning, balances and traps, passing, ball to air, juggling, core skills, one-on-one and two-on-two training, game play and daily three-a-side World Cup games. Every day finishes with five-a-side matches with points awarded for sportsmanship. From 4,000 baht per week. From 9am-5pm at PIA Sports & Leisure Club. For further information contact Khun Mik. T: 076-376000 E: activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com

July 14. French National Day at Royal Phawadee Village

Come celebrate French National Day at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong Beach. Enjoy live music, a buffet with free-flowing wine and surprises from a giant lucky draw. Stay with the kids to admire the fireworks once the sun is down. From 6pm-11:30pm. For further information contact Nguyen Bao. T: 084-8492122 E: info@14juilletapatong.com W: 14juilletapatong.com

July 14. "Bastille Day" Buffet

Join Mercure Patong for a touch of French Cuisine: An all-you-can-eat buffet, including roasted meats, for 599 baht per person. The offer includes a complimentary glass of sparkling wine from France. Children under 12 years old can join for 150 baht, and children under six are free of charge. From 6:30pm-10:30pm at the World Cafe at Mercure Patong. For further information contact Chonlathich Na nakorn. T: 076-302100 E: salesphuket@mercurephuket.com

July 18. Phuket Amateur Open Golf Tournament

The July 18 tournament to discover "Phuket's best amateur golfer" is the second of 11 monthly events in the Phuket Amateur Open Golf series and follows on from the first tournament of the series last month at Laguna Phuket. There are 144 places available and entry forms are available at all courses and driving ranges on the island. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. From 7am-12:30pm at Loch Palm. Contact for further information. T: 082-2803486 W: phuketamateurgolfopen.com

July 21-25. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek Regatta

Now in its seventh year, Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is comprised of four days of world-class yacht racing and five nights of beach-side parties at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. The regatta is run over seven classes, including cruising, bareboat and charter yachts. It's competitive, high-octane racing for the serious boats

and fun courses around the island for the less serious racers. It's all captured on international TV and broadcast to over 140 million households worldwide. For further information contact Grenville Fordham. T: 076-264491 E: raceweek@image-asia.com W: phuketraceweek.com

July 26. Asarnha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 27. Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa) - Public Holiday

Khao Pansa marks the beginning of an annual three-month retreat during which Buddhist monks customarily stay at a specified temple to study and meditate. The monks are not allowed to stay at any other location during this period. Sculpted beeswax candles depicting mythological creatures are carried in a ceremonial parade in each province before being presented to local temples.

Free Computer Clinics

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Photo courtesy of Jaguar

New Jag speeds to Raceweek

JAGUAR will return for a second successive year to the Six Senses Phuket Raceweek 2010 regatta, where it will launch its never-before driven, all-new XJ model to the Asia-Pacific market.

A group of 100 VIP guests from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand will be flown in for the opportunity to see and drive the latest addition to Jaguar's sleek selection of sports and saloon cars. Last year's group of VIPs bought 11 Jaguars between them during Raceweek.

Six of the new XJ models are being shipped from the UK to Phuket for the event.

The XJ models and the latest models of the award-winning XFR and XKR are expected to arrive in Phuket on July 18, just in time for raceweek, which will take place from July 21-25.

The four-day regatta will be reserved as private days for the VIPs to test drive the new vehicles. In the days following Raceweek, the same opportunity will be offered to approximately 40 regional Jaguar sales managers.

Laguna kids flying



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: (Right) Sean Roulet senior and junior try the new KidzSole Flying Trapeeze @ Laguna. (Above) An instructor flies high.



AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST

WIN 5 nights' stay FREE at The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa during
SIX SENSES PHUKET RACEWEEK, from July 21-25

Send us your best digital photo of anything to do with boats and you could win 5 nights' stay at The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa in Rawai, home of this year's Phuket Raceweek regatta.

All entries must be received by July 15.

The winner will be announced on July 17.

Email entries to PhotoContest@PhuketGazette.net

Entries are limited to one photo per contestant.
Photos must not exceed 5MB in size.

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Professional photographers and people working in publishing are not eligible to enter.



high



NEW FOUND FRIENDS: Staff at the new trapeeze attraction at Canal Village at Laguna, with budding young acrobats.



FAMILY OUTING: American-Thai family the Weinraubs enjoyed the 4th of July picnic with the Navy League at Headstart School in Kathu. From left: Annie, Becca and David holding Benjamin.

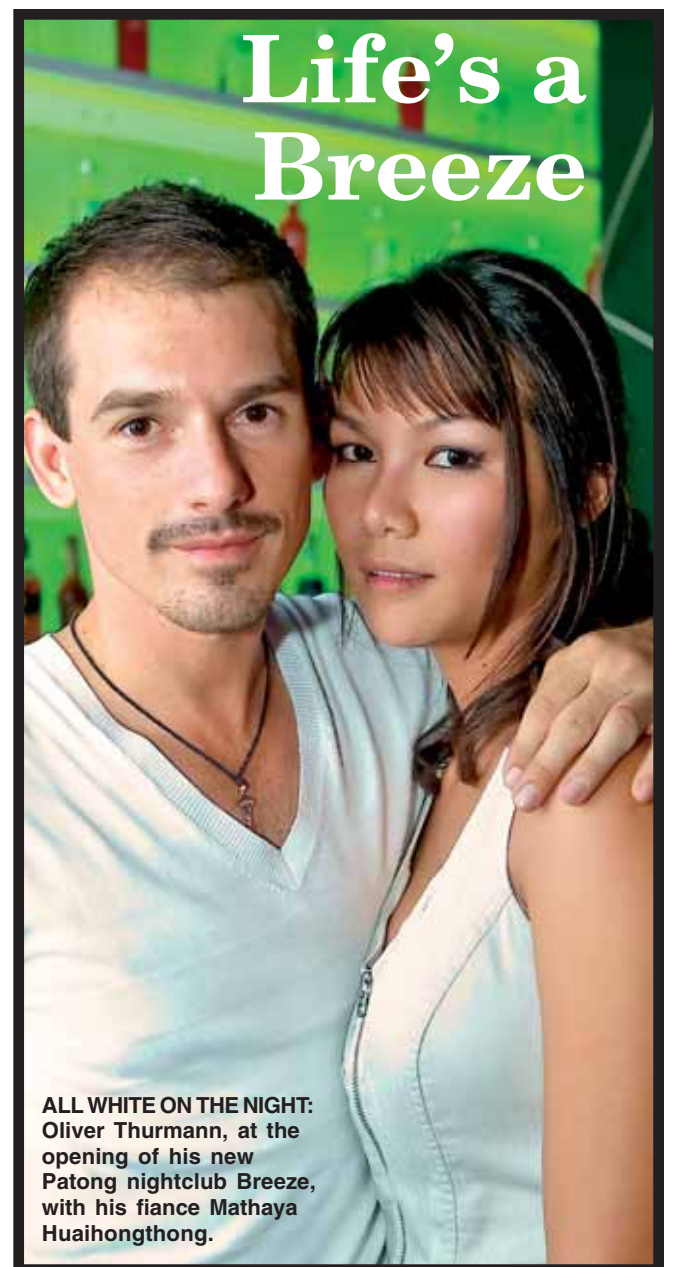
Headstart on 4th of July



SPOTTED: Uncle Sam greeted the 900 visitors who turned out for the picnic.



LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: (From left) Russ West, Denny Bowman, US Embassy representative Ronald S Robinson, David Rucker, Brad Kenny, Navy League President Jimmy Madigan, Navy League representative Bill Waylett, Rohn-Napa Kanjanayothee, Jean Leon, John Chadwick and Stan Bailey.



ALL WHITE ON THE NIGHT: Oliver Thurmman, at the opening of his new Patong nightclub Breeze, with his fiancée Mathaya Huaihongthong.

by Benz Chaengwattana
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SWIMSUITS

Solution: 8 letters

H S E M I X E S H O R T S P E
C T O A C H E C K E R S E Z L
A O F L A T T E R I N G I E B
E R E F I D K C A P A R O R I
B E N K L D J N G T O P I F S
O R O O A O G U T S A G G L R
T S I C I L W O S R H N E O E
T T N A E T C E D T I A K R V
O R O A H A C O R H A M C E E
M A F D P C N E T S A B O S R
S P G I A S O A L T P T L C E
K L N T T K B V C L O N B E M
O E O F T T L H E P O N N N M
O S H A T S E O S R L C U T U
H S T R I P E D P E Z I S S S

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7/12

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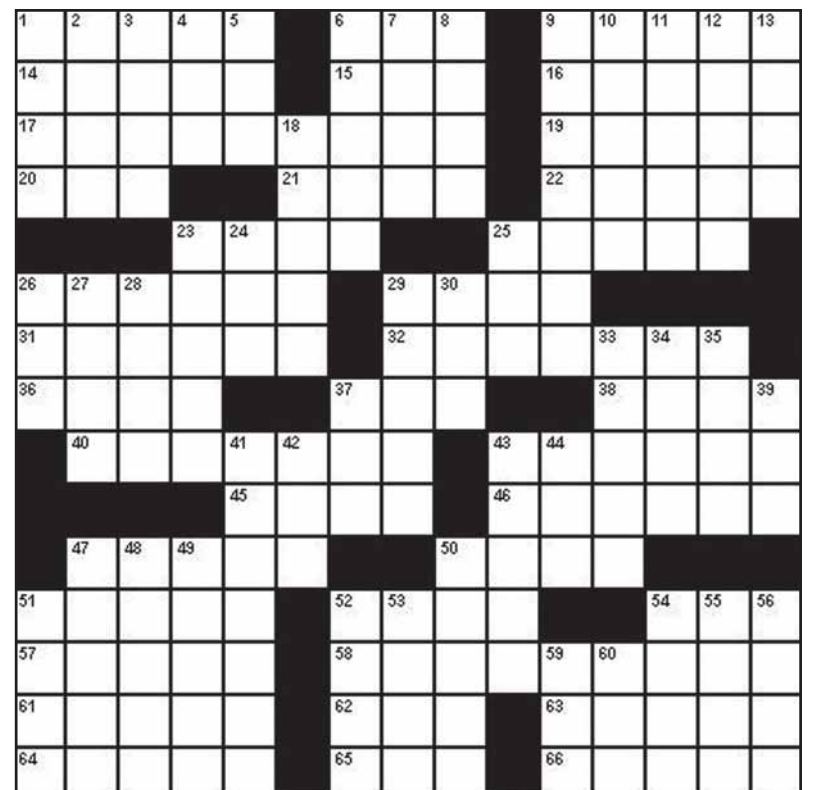
Solution on page 34

ACROSS

1. Capital of Ghana
6. Annoy
9. Wears
14. Sudden rushing forth
15. Anonymous John
16. Godly love
17. Convert
19. Country singer Travis
20. Eye infection, pig house
21. Dash
22. Gives up
23. Get better
25. In front
26. Smear
29. Adhesive
31. Greek god of the winds
32. Seaport on San Francisco Bay
36. Aware of
37. Pledge
38. Sci-fi princess
40. Lockjaw
43. Boiled slowly
45. Lethargic
46. Official count of population
47. Laziness
50. Elegance
51. Idaho capital
52. Child, who has no home
54. Loser to DDE
57. Defense covering
58. Unutterable
61. Subway turner
62. Fish appendage
63. Mature
64. Satisfied
65. Golfer Ernie
66. Satisfies

DOWN

1. Cairo cobras
2. Wagon
3. Satiated
4. *Treasure Island* monogram
5. Affirmative vote
6. Brief romantic affair
7. Roster
8. Sharp
9. Instrument for cleaning flax
10. Come to terms
11. You ___ mouthful!



12. Made a choice
13. Devices for fishing
18. Seeps
23. Serf
24. Seine contents
25. Diving bird
26. ___ Paulo, Brazil
27. Canvas shelter used on camping trips
28. Routine
29. Ticklish
30. Legal science
33. Coeur d'___
34. Information

35. Mon ___!
37. Small cavity in a rock
39. Commercials
41. Changed
42. Japanese drama
43. Scrape with one's foot
44. Animator Avery
47. A bit, colloquially
48. Boundary
49. ___ Mio
50. Property claims
51. Low in pitch
52. Spouse
53. Indigo
54. Adjoin
55. Fashion mag
56. Goes down
59. Scale notes
60. Nabokov novel

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Used with permission.

Solution on page 34

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians are forecast to perk up this week after a slow start to July. Events during the coming days should motivate you to move more quickly. The stars predict that positive news regarding an overseas business interest will mean that you can proceed with other plans. Where romance is concerned, an earth sign makes the right moves this weekend. Those with a birthday this week should find that money flows towards them in the year ahead.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



A whirlwind week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Leo. The middle of July is an auspicious time to achieve goals, particularly personal ones. If you have been trying to improve your employment situation, the stars suggest that an opportunity will come out of the blue. A water sign friend's copycat habits begin to irritate you this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Virgoans who didn't start the month on the right note will have a better week. A more positive mood should encourage success to come your way. The stars predict that property negotiations

on Tuesday or Wednesday will bring the result you want. However, there are signs that unexpected expense could mean that your budget is more limited than you thought.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



A business relationship is put to the test when stalemate is reached. Librans are advised to consider what is really important before making drastic moves. Your luck in love is strong, but getting closer to a water sign may show you that their ideas are too different from yours. A date with an earth sign this weekend could be the romantic adventure you've been hoping for. The number five is lucky on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



This week, many Scorpions will finally accept that they can't have everything they want. Your unrealistic expectations have been standing in the way of you enjoying the advantages that you have. Travel is well highlighted, and there are signs suggesting that you will discover a place where you would consider relocating to. Romance with a fire sign looks more promising, but some Scorpions enjoy flirting a bit with Aquarius this weekend.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



An unpredictable week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Sagittarius. Your financial situation is affected by uncertain astral conditions — following up unpaid debts is advisable. Monday is the best day for a serious talk with a friend who you lent money to earlier this year. A romantic date this weekend could lead to a situation that you had never predicted. Those who are single will wonder whether to rekindle a past relationship.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



A roundabout way leads you to where you need to be this week. Capricorns usually prefer going straight to the point, but you could see that taking the scenic route can bring more pleasure. Your romantic outlook is promising — an air sign shows that they would like to spend more time with you. Those who have had family problems should see the atmo-

sphere ease this week. The number six is lucky this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



The astral skies clear this week for those born under the sign of Aquarius. The stars predict that many Aquarians will see a way out of business related problems that have cropped up recently. A Leo colleague has some of the answers you have been looking for, but Pisces is only looking out for their own interests. Those who ended a romantic liaison recently could have a change of heart.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



An ongoing business related dispute is simplified this week. Final answers won't be reached until later this month, but Pisceans will now understand that luck is on their side. The stars suggest that you should keep personal administration ship-shape as proof of transactions could be required midweek. Where romance is concerned, Virgo's words are music to your ears this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Your multi-tasking skills are put to the test this week. Many of those born under the sign of Aries dis-

cover that they have made too many commitments. The stars advise that priority needs to be given to sorting out personal finances. Avoid asking a new romance for more commitment until you are sure of their interest.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Taureans' imaginations work overtime this week and the stars suggest that you could cause unnecessary stress for yourself. Your chances of success in the world of work are strong — creative projects are especially well-starred. Where romance is concerned, you will soon see that a water sign can be trusted and this relationship is forecast to go from strength to strength.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Geminis continue to lead busy lives this week. Finding the time to enjoy leisure pursuits may be a challenge, but you should try to strike a happy balance between work and play. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday; finances are well-starred on Wednesday. Those who haven't yet planned a summer vacation could be influenced by a water sign's recent experiences. The number two can bring good luck on Tuesday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Patong sinkhole filled in, for now

By Atchaa Khamlo

WORK has finished on a “permanent solution” to the chronic drainage problem on the low-lying stretch of Patong Hill road where sinkholes have formed in the past.

The Phuket Provincial Highway Department and Patong Municipality joined forces and funds to complete the 5-million-baht project which has replaced the existing 80-centimeter tubular concrete drainpipes with larger pipes constructed from 1.5-meter square sections.

The project got underway on June 22 and was finished June 24.

The section of the road, that was cordoned off for two days, started being used again June 26.

Patong Municipality civil engineer Pornsak Kham-aid said the municipality provided the new

drainpipes and backhoes, and the Highway Department engineers oversaw the work.

The total cost of the new pipes was between 200,000 and 300,000 baht. Chronic flooding in the area should now abate, he said.

Phuket Highway Department Director Arun Sa-nae agreed, saying that the project should spell the end to the problem as the new, larger pipes will be able to channel all of the runoff under the road.

Over the past month, excess floodwater running over the road to depths of almost half a meter during heavy rainfall have created dangerous conditions for motorists, especially those on motorcycles.

The problem area is the site of a natural drainage gully that can no longer cope with all of the runoff because of the hillside construction there.

Work on Bt152 million center breaks ground



WHAT A LOOKER: An artist's conception of the new Saphan Hin Sports Center scheduled for completion in 2012.

By Thanasorn Chookate

CONSTRUCTION work on the 4,000-seat Saphan Hin Sport Center got underway on June 22, with Anchalee Wanich Thephabutr, Deputy Secretary General to the Prime Minister, on hand to help lay the first structural pillar at the ground breaking ceremony.

The center is supported by the 2012 Thai government project Thai Kem Kaeng or “Thai Strength” and has a budget of over 152- million baht.

Work on the center, being carried out by Phraram 2 Civil Engineering Company, is expected to finish in May 2012.

A replacement for the existing

500-seat stadium built in 1982, the new-look center occupies two rai, has adequate parking, a giant TV monitor and is air-conditioned.

Somjai Suwansupana, the mayor of Phuket Municipality, said the project was necessary, in order to be ready for future international sporting events that will be hosted.



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Photos courtesy of Andara Resort Residences

Call 411 for Silky Residence

By Alexandra Andersson

TAKING one step in the front door of Residence 411, part of the new Andara Resort Residences in Kamala, reveals a standard of luxury that speaks for itself.

Completed in January this year, Andara Resort Residences is a luxury lifestyle development with two, three, and four-bedroom suites fully stocked with top-of-the-line amenities.

Residence 411 is a three-bedroom suite that covers an area of 312sqm and includes en-suite bathrooms, a powder room, private maid area, spacious kitchen and living room, as well as a private pool.

Inside, the suite is fully-furnished with four available interior design packages that

The *Gazette* takes a peek into one of the hottest properties on the island's market: Residence 411 in Kamala.

cover furniture, ornaments, housewares and audio/visual equipment. Both the furniture and ornaments are custom designed and made by Andara's teams in Phuket and Chiang Mai.

High-end BOSE audio sound systems accompany LCD high-definition TVs by Samsung.

All internal fabrics and silks are designed and produced by Jim Thompson Silk in Bangkok and have exclusive swatch colors specifically made for Andara, giving the living space a tailor-made quality.

All rooms are also equipped with the convenience of western

amenities. The kitchen is decked out with top-grade Siemens appliances that includes a microwave, conventional oven, refrigerator and freezer with ice maker, dishwasher, and a washer/dryer. The master bathroom also features a large sunken bathtub for optimum relaxation.

Residence 411 has its own 7 meter by 3.5 meter private lap pool, reachable from the bedroom or living room via floor to ceiling glass doors that allow plenty of sunshine into the living areas.

The apartments are set within a tropical landscaped area of approximately 20,000sqm (five acres). Each home offers ocean sunset views and 18,400sqm of communal facilities and gardens.

Access to the five-star resort facilities provides residents with the ability to enjoy the 40



MASTER CLASS: The private pool and master bedroom at Residence 411.

meter ocean view lap pool, signature Silk restaurant and bar, spa rooms, gym, yoga rooms, tennis courts, exclusive beach club and the resort's 28 meter and 33 meter motor yachts.

The complex is the vision of Dr Allan Zeman, Father of the Lan Kwai Fong district in Hong Kong, and was designed by leading Hong Kong-based architect Branko Pahorthe. The project has received widespread acclaim, being recognized at the 2009 Thailand property Awards with four prestigious accolades.

Offers start from US\$1 million (33 million baht). For a tour of the residences contact Jonathan James Gascoyne, Director Property Sales and Marketing.

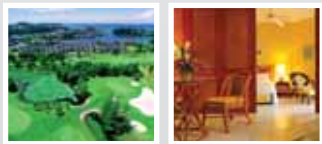
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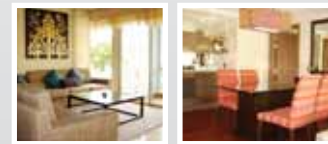
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Monsoon season can't wash away optimism

Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE CURRENT state of the property and tourism market are at the center of Phuket's "low season", or the slightly cheerier sounding "monsoon season."

While the weather leaves us wet, soggy and a tad sorry for ourselves that business is down due to tourists heading in droves to European hot spots, there have been a few recent sunny spells in Phuket's tourism industry.

In May, while the world was gripped by news from the capital, Phuket recorded its highest airport traffic figures in the past six years. Yes, six, meaning all those good, bad and ugly years all rolled up.

With total passengers tallying in at 424,456, May saw an 18.1% increase over the same month in 2009. Perhaps more telling was the compelling statistic on aircraft movements, which showed at 25.1% uplift in May 2010, or 3,561 versus 2,846 one year ago.

For many tourist destinations in Asia, the largest stonewall to success is summarized with the phrase, "you can't stay there if



Despite low season concerns of dwindling property and tourism markets, air traffic figures are looking good. Photo: Wikimedia

you can't get there." But for Phuket, the availability of flights continues on up the escalator.

Meanwhile, in the island's hotel and property rental sectors, hotel supply has continued to grow, and new condo and villa projects are reporting positive news in the rental market.

A spike in residential units has welcomed the arrival of an increasing number of working professionals to the island.

The service sector is also

blossoming, with medical tourism doing well, new private education institutions popping up, yachting services reporting growth in business and technological resources improving on the island at a faster rate than ever.

Life is good, and Phuket remains a vital life force here in Thailand.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.thephuketinsider.com

In brief...

Tax incentives target domestic travel

HOPING to bolster the recovery of the tourism market, the Thai government has approved a 15,000-baht maximum income tax deduction until the year's end. The incentive is applicable for travel packages purchased through authorized agents. Both the property and tourism industries are looking for other key investment and tax initiatives from the government.

Kata Rocks rolls forward on construction

CONSTRUCTION has started with leading island contractor DCM appointed to build the oceanfront luxury condominium project in Kata. Adrian McCarroll of Original Vision has designed the project with expected completion targeted for the end of 2011. Julian Olds and his DCM team have worked on leading projects such as Twinpalms, Baan Yamu and the new Häfele design center, opposite Big C on the bypass road.

Capital takes a leaf out of Phuket's book

BANGKOK'S Metropolitan Authority has taken a tip from Phuket's own plastic bag initiative with a green campaign launched last month, drawing together a host of leading retailers to take part. Under the new scheme, customers receive a one-baht discount for every 100 baht spent if they either bring their own reusable bag or choose none at all. Leading global environmental watchdog Carrotmob have established a local group in the Capital which is leading a dialogue with shops and industry conglomerates.

Mango Nation making words count

NEWLY founded island marketing firm Mango Nation has come up with a fresh campaign for the luxury villa project Istana. Dubbed FOO, in the real estate lingo the term is short for "Feeling of Opulence". The name has been welcomed by a number of real-estate professionals who consider it a breath of fresh air in an industry that often takes itself too seriously.



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 Construction commences Q2 2010 nd Completion during Q2 2012

Keepers of the garden

Earth Matters

By Green Sleeves

ALMOST every garden has pests of the insect variety, and gardens in Phuket are certainly no exception. Of course, they can be controlled by insecticides, and sometimes there is no alternative.

Two provisos when relying on these chemical treatments: one, check the ingredients when you buy insecticides. Though illegal in most countries, chlorinated hydrocarbons such as DDT, dieldrin and lindane are still widely marketed. Their effect on the environment, on everything from falcons to bees, has been catastrophic.

Less dangerous alternatives include carbamates such as car-daryl, or parathion; better still are plant-derived and bio-degradable compounds based on nicotine, rotenone or pyrethrum.

But wherever possible, let nature take its course and provide its own bio-controls. This means that reptiles and amphibians that have taken up residence, namely the lizards, skinks, geckos, frogs and toads, are more than welcome.

The fact that there are few snails and even fewer slugs around is a direct consequence of the activities of these hungry insectivores.



Of these, one of the most useful is the banded bull-frog or chubby frog (*Kaloula pulchra*). It is distinctive looking, with a dark brown back, creamy-colored belly, and a broad salmon-pink stripe along the body. Almost perfectly round, it can,



THAILAND'S NATURAL PEST CONTROL: Blue-and-orange tokay geckos (below) can reach up to a foot long. The chubby frog (left) often found in Phuket gardens dislike chlorine, so will stay away from your swimming pool. Skinks (right) are night hunters of bugs, slugs and other Phuket invertebrates. Photos: Wikimedia

if distressed, make itself even more rotund. Just now, they are beginning to come out from the holes and pots where they spend most of the dry season, in order to feed and breed. They are not large – no more than five centimeters – but they are voracious eaters of ants and termites.

Another amphibian that puts in a daily appearance at present is the Asian river toad (*Bufo asper*). Unlike the chubby frog, which dislikes chlorine intensely, the female often squats by the pool and, on occasion, even plops in.

This is a much larger creature, with a toad's broad head and warty, knobby skin. Reliant on its dark yellow-green color for camouflage, it is slow-moving and impassive. Only if prodded will it hop into the adjacent undergrowth. But it is another gardener's friend.

Both of these creatures will need water to breed. They both favor the fish pond: hence the presence of tadpoles there at this time of year.

Among the lizards, the sun skink or *mabuya* is particularly beneficial. It is terrestrial, lives in the leaf litter of flower beds, and emerges at dusk to prey mainly on slugs and other invertebrates.

As the largest family of lizards, skinks typically have small legs, streamlined but substantial bodies, and attractive coppery scales.

Less obviously a gardener's ally since it lives in trees, the arboreal agamid lizard is nonetheless good to have around, since it feeds principally on insects. They frequently inhabit pseudo-acacia trees, easily identified by their excessively long, fragile-looking tails, dorsal crests, and, in the case of the male, a vocal sac under the throat.

They are safe in this habitat, but

their habit of freezing when disturbed makes them easy prey in Thailand for human predators.

Geckos have not yet been mentioned in dispatches – for the obvious reason that they prefer houses than gardens. But they deserve a brief commendation since they devour large quantities of insects, especially mosquitoes and flying ants.

The most common variety in Phuket is the spiny-tailed house gecko. There must be scarcely a Thai home without its complement of geckos, frenziedly dashing from their hiding places and chasing their prey across the ceiling.

However, geckos, called *tokay* in Thai, are something of a rarity here in Phuket. Yet, the ones that are here can easily be heard every evening, as the male gives vent to his loud, strident cry of: "Tok-kay!"

The *tokay* is the largest and most spectacular member of the gecko tribe, up to a foot long, with vivid, orange spots. Consequently, it is much in demand in the pet trade. A shame as it is much more valuable running free and devouring large insects such as beetles, grasshoppers and ants.

And what of dragons? Alas, none. The closest encounter was with a huge water monitor lizard that inhabited a creek behind a house in Chalong.

It was six-feet long, second in size only to the Komodo Dragon.

Want to know more about what's in your Phuket garden? Email pcampbell45@gmail.com.



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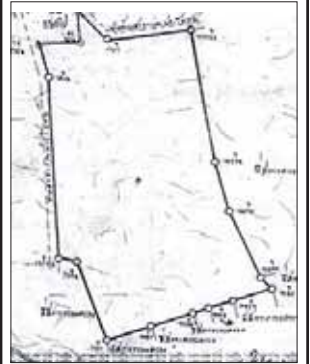
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Villa 3 Park, Phuket town/Chalong, 3-bedroom townhouse, 90sqm, Chanote title. Now renovated. For quick sale 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

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42sq wah of land with Chanote title. Two stories with Chalong Bay view or mountain view. Tel: 086-951 6505.

LOW PRICE CHANOTE LAND

Half rai, walled plot. Near Laguna. 2.4 million baht. Tel: 086-470 5809, 080-695 9665.

RAWAI PROPERTY

close to pier. Exclusive private property, with 4 apartments, pool and big terrace. All together 6.9 million baht including furnishings. Tel: 081-788 8280.

CHEAP PATONG POOL

Villa with a seaview, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 2 kitchens. Quick sale. Price: 6.4 million baht only, sold before at 12 million baht. Tel: 087-053 6016.

4 APARTMENTS RAWAI

with pool, includes furnishings. All for 6.9 MILLION baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

2 stories, 100sqm, corner position with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Quiet location, 2 car parks, 2 minutes to Super Cheap. Price: 2.5 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED

Ready to move in, 254sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrung school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com.

LAND FOR SALE IN KOH YAO YAI

Beautiful land set amongst the tropical jungle of the island. While this property is classed as inland, it is positioned a mere 500 metre walk to the beautiful sandy beach of Klong Son Bay in Phang Nga Bay. Nor Sor Sam Kor. 5,033 rai of land. Price 1 million baht/rai. Negotiable. Tel: 076-281121, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-281121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL SEAVIEW

For sale. At Surin Beach. No agent. Call K Sawa for more details at 080-695 2944.

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI

for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 ensuite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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NICE PLOT

for sale. Near Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo area), ready to build housing. Price: 4.7 million baht. Chanote title included. Please contact owner. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

PENTHOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and rooftop jacuzzi & sala. Fully furnished and with WiFi. Available July 1. Tel: 083-635 7480, 083-635 7480 (English & Thai). Email: suppamas@live.com

LAND NEAR RESORT, PENTHOUSE

Different size land plots near Golden Tulip Mangosteen Resort. From 27sqwah to 13-1-78 rai in size. Seaview penthouse in Chalong, freehold. Please contact Hajo at Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com

SINGLE HOUSE

for sale in Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. 55sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths. Call K. Aree for more info. Tel: 083-649 1218.

NEW APARTMENT

For sale. 84sqm, 6th Floor, front swimming pool. Free hold 8 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

2-STORY HOUSE IN PATONG

sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sqw. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

22 RAI 500,000 BAHT/RAI

Beautiful plot of land suitable for either development or agricultural use. Nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5km south of Tab Lamu golf course and 10km north of Khao Lak. Price: 11 million baht for 22 rai. Tel: 081-892 1097 (English & Thai). Email: colan007@hotmail.com

NAI YANG GARDEN VILLA

Land 1 rai with 4 houses, 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale price only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 aircon unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale or rent. 312sqm, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour security. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 45,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Sam (English/Thai) 085-1106449. For further details, please see our website at <http://ipdproperty.com/30-chalong-villa/30-chalong-villa.html>

SALE DELUXE STUDIO

In a beautiful new condo located in Patong. 42sqm, center swimming pool. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

NAI YANG BEACH HOUSE

3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with nice kitchen, big garden and carpark. In a quiet area near Nai Yang Beach. Tel: 076-241594, 089-652 1751 (English & Thai), 089-648 4703 (English & Thai). Email: pietankam@yahoo.co.th

HOUSE AND SHOPHOUSE

1,100sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 150sqm shophouse, 1.5km from Laguna resort, good for a nursery or factory. Only 6 million baht. Tel: 076-274975, 081-891 2503 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-274976. Email: yai_k@hotmail.com

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

At Kok Kien, Takuapa, Phang-Nga. 85,000 baht per rai. Contact Khun Piek. Tel: 081-892 4094, 084-304 9339.

PATONG CONDO FOR SALE/RENT

New, cheap freehold condos. 300m from beach, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. LCD TV included. Please contact Rommel at Tel: 087-277 8781 (English). Email: tj_biggie@hotmail.com

PATONG CENTER

12-room hotel. Take over for 2 million baht or rent for 70,000 baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

HEAVEN ON EARTH

5 bedroom Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8 sqm. construction area approx. 573 sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND

same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA

Sale price: 12.8 million baht (off the plan). Land only: 5.95 million baht. Near Surin & Bang Tao beaches! New exclusive development with million-dollar homes already built. All utilities available. Fantastic views. Home area 341sqm, land area 540 sqm, Chanote title, leasehold or freehold. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com

4-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

for sale. Modern Sino-Portuguese house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a built-in kitchen. Quiet area, near Tesco Kathu. Price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 076-346269, 081-803 8061. Email: meeboon@hotmail.co.uk

HOUSE IN KATHU

3.2 million baht. Fully furnished 2-story house with 2 bedrooms, 2 balconies, 2 bathrooms and a European kitchen. Price: 3.2 million baht. Contact Noy. Tel: 087-627 4622 (Eng/Swe).

RAWAI SUPER OFFER

2-story, 3-bedroom pool villa. Fully furnished and with garden. Price: 4.4 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

KATA HILL-MUST SELL!

Luxury villa. 3 bedrooms, big pool and garden. Includes furnishings. From 19 million baht. Now 15 million baht or best offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-788 8280.

KATHU GOLF VIEW LAND

Fully serviced 1,020sqm. overlooking Loch Palm. Price: 5.6 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211 (English). Fax: 076-323724. Email: julienmayard@me.com

48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW HOUSE KAMALA BEACH

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLAS

2-bedroom villas, near golf course, 12 minutes from Patong. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433. Fax: 076-323724. Email: julienmayard@me.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-cottages.com

LAND ON KHAO RANG HILL

for sale. Located on Khao Rang Hill, 3.5 rai with project plan. Great 180-degree view of downtown and the ocean. Situated in Phuket-town's upper-class area. Great for condos or a hotel. Tel: 089-772 3758, 089-408 1558.

LAND NEAR NANAI ROAD

for sale. 90 wah near Nanai Road, with mountain and ocean views. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

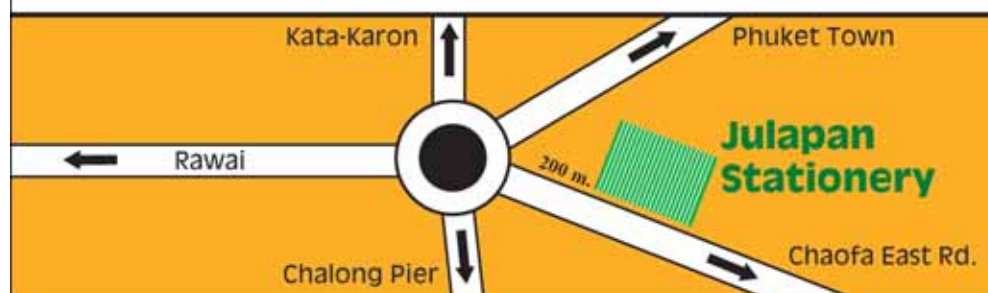
2 RAI WITH 15 ROOMS

For rent. Located on main road near town and university in Trang. Picture available on request. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 089-651 3479, 089-874 8133. Email: tannynanny@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

75sq wah, 3 floors, 15 rooms. Sale 15 million baht. Tel: 081-477 6808, 085-888 1809.

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For rent. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Includes swimming pool, garden, and UBC. Price: 75,000 baht per month or negotiable. Tel: 087-282 7979.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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Property Classifieds

Property Services

PROPERTY RENTAL SERVICES

Owners and managers, list your villa to increase rentals. For further details please contact at tel: 080-699 2436. Email: info@kingdomvillarentals.com For further details, please see our website at www.kingdomvilla rentals.com

Property Wanted

SEEKING SMALL HOUSE

or shophouse with a garden in Kata, Karon or Nai Harn. No leasehold. Price not over 5 million baht. Please send picture and details to: silence65@t-online.de

LOOKING FOR 2-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Looking for a 2-bedroom pool villa in Rawai/Naiham/Chalong/Kata/Karon/ Phuket Town with a nice modern interior. Looking to rent for 14 months for about 30,000 baht/month starting July 2010. Tel: 081-676 1387 (English & Thai). Or email with information at: vincentbroere@hotmail.com

OLD HOUSE TO REPAIR

Looking for an old house in bad condition which needs to be repaired. Must have a big garden, and be in a quiet place with lots of nature. Tel: 085-789 5701 (English & Thai). Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE WANTED

Looking for a 2-bedroom house in Thalang, Pa Khlok for long-term rent. No furniture required, can renovate by myself. Email: vboree@gmail.com

Accommodation Available

KARON BEACH

Seaview bungalow. Steak house and seafood. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

CONDO 700M FROM PATONG

Fully furnished, 50sqm, double bed, kitchen, living room, balcony with mountain view, fitness center, swimming pool. Price: 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-817 7886, 081-244 6970 (English & Thai). Email: wintin2007@yahoo.com

KATA BEACH

Low season promotion from 400 baht per night, includes continental breakfast, WiFi and 10% off food. Free airport pickup with five night stay. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website: www.southernfriedrice.com

APARTMENTS KATHU

New serviced studios, 1 bedroom or 2 bedrooms. Furnished with WiFi and pool. Attractive prices. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

ACCOMMODATION IN CHALONG

From 8,000 baht per month. Electricity, WiFi, swimming pool and cable included. Location: Shanti Lodge. Tel: 076-280233.

PATONG SEAVIEW

Best location. 75-300sqm, 1 & 2 bedrooms, en suites, European kitchen, lounge, balconies, car park and huge pool. Weekly to yearly rates from 19,999 baht per month. Call K. Mike. Tel: 087-268 1170. For further details, please see our website at www.luxuryhousesphuket.com

BUNGALOW RAWAI

Aircon, internet, kitchen, TV. Very nice and quiet. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

Seaview swimming pool. Quiet and special price during low season. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

ONE-BEDROOM CONDO

- New fully furnished with WiFi and pool near Central Festival Phuket.

- Beach-front condo, long-term rent with 2 bedrooms and many facilities.

Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9820 038.

LUXURY THAI HOUSE FOR RENT

A special property internally and externally. The tropical modern Thai design is pleasing to the eye and so is the classy furniture, fixtures and fittings which complement the overall luxury environment. 3 bedroom, 1 maid room, swimming pool and garden. Long-term rent: 75,000 baht/month. Short term: 85,000 baht/month. Sale price: 18.75 million baht. Tel: 076-289121, 086-276 2785 (English), 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Fax 076-289121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

PATONG SEA VIEW CONDO

Studio, 50sqm, Western kitchen. WiFi. 11th floor, nice sea view. Resort pool, long-or short-term rent. Also for sale. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

SPACIOUS ROOM WITH BALCONY

Furnished room, en-suite bathroom, aircon, hot shower, satellite TV. On hillside near beach. Tel: 083-110 2113, 087-353 5786 (English). Email: jongmeyer@hotmail.com

500 BAHT PER DAY - LOW RATE



New pool guesthouse, 1 bed, 1 bath, with WiFi, cable TV, motor bike. Rawai Beach. Price: 500 baht per day. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

2-BED APARTMENT PATONG

2 bathrooms, pool, aircon, ADSL. In a quiet area. Price: 20,000 baht. For further details. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

BEACHSIDE PENTHOUSE

Bang Tao Beach Penthouse. Features 2 pools, gym, sauna, 2 bedrooms, open-plan kitchen and huge lounge opening onto a terrace. Also private roof top and plunge pool. Full aircon, WiFi, TV, maid, etc. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-325307. Email: connada@hotmail.com For more details, see our website at: www.phuketpenthouse.webs.com

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

Surin Beach. Price: only 15,000 baht per month plus electric. 50sqm with balcony, fully furnished, aircon, wireless internet, satellite TV, stereo, safe, pool. Rent for minimum 3 months. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 086-476 4012 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.suringate.com

ACCOMMODATION

Room in a private home, located in a secure gated community in Chalong. All amenities. Tel: 087-077 9816. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO

For rent or sale. Located in Rawai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-090 1805. Email: troyadrian@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FULLY FURNISHED

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big garden, 10 mins from Patong beach with pool 6 x 11m. Tel: 087-505 9409 (English & Thai). Email: natnarins@yahoo.com

NAI YANG HOUSE

3 bed/3 bath house. 5 minutes to airport and beach. 23,000 baht per month. For further details please contact at tel: 081-891 4552 (English & Thai). Email: bthill6@gmail.com

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Are you a Holiday Resort Owner? Do you have any Clients? Are you losing money? You don't know what to do? Let me HELP. I am an investor looking for a Holiday Resort. Email: steveuk7@hotmail.com

SPECIAL DEAL VILLA

Villas with 4-5 bedrooms, available for long-or short-term rent. Located in Patong in a natural and beautiful estate. Very private, yet close to all the attractions that Patong has to offer - enjoy the best of both worlds! The villas have spectacular sea views and are tastefully furnished. They are fully equipped, professionally managed and have a full-time, live-in maid. Seeing is believing! Email: canport@gmail.com Website: www.patonghill.com

Household Items

BUNK BEDS FOR KIDS

Blue modern-style bunk bed from Index, good condition. For sale - moving, so must sell. Matching kids wardrobe, bedside table & desk also available. Tel: 081-305 6079. Email: lisar_ryder@yahoo.co.uk

AIRCOND 35000BTU

aircond 2 units ceiling mounted. 10,000 baht each. Tel: 085-619 7492. Email: lmarrable@hotmail.com

ASSORTED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Assorted household items including clothes. No furniture. Varied prices. Contact Beverly as above for a full list. No Photographs. Offers accepted. Tel: 087-265 0905 (Thai). Email: beverlycasey@hotmail.com

FUTON SOFA /BUNK BEDS

Adaptable sofa or bunk beds or 2 single beds. From Index. Price: 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 2887 (English). Email: portly2@hotmail.com

FINAL MOVING SALE

King-size bed (springbox, mattress & steel frame on wheels) 5,000 baht. Transformer 1,000 baht. Wardrobes 1,200 baht. Indian Dhury carpets 2000 - 5,000 baht. Kitchen cabinet with 3 shelves and 4 drawers 1,000 baht. Tel: 087-470 9117 (English). Email: gerdarichmond@hotmail.com

SAVE 70% ON OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Brand-new outdoor chaise lounge chairs in tan color for sale at 900 baht/each. (30 items available). Price can be negotiated if 2 or more are purchased. They are great for outdoors, the beach, camping, the pool deck, swimming pool. Tel: 087-881 8075 (English & Thai). Email: chintanabrown@msn.com

Household Services

HOME CARE PHUKET

Renovation, all repairs and maintenance. Prompt and efficient, fair and reliable. Tel: 084-455 3536. Email: homecarephuket@gmail.com

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-1935124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

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FARANG FOOD PARADISE CO., LTD.

Farang Food Paradise Co., Ltd., Food & Beverage supplier based in Phuket, is currently seeking for the following position:

Branch Manager (KRABI)

- Thai National
- Bachelor's degree in any related fields
- Strong English communication skills
- Experience in Sales, Marketing and Food service
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Possess car and driver's licence
- Self motivated and able to work independently

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

FARANG FOOD PARADISE CO., LTD.
99/33-34 Moo 1, Billion Plaza, T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120
marc@phuketfood.com or Tel. 076 612 733 - 076 248 900
http://www.phuketfood.com



Sai Taan is a fast growing property developer based in Phuket. Due to continued expansion we are looking for an ambitious, hard working finance manager/controller.

Key Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the financial operations of the company
- Work with management team to develop tax planning
- Develop and monitor cashflow plans & company budgets
- Provide weekly and monthly financial reports
- Manage current book keeping staff.

Key Qualifications:

- degree from recognised, leading university
- excellent spoken & written English is a must
- at least 6 years experience
- willing and able to learn necessary accounting regulations related to property business
- hard working & ambitious
- able to take initiative and work independently
- ideally some experience with a real estate development company.

We are looking for someone capable and ambitious to join our small team. This is an opportunity to join a small team and make a real contribution, while learning the details of the property development business. Competitive salary for the right candidate.

Please email to info@sai-taan-phuket.com enclosing a resume, recent photo and details of your current salary.

Sai Taan Villas Co., Ltd.
3/14, Moo 5, T. Cherrngtalay, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel 076-271257-8; Fax 076-271256
www.sai-taan-phuket.com



Wine Connection Phuket is arguably the leading wine shop in Thailand and is now developing a Deli & Bistro concept as a business extension. Wine Connection is looking for organized and dynamic people to lead our teams.

Sales Executive

Qualifications:

- Preferably 25-35 year old Thai female
- Minimum 2 years experience in Sales and/or Marketing of consumer product
- Good negotiation and English communication skills
- Pleasant personality
- Client oriented
- Persuasive, solution finder
- Self-motivated, service minded, result oriented
- Pro-active, innovative and well organized
- Computer literate

Key responsibilities:

- Executing sales plan: This function requires 70% prospecting, 25% client follow up and 5% public relation work
- Client targets: hotels, restaurants, bars and pubs
- Finding new business opportunities with existing clients and new prospects
- Developing and maintaining good client rapport
- Regular commercial follow up to clients with visit reports
- Reporting of sales activities and market visits to Sales Manager

Good benefits for the right candidate.

Please send your resumé to SeniorHrPhuket@wineconnection.co.th or call 076-282411 # 15 for further information.



Looking for Thai nationals for the following positions in Phuket:

- Beauty/ Spa Therapists
- Assistant Manager

Good English & communications skills required
Please send your resume with recent picture to:

staff@sunspa-esthederm.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Web Programmer (3 positions)

General Duties:

- Designs, programs, implements and maintains computerized business systems for use on the Internet or Intranet
- Develops both internal and external website and web-based applications/features
- Researches and develops new web technologies
- Provides continuing diagnostic support for applications and execution of web services.

Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Computer Science/Programming
- Proficient in asp, asp.net, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML, MsSQL, MySQL and Ajax programming
- At least 2 years' experience in programming
- Ability to work within tight schedules
- Independent and attentive to detail
- Able to communicate effectively and show good problem solving skills
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Must be a team player.

Web promoter & IT support (1 position)

General Duties:

- Search engine optimization
- Manual directory submission
- Link exchange development and admin
- Procurement from PC hardware/software suppliers and building system providers
- Maintenance of PCs, networking, and building system functionality
- Troubleshooting re user problems
- Independent resolution of hardware break-fix issues, network connectivity, and application related questions
- Weekly conversion of Pagemaker files to PDFs, and compilation of the Digital Gazette
- Conversion of AVI to Flash video for PGTV
- Other related tasks.

Requirements:

- Degree in IT or equivalent work experience
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in web promotion and IT support
- Understanding of search engine algorithms (a must)
- Excellent skills in Search Engine Optimization
- Knowledge of promotional techniques through Google/Yahoo/MSN
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Proficiency in Internet research
- Ability to maintain web pages.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

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Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240



Classic & Contemporary Interiors

Retail Store Manager

- Thai National
- Female 30 years or older
- Fluent in English - oral and written - other language ability would be a bonus
- Computer skills - Excel, Word, Office
- Some bookkeeping skills
- Excellent sales and social skills
- Confident and plenty of initiative
- Must have an eye for detail and some interior design knowledge
- Full-time position, 6 days per week

This position requires a very committed person with the right attitude, common sense and a bit of style - if that's you then please submit your current resume along with a photo and expected salary to:

abfabphuket@gmail.com

Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

LIVE IN MAID
Wanted, Cherrng Talay area. Cooking and English not necessary. Salary: 8,000 baht a month to start with. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-275085.

PERMANENT POSITIONS
Permanent positions available:
Accountant - experience with all facets of accounting including sales, purchases and tax requirements. Good English necessary.
Secretary - experience working in office and good English necessary.
Please email CV to: daragh@techworx-projects.com

RECEPTIONIST/ CASHIER
For a beautiful spa in Karon. Good salary and staff room. Tel: 086-271 8254. Email: ninproperty@hotmail.com

SALESMAN WANTED
On commission basis to sell or rent inflatable playgrounds to hotels or shopping centers. Tel: 087-417 4501. Email: thanyainternet@hotmail.com

BARISTA WANTED
Young person with barista experience required for new coffee shop in Chalong. Thai & English speaking. Happy personality. Advanced barista training provided for right person after trial period. Salary based on experience. Tel: 080-534 4964 (English & Thai). Email: unikom_jr@yahoo.com

TEACHER WANTED
HeadStart International School, Phuket, is currently seeking qualified, experienced and caring teachers for Physical Education, Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary levels. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612877. Please email CVs to school@headstartphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.headstartphuket.com

POOL CLEANER
Full-time position in Chalong area. Salary includes social security. Tel: 081-893 4661, 081-975 8351. Email: valiant@loxinfo.co.th

PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR
Required now for dive center on Phi Phi. For more info please send email to: jgkg24@hotmail.com

QUICK RECRUITMENT
Asean Journals Co Ltd (What's On Phuket Magazine)
1. Two positions in sales
2. One secretarial position
Tel: 076-203365, 089-470 6500. Email: southphuket@yahoo.com

BAR MANAGER & CLUB MANAGER
New entertainment venue opening in Phuket. Pool bar, wine bar, club and restaurant. Bar Manager and Club Manager required. Top salary paid to the right candidate. Tel: 088-500 8646. Email: tal@themet.com.au

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

SECRETARY WANTED

For property management company in Cherrng Talay. Must communicate well in English and good computer skills. Tel: 083-391 7254. Email: parkfld@yahoo.com

TELE MARKETING JOB

Native English speaker, top rates. Working in Patong. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-479 4027.

MARKETING

Permanent position - Work with our website, agent and direct marketing. Good spoken and written English, and computer skills are required. Salary: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-331615. Fax: 076-331-616. Email: inq@sailingthailand.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST WEB DESIGNER

Illustrator, Photoshop, Indesign. Full time or part time position depending on skills. Creative work environment with unlimited potential. Must read and write English reasonably well. Tel: 086-275 2480 (English). Email: tony@graingerdesigns.com.au For further details, please see our website at www.graingerdesigns.com.au

LINUX PROGRAMMERS NEEDED

American company seeking Linux programmers in Patong. English language required. Experience with C language or Perl required. Device driver experience and kernel level programming, or user interface programming with Perl and knowledge of Linux administration. Please send resume and salary requirements to Michael Anderson. Email: manderson@streamscale.com

MALE MASSEURS WANTED

Earn good extra many with our outcall massage service for couples. No need to be qualified, training can be provided. Please email: massagephuket@gmail.com

ASSISTANT WANTED

Assistant to service director. Qualifications required: Experienced (minimum 5 years) in water filtration, domestic & commercial. Good command of written and spoken English, leadership qualities. Driver's license is essential. Contact to make appointment: 076-620193.

APARTMENT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national, able to speak & write english. Multi tasking and dependable. Start on 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-288 8696 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

NEW INT'L PRIMARY SCHOOL IN RAWAI

The IPC is seeking to appoint a head teacher. Must have PGCD and minimum 5 years experience. Be a leader with passion to inspire and motivate both staff and pupils. Please send your CV to: careers@palmhouseprimaryschool.com

SURVEYORS WANTED

Male or female wanted to assist with survey's. Must understand basic English. Good basic salary plus commission. Contact Jay. Tel: 084-851 7529. Email: jamerward@yahoo.co.uk

FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET

is looking for part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English. if possible with driving license. Please send to email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**I.T. Professional (Website Programmer)**

Thai national needed for new internet-based property company.

Applicants must have:

- ✓ Good command of spoken & written English.
- ✓ Minimum 5 years' experience in website construction.
- ✓ Good knowledge of HTML, PHP, JAVA, FLASH, Photoshop, AI & SEO.
- ✓ Self-motivated

Very Good Salary!

Please send CV and a picture of yourself to info@phuketproperty.com

**Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project****SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNICATION LIAISON POSITION**

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to improve the lives of coastal populations through better management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The BOBLME Project will soon be based in Phuket. We want to establish a local presence, encourage a sense of ownership among stakeholders in the eight participating countries; promote BOBLME as a major source of information and advice; and communicate the results and progress of the project to stakeholders, especially to people in the coastal communities. One of the major tasks in 2010 will be to set up of media liaison outlets in each of the countries partnered with the project. These outlets will convey the project messages in appropriate language, and actively seek communication opportunities locally.

We are looking for an individual or company to take a leading role in the implementation of our communications strategy over the next four years.

For more information on the role and responsibilities, please see our website; www.boblme.org.

Interested individuals or companies should send a CV or company profile together with a covering letter outlining your professional competence to the Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien on chris.obrien@fao.org by June 11, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**FLOURISHING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD**

Phuket International Academy (PIA) comprises three centres: the PIA Day School, the PIA Sports and Leisure Club (inclusive of Hotel and F&B Outlets) and the PIA Mind Centre.

We will have the OPENING JOB FAIR DAY at the Phuket Rajabhat University at the Main Auditorium on Saturday, July 10th, 2010 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. We are looking for suitable applicants for the positions listed below:

SPORTS CLUB /HOTEL & F&B/MIND CENTRE

- Call Centre Operator
- Art Coordinator/Teacher
- Administrative Assistant
- Membership Service Coordinator
- Activity Desk Attendant
- Kids Club Coordinator
- Swim Coach
- Life Guard
- Sports Coach
- Tennis Coach
- Recreation Attendant
- F&B Server
- Chef De Partie /Commis /Cook
- Pastry Chef
- Steward Supervisor
- Steward
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Housekeeping Agent
- Event Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL DAY SCHOOL

- Guest Relations Manager

ADMINISTRATION (THANYAPURA OFFICE)

- Training Officer

CONSTRUCTION

- Health & Safety Manager
- Site Architect
- Scheduling & Logistics Engineer
- ME Engineer

All positions are based in Phuket and require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills, pro-active leadership and proven training skills. A high degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications are welcome to apply on the Opening Job Fair Day or to submit a resume with a recent photograph in advance to the HR Department at pansak@phuketinternationalacademy.com

For more information, please visit our website at www.phuketinternationalacademy.com

TRISARA**Villa Estate Manager**

Trisara, Phuket's most exclusive resort, consists of the award winning resort hotel and spa plus 27 magnificent residences, which are managed and rented by the resort for private owners.

A unique opportunity exists within our team as Villa Estate Manager. The successful candidate will possess the skills to effectively oversee the 140-strong team at the residences, maintenance, our rental guests / owners visits, and the administration of the villas expenses and accounts. A minimum of 5 years in a senior management role at an International resort or Hotel is required and estate management experience is an advantage.

Reporting to the Group Director/General Manager of Trisara, the successful Villa Estate Manager will be paid an attractive expatriate salary and benefits package.

If you are an energetic, organized and result-driven team player who is looking for a challenge at the highest standards, send your resume and a recent photo to;

Human Resources Director

Email: hr@trisara.com

Tel: 076-310350 Fax: 076-310299

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10,000 readers every day!**

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LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

► **Sunseeker Manhattan 50 (2007)**

- Bow thruster and electronic engine controls
- 13kw genset and Air conditioning
- Full electronic package and nav systems with fly bridge repeaters
- Bose Lifestyle entertainment system
- 26in flat screen in saloon and smaller flat screens in cabins

► **Haus Christian 48 (2004)**

► **Stevens 47 (1982)**

► **Sunseeker Portofino 53 (2005)**

► **Mustang 3800 LE (2006)**

leemarine.com

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
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BOAT + INCOME 5 MILLION BAHT



2008 Gulf craft. In perfect condition + fully loaded with the best equipment. Now serviced a number of 5-star resorts. LIC for 17 passengers + crew. Also for rent from 38,000 baht per day. Contact: Ross. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com

PESCOTT 11.8m (2000)

Fast cruising catamaran reduced to AUS\$185,000. For further details. See www.boatshedphuket.com

38 FOOT CATAMARAN

Built in composite, 4 double cabins, under construction. Price: 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

CHOLOMARK 5.8 RIB



Superb boat with fitted Evinrude DI V4 engine. Bimini, built-in tank, full covers on winched trailer. Price: 499,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

NEW SEADOO RXTX 255Hp

New 2008 Seadoo Rxt-x 255Hp. Special price: only 485,000 baht. Cando 70mph. 2 units left. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

SWAN 42 (1982)

Scandinavian quality yacht, full racing sails, Price U\$139,950. See our web site at www.boatshedphuket.com

PEARSON COUNTESS (1970)

Reduced to only US\$89,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

55 FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 105sqm sails, 25sqm cockpit, 2009 in composite. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

SEA RAY SUNDANCER 310 FOR SALE

31ft, launched 10/02, 2 X Mercruiser 350 (250hrs). Includes radar, GPS, Panasonic TV, Clarion marine radio, Bose sound system, electric anchor, aircon, 24,000BTU, trailer and Thai registration. For sale at 3.3 million baht. Tel: 038-720519, 085-237 9615. Fax: 038-720219. Contact for more details at email: michael.floeth@glolo.co.uk

BOAT FOR SALE



Sea worthy & strong 35ft. Island Runabout (Thai registration). Fish or fun- 115Hp Isuzu 4 stroke. Diesel twin-disk 2:1 marine trans. Includes Honda 6.5 winch, Furuno Fcl-600L color LCD sounder, Furuno VHP FM 3000 radio telephone, portable diesel transfer pump 12/24V, portable air pump 12V. Sell or trade for Isuzu/Toyota. 4-door pickup (equal value). Call for more information. Tel: 081-978 0860.

MAXUM 2,100SC (2005)

In excellent condition. Price: 1.1 million baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

BAYLINER SPEED 18.5FT BOAT

(5.90 meter). 130Hp in outboard, like new. Now 750,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 081-788 8280.

DUNCANSON 30 SLOOP

Cruiser/racer, reduced to 1 million baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

RL28 SWING KEEL SLOOP

Big sail wardrobe. Price: AUS\$33,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

ROBERTS SPRAY 44'

Thai registered for 20 pax. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

20M DAY BOAT

Certified. For 45 passengers, 450Hp Nissan engine, 25Kw generator and dive compressor. In good condition and ready to work. Price: 2.9 million baht. Seller financing. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

Try www.boatshedphuket.com The "no sale no fee" brokers. Call Alan for more information. Tel: 084-8426 146.

BOAT STORAGE AVAILABLE

Boat storage close to Boat Lagoon. Power, water, security. Contact for more details at: jgkg24@hotmail.com

SEADOO JETBOAT 215Hp FAST

2005 Seadoo Jetboat. 1,500cc, trailer + tower, condition 90%. can reach 60Mph. Special price: 670,000 baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

SCHIONNING POWER CAT 42'

Twin diesel inboards, 4 double berths. Excellent condition. Price: US\$329,000. For further details, please visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

2 ONE-MAN KAYAKS

In good condition. Paddles included. Price when new: 17,000 baht, will sell for 8,000 baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

TRAILER

3 years old, 2-level steel trailer. Originally designed to haul sailing dinghies. Just registered. Original price 120,000 baht. Will sell for 40,000 baht. Contact: Nid 089-474 1246 or Phil 081-397 0905.

23M DIVE BOAT TWIN DIESEL

Rebuilt last year. Price: 5 million baht. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

LANDFALL 39' SLOOP

longkeel, reduced to 1.9 million baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

SEALINE 260

Economical single diesel, end of season. Bargain at only 1.2 million baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

COFFEE WONDERWORD

This week's answer:
Pageants

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
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| 20 | S | T | Y | 21 | E | L | A | N | 22 | C | E | D | E | S | |
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| 26 | S | T | R | E | A | K | 27 | | 28 | G | L | U | E | | |
| 31 | A | E | O | L | U | S | 32 | O | A | K | L | A | N | D | |
| 36 | O | N | T | O | 37 | V | O | W | 38 | | | | | | |
| 40 | T | E | T | A | N | U | S | 41 | | 42 | S | T | E | W | E |
| 45 | | | | | | | | | 46 | C | E | N | S | U | S |
| 47 | S | L | O | T | H | 48 | | | 49 | | | | | | |
| 51 | B | O | I | S | E | 52 | W | A | I | F | 53 | | | | |
| 57 | A | R | M | O | R | 58 | I | N | E | F | 59 | F | A | B | L |
| 61 | S | T | I | L | E | 62 | F | I | N | 63 | A | D | U | L | T |
| 64 | S | A | T | E | D | 65 | E | L | S | 66 | S | A | T | E | S |

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

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To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
Do not Fax!

Articles For Sale

BABY ARTICLES

Cool kid car seats for 1-4 years or max 15kg, used only 9 months. Original price: 4,500 baht, will sell for 1,800 baht. Carera six baby bottle steam sterilizer unused, shop price 2,333 baht, will sell for 1,000 baht. Both items for 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-474 5359 (English), 081-537 9951 (Thai). Email: azado@hotmail.com

MEDIA PLAYER PINNACLE 250HD

Pinnacle ShowCenter 250HD media player. Play from your PC or USB to your TV. This digital media player lets you enjoy PC-based media files on your TV. Price: 4,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 0084. Email: ian@fereday.biz

STEEL CABINET FOR FAST SALE

Gray steel cabinet for sale. (height 185cm, width 82cm, depth 42 cm). Fixed price only 1,200 baht. Has to go before Wednesday! Tel: 089-289 5102 (English & Thai). Email: buapanjindasree@yahoo.com

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RING

Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house power point, but can be hard wired also. 10 months old. Price when new: 5,500 baht. Will sell for 3,200 baht. Tel: 085-275 3720. Email: russcottent@hotmail.com

HARDWOOD BENCH SEAT

Beautiful hardwood bench seat. Good for inside or outside. Tel: 082-878 0392 (English & Thai). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

JIGSAW PUZZLES

One 1,500-piece Waddingtons "One of the Family" by F G Cotman. 88 x 58cm. Price: 350 baht. One 3,000-piece Arrow Puzzles, 'Italian Garden, Garnish Island, Co, Cork, Ireland' 118 x 89cm. Price: 550 baht. Tel: 086-940 2111 (English), 087-270 7698 (English & Thai). Email: tom_woods6@hotmail.com

CAR SEAT BASKET

Two used car seat baskets. Brand: Cool Kids. Model: Bono. Price: 1,000 baht each. Tel: 085-151 5319 (English & Thai). Email: wilair@yahoo.com

SWIMMING POOL-AMAZING!

16ft diameter Intex Ultra frame above ground pool. Includes acc. and salt chlorinator pump. Normal price: 88,000 baht. Special clearance price: 50,000 baht. Other models in stock. Tel: 089-216 7220 (English). Email: julianburgess@myway.com

BAGLESS VACUUM CLEANER

Electrolux zac 6,707 warranty till 11/06/2010. New 6,000 baht, now 2,500 baht. Colour: red/white. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

SONY PS3 & ACCESSORIES

Comes with second controller and Logitech G25 Steering wheel. Games available include: Guitar Hero 3, Avatar, Transformers 1 & 2, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed & The Complete Saga (Lego), Burnout Paradise City, GT5, Army of Two and Airborne. Contact Mike. Tel: 086-951 2455. Email: miketipton@netseven.com

SWEDISH CANDY/ SNACKS

Stock clearance and end of season sale. All Scandinavian/Swedish candy and snacks must go. Bargain prices! Licorice, Bilar, Cheez Doodles, Chips etc. Tel: 076-513408, 087-274 6602, 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-513408. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at: www.scan snax.nu

MOVING SALE

Teak wood large working desk 190cm x 90cm. Matching side board 190cm x 45cm. Cannon color scanner, HP laser printer with new toner, Panasonic plain paper fax. Call Simone. Tel: 086-951 5445 (English). Email: guidotti@netvigator.com

KING-SIZE MATTRESS

4½ months old, in perfect condition. Not one of those rock-hard mattresses. Price: 5,000 baht new, with receipt. Pics available. Email: Strawberryfields747@gmail.com

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Orient rugs prints from China, India, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong. Select Asian furniture. Jade ivory vases, kitchen utensils, rosewood desk, Japanese wedding kimono rare, Japanese stone lantern. More to come. Indonesian statues, queen-size bed+mattress, tables, flower plots, dining set (8). Tel: 080-145 3483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

LLADRO FIGURINE

Tahitian Dancing Girls, #0100 1498. It's 11.75 inches, retired 1995, hand painted. DF file available by email. Very slight damage to 2 fingers on 1 hand. 40,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-895- 7727 (English). Email: info@axiominvestments.com

BED AND MATTRESS FOR SALE

Bed and Seally orthopedic mattress for sale. Bought for 45,000 baht, will sell for 7,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 5102 (English & Thai). Email: buapanjindasree@yahoo.com

DEHUMIDIFIER FOR SALE

Tired of the high humidity? Buy this dehumidifier. Fixed price 2,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 5102. Email: buapanjindasree@yahoo.com

TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE

High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular rattan sofa, 2 plantation chairs, customised Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket. Must sell by month end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vjmisso@gmail.com

MOVING SALE

Full set of office furniture, photo studio equipment. Tel: 081-081 9424.

LIFE VEST

Life vest, Helly Hansen navigate, swoon-safe, size 7 (54-56) for people over 80kg. Price: 1,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-480 2089 (English). Email: constructionvisor@hotmail.com

POOL PUMP

1.5hp Pentair Whisperflow. Hardly used. 12,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

GARMIN GPSMAP 60CX

Color map navigator, pre-loaded with marine charts. One year young, never used. Price new 25,000 baht, make an offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-077 3307. Email: sudeckh@web.de

DOG FLY BOX

For a large breed dog. Metallic, custom made in aluminium. 1.5 x 1.2 x 1.2m, 35kg, wheels, lockable, foldable. Price: 28,000 baht. Plastic box 70 x 48 x 100. Price: 5,500 baht. Photos available on request. Tel: 089-970 7386. Email: stefan_breit@yahoo.de

ITEMS AS NEW

French crystal glasses for red wine, white sherry liqueur etc. For table of six, delph dinner service for 8. Toshiba electric frying pan 14 inch diameter. Braun coffee grinder. LG DVD/ Karaoke player. Call K. Sam. Tel: 081-083 0460.

MOVING SALE NEW STUFF

Must go.
– Room fan: 36 cm, 390 baht when new. Now 200 baht
– Hot water pot, aluminum, 290 baht when new. Now 150 baht.
Tel: 089-350 2592 (English). Email: alkan@hush.com

MOVING SALE CHEAP!

Need to move back home. Selling everything. Good price. Call now. Tel: 081-294 5441.

FRAMED CROSS-STITCH PICTURES

Three beautiful, large, framed, hand-made cross-stitch pictures in matching frames. Two @ 8,500 baht (Thai dancers) and one @ 10,500 baht (Nature scene). Tel: 087-897 3497 (English & Thai). Email: catch22phuket@gmail.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

COFFEE MAKER

This coffee machine operates with coffee powder (15 bar Italian pump). Tel: 084-336 7355 (English), 084-942 4474 (Thai). Fax: 075-637470. Email: info@golden-paradise.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.golden-paradise.com>

FISH TANK

Spa fish tank. 6ft x 3ft x 1.5ft. Seats 6 people. Price: 50,000 baht. Tel: 086-275 7860. Email: camnet@ymail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-9912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Krabi Hospital - Krabi
Wed 1 PM
(additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)

Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9440460 Sive, 082-2765998 Nor

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

Come join our monthly, last Thursday Pub Quiz-zes. Starting at 20:00. Royal Phuket Marina. Tel: 076-360890.

Business Opportunities

HOTEL FOR RENT

Nice, 4-story hotel with 20 fully furnished rooms, restaurant, Jacuzzi, roof pool, garden, Nanai Rd. Magnificent view of Patong. For rent (5+ years). Tel: 081-693 9642.

PROFITABLE BUSINESS

Prime location in Kata. 4 sub-lease-contracts in 4-5 star area. 10 bungalows, house, restaurants, 3 shops on 2.5 rai. 100m from beach. Price 3 x 5 million baht in 2 years. Email: terapi@post.tele.dk

BAR BANGLA ROAD

- 60 seats.
- Front of Bangla Road.
- Located on the corner of Soi Eric.
- 3-year contract.
- Start from 1st July, 2010.
Contact Tat. Tel: 081-537 3799.

Email: lele@bluebarpatong.com
Website: www.bluebarpatong.com

TRAVEL OFFICE AND INTERNET

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Sport

Kiterunners take to Surin Beach

By James Goyder

THE LATEST in the growing scene of extreme sporting in Phuket is set to showcase the talents of kiteboarders from around the area as Stereolab prepares to host its first annual Kite Jam competition from August 5-8.

The event, which will be the first ever international kiteboarding (also called kitesurfing) competition in Phuket, is the brainchild of Phuket resident Willy Kerr.

Himself an avid kiteboarder and organizer of the recent Kite Tour Asia (KTA), Kerr has been steadily promoting the sport after recognizing a large group of Phuket-based talent.

"We [Kerr and his partner, Neil] realized that we could create something exactly like this to pro-

mote kiteboarding in the Asian region and also give local riders an opportunity to compete and bring themselves to the attention of potential sponsors," he said.

Kite surfing is growing in popularity in Phuket and Kerr has witnessed first hand the increasing interest in the sport over the past few years.

The event is aimed at both local and international riders who will compete in freestyle and course racing disciplines.

The freestyle section is judged by a panel of experts, whereas the in-course racing section riders will compete directly against one another to complete a course in the quickest time.

The event will be fully sanctioned by international kiteboarding bodies, which means all results

will contribute towards riders gaining global and national ranking points.

Local businesses are also hoping it will provide a valuable boost to tourism in the low season.

Kerr is hoping the event will attract plenty of spectators as well as competitors.

"Kitesurfing is the most exciting sport you will ever watch, the world cup doesn't even come close! You get to watch guys launch themselves up to 20 meters in the air and perform gymnastics, or see 50 kites racing against each other in close quarters. It is truly a sight not to be missed," he said.

The event will be held at Surin Beach.

For more information contact Willy Kerr at willy@kiteboardtour.asia.



Photo: wikipedia

Phuket will see its first international kiteboarding competition next month.

Stars debut undefeated

TEAM Phuket Morning Star won the third Adult's Futsal League (AFL) at Phuket International Academy with an impressive undefeated season. The side consisted mainly of experienced Thai futsal players and they finished their first ever season in the league with seven wins out of seven.

The league continues to expand as eight teams entered for the 2010 season. Last year's winners Phuket Wanderers entered with a roster of several new players, as many of the players who had previously led them to back-to-back AFL victories having left Phuket.

Island Boys and Phuket Morning Star made the early running with both teams winning their first five games. This set up a potential winner-takes-all match between the two sides in the penultimate week of the season.

Phuket Morning Star are younger and fitter squad, but with inspirational striker Mark Lightfoot in their ranks, Island Boys always proved themselves to be competitive.

In the end it was Phuket Morning Star who prevailed seven goals to three to win.

Having been a season-long contender for the championship, a depleted Island Boys side went on to lose their final match against last



Phuket Morning Star after completing an undefeated opening season.

season's runners up Portrait FC and slipped to a third-place overall finish.

Despite this disappointment, Lightfoot still managed to set a goalscoring record of 33 goals in just seven games.

Manager of Phuket Morning Star Karl Ward was delighted at his team's achievement.

"The boys in Phuket Morning Star were very proud to win this season, and they had to work hard in every game to get there. Props to Portrait FC and especially Island Boys who were looking unstoppable through most of the season.

"Also, congratulations to Mark Lightfoot for scoring 33 goals,

that's three times as many as the second top goalscorer!" he said.

Prospective new teams or players for next season can visit phuketfootball.com for further information.

— Phuket Gazette

Amateur golfers tee up for tourney

FOLLOWING an impressive debut by 12-year-old Newport Lapojkit, the second round of the Phuket Amateur Golf Open is set to tee off next Sunday, July 18 at Loch Palm Golf Club in Kathu.

The tournament will be the second in a series of 11 to determine the best amateur golfer in Phuket.

The first and second place winners in each tournament will qualify for the 11th and final tournament, the Phuket Amateur Golf Master's Open 2011.

Young Phuket golfer Newport took the overall lead at the opening tournament last month at Laguna Golf Club, scoring 42 points in the Stableford competition to win Division 1, for players with handicaps from zero through nine.

Trophies are awarded for first place in each category, with prize vouchers for the top three. A prize presentation and buffet will be held at the Yorkshire Hotel in Patong at 7:30pm on the night of the tournament. Prizes are also available for those who hit close to the tee on some of Loch Palm's challenging par-three holes.

Loch Palm is one of Phuket's internationally renowned golf courses. The course surrounds Phuket's largest lake with undulating hills and palm trees lining the fairways, and is set against a jungle-covered backdrop.

For further information visit phuketamateurgolfopen.com

— Phuket Gazette

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FC Phuket on for promotion

By James Goyder

FC PHUKET strengthened their grip on the Division Two (Southern section) title with a hard-fought 2-0 win over second-placed Trang at Surakul Stadium on July 3.

FC Phuket were two points ahead of Trang with a game in hand going into their first home match since the mid-season break.

Goalkeeper Safari Nelson was surprisingly recalled to the starting line-up at the expense of Jagkid Thamassaen, while striker Thawin Butrasombat made his home ground debut.

FC Phuket dominated possession in the first half, but were unable to break through the resolute Trang defence.

Butrasombat looked lively and provided a much-needed physical presence up front, but his best effort was half-blocked by a last ditch tackle.

The closest FC Phuket came to unlocking the Trang defence was when Nithirot Sukuma forged ahead to the left-field byline and pulled the ball back for teenage midfielder Sarach Yooten, who was unable to fire off a clean shot.

The second half began with a series of FC Phuket corners and the breakthrough finally came in the 50th minute when a clearance fell to Camara Ahmed, who found the top corner of the net from 25 yards.

Teenage striker Adisak Kraisorn made two runs behind the Trang backline, but was beaten to the ball by the keeper both times.

FC Phuket continued to press

Current standings: Division Two (Southern Section)

| Rank | Team | Points |
|------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | FC Phuket | 31 |
| 2 | Satun United | 27 |
| 3 | Trang FC | 26 |
| 4 | Ranong FC | 24 |
| 5 | Surat | |
| | Thani FC | 24 |
| 6 | Krabi FC | 22 |
| 7 | Phattalung FC | 21 |
| 8 | Pattani FC | 21 |
| 9 | Hat Yai FC | 19 |
| 10 | Yala FC | 17 |
| 11 | Nakhon Sri | |
| | Thammarat | 16 |
| 12 | Phang Nga FC | 12 |
| 13 | Chumphon FC | 11 |

Source: phuketfcfanclub.com

and added a second goal in the 75th minute when Nene Bi rose highest to meet a long-range free kick with a header that beat the Trang keeper at the near post.

Safari Nelson was the first-choice goalkeeper for FC Phuket last season, but did not look convincing during this match.

He almost gifted Trang a goal, completely misjudging the flight of a long ball and was lucky to see a defender clear the ball from the line.

FC Phuket seemed lucky to walk away with a 2-0 win, though manager Arjan Songsamssub said he was pleased with the performance.

"I am very happy because



FC Phuket's Thawin Butrasombat appeals for a foul as teammate Ronnachai looks on. Photo: James Goyder

Trang were the second-placed team and if they had won they would have overtaken us.

"The new players are just starting to learn the system and how we play the game, but I think they will fit in well. Camara's long shot was beautiful and it was his first goal for FC Phuket," he said.

FC Phuket play away to Pattani on Sunday, but will be back in action at Surakul Stadium against Yala on July 18.

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