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Killer confesses

By Atchaa Khamlo
and Stephen Fein

RONALD Fanelli, an ex-US Navy officer who confessed to stabbing to death bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai last month, described the killing as a "terrible accident", saying that he never intended to harm her.

Clean-shaven and appearing somewhat disoriented, Fanelli, 37, was presented bound in handcuffs to the media at a press conference chaired by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong on July 19.

Placed on the table in front of him were the pair of camouflage shorts he was wearing at the time of the murder, the switchblade used to kill Ms Wanphen, a small bag belonging to her, a mobile phone and a SIM card.

Other evidence seized by police, but not presented, included a foam mattress and the motorbike used to dispose of Ms Wanphen's body, which was stuffed into a large suitcase and dumped in a remote part of Wichit, several kilometers from Mr Fanelli's rented home, also in the Wichit area.

After a brief statement outlining the details of the case, Mr Fanelli told the press flatly, "I killed her."

He had been treated fairly by police, he added.

The atmosphere at the press conference was somber, with many officers showing sympathy to Mr Fanelli, who now faces the rest of his life behind bars in a Thai prison.

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CONFESSED: Fanelli recounts the night of murder. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

How the case unfolded

PHUKET City Police were under pressure to quickly solve the high-profile Wanphen murder case that was tarnishing Phuket's image. Within a month, they were sure they had the man they were seeking.

June 18. Wanphen Pienjai is last seen alive leaving the Sweethearts Bar in Kata in the company of a foreign man who came to the bar asking about ladyboy prostitutes.

June 24. A man on his way to work finds the rotting corpse of a woman stuffed into a suitcase and dumped beside a road in Wichit.

June 25. Employees of the Sweethearts Bar identify the body as that of Ms Wanphen.

June 30. Phuket City Police appeal to the public for help in their search for the prime suspect and release a facial composite.

July 2. Phuket City Police offer a 50,000-baht reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer.

July 14. The body of Ms Wanphen Pienjai is cremated at a small ceremony at Wat Kitti Sangkaram (Wat Kata).

July 17. Former US Navy officer Ronald Fanelli is arrested at his home in Thanthong Village housing estate in Chalong.

July 19. Fanelli confesses to stabbing Ms Wanphen to death at a press conference at Phuket City Police Station.



VICTIM: Wanphen Pienjai

Lost tsunami buoy recovered

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THE tsunami detection buoy that last week was reported adrift and no longer transmitting data was recovered by the Royal Thai Navy on July 17.

The buoy is reportedly not as badly damaged as initially feared and the unit will be redeployed in its original position off Phuket after the monsoon season.

The unit was successfully recovered by Royal Thai Navy SEAL divers aboard the frigate HTMS *Bangpakong*, which returned to Phang Nga Naval Base at 9am July 18.

A press conference at the base was told July 18 that the HTMS *Bangpakong* left Phang Nga Naval Base at 5pm July 16 with a crew of 210 seamen, five Navy SEAL divers and three representatives of Raydant International.

Providing information to the media were Rear Adm Rueangtip Thiantong, deputy commander of the Third Naval Area, HTMS *Bangpakong* Captain Chalermchai Suan-kaew and Raydant International General Manager Aurasa Paenghom.

Raydant International is the private firm contracted by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to maintain Thailand's

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LOST AND FOUND: Navy divers prepare to hoist the buoy aboard. Photo: HTMS *Bangpakong*

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This Week

The 'night' idea for Krabi

Krabi Night Plaza sets the bar for redeveloping unused wasteland.

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Why expats are being counted in the National Census 2010. Page 9

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Penchant for Penang: Discovering beyond the visa run. Page 15

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Why Kamala Liberty is worth US\$7 million. Page 23

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

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Sport



FC Phuket bombs out to Yala; Claire Haigh kicks out in Singapore. Pages 35-36

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In a beautiful world

THIRTY Miss Thailand World 2010 contestants arrived at Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket on July 21 as part of a four-day "training camp" to prepare for the pageant, to be televised live from Bangkok on August 14.

Apart from learning everything they will need to know to succeed in the beauty competition, the contestants will also do some charity painting work at the Baan Laem Sai School.

This year's pageant promises to serve up some bombshells, as chief organizer Nawat Itsornkraisil has this year given a blanket green light for plastic surgery.

"In previous years," he said, "the contestants were always dubious about it and kept asking, 'Can I do this? Is this much okay?' So we've now made it clear with a blanket decision: Plastic surgery is okay for this competition."

It's two birds downed with one stone for the organizers: they no longer have to scrutinize applicants to make sure "they're real",



Some of the contestants at the Cape Panwa Hotel. Photo: Thanasorn Chookate

and they're absolved from criticism in case the girls aren't.

Purists will still object, but these days many of the world's beauty queens – including those from Venezuela and India – have had tummy tucks, butt lifts and boob jobs, or at least a little facial rearrangement.

The only thing surgeons are

barred from adjusting on Miss Thailand World contestants is gender, so ladyboys (transsexuals) are still not eligible to compete.

Meanwhile, the organizers claim they are putting more emphasis on contestants' skills and talents. "We'd love someone who can sing different styles and speak 10 languages," Mr Nawat joked.

Tsunami buoy salvaged

From page 1

tsunami warning system, of which the early detection unit is a key part.

In order to carry out the mission, HTMS *Bangpakong* had its crane modified to hoist the two-tonne unit. The crane is normally used to lift engine blocks, Capt Chalermchai explained.

The navy was able to track the drift of the buoy using GPS data, which located the unit 205 nautical miles west of the base at 4am on July 17.

Despite heavy rain and high winds, the unit was found using radar and then visually confirmed at 6:30am.

The SEAL divers found the unit's eight-meter anchor chain connected to the much-longer mooring cable, the length of which could not be estimated.

The chain had to be cut in order for the unit to be recovered.

The buoy was hoisted aboard at 10:45am and arrived at port 11:30pm the same day.

The other key component of the



The buoy being lowered onto the ship's deck. Photo: HTMS Bangpakong

system, the pressure-sensitive "tsunameter", is presumably still on the sea bottom 3,500 meters below the surface at the buoy's original mooring site 600 nautical miles northwest of Phuket.

Raydant's Ms Aurasia said the unit's internal electronic circuitry was undamaged.

The unit was most likely hit by a passing ship, as indicated by impact marks. The only other appreciable damage was a broken warning light and missing solar cell, she said.

"I think the buoy must have been hit by a big ship during a storm, because despite its bright yellow color it is still quite difficult to notice in rough seas. The cost of the damage is quite low compared to the total cost of the buoy," she said.

The unit would be turned off to conserve its battery, then cleaned and stored at the Phang Nga base until a redeployment mission is ready.

The NDWC has ordered a new mooring line 4,500 meters long, 200 meters of electric cable, and a new solar cell and warning light, she said.

She expects the redeployment to take place when monsoon conditions begin to abate, probably around November or December, she said.

Brit, 29, dies in hotel fall

A BRITISH man fell to his death from a Patong hotel on July 18 in what Phuket Police believe was an act of suicide.

Case officer Nitikorn Rawang of the Kathu Police identified the deceased as Mark Edward Stevens, 29, of the UK.

Police were notified by hotel staff that a man fell to his death from atop a hotel on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Lt Nitikorn said.

Mr Steven's remains were taken to Patong Hospital for examination.

Initial investigation revealed that Mr Stevens arrived in Phuket two weeks earlier.

In his pocket police found a letter of apology to his parents. He said that he had been unable to

resolve a conflict between himself and his elder brother, and that he had chosen to end his life as a result. The nature of the problem between the siblings was not specified in the letter.

An investigation of the hotel where Mr Stevens was staying uncovered whisky bottles in his third-story room and bloodstains leading from the room to the roof of the five-story building.

A security guard who witnessed the fall said he went up to the rooftop soon after the incident but found nobody there.

Given witnesses accounts, police presume the death was a suicide but are awaiting a medical report to confirm the cause of death, Lt Nitikorn said.

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One of the affected students receiving hospital treatment.

Schoolkids hit by food poisoning

SOME 120 students from Prachanukroh 36 School in Kamala were treated for food poisoning at the local public health clinic on July 18.

Instructors and school officials rushed the students to the nearby Kamala Public Health Center, but overwhelmed staff there had the group transferred to the better-equipped Patong Hospital.

Twenty-five of the ill-at-ease group were admitted for immediate treatment and 28 more kept in for observation. The rest were allowed to leave.

The students, of both sexes, were all boarders at the school.

They had eaten a variety of foods on the preceding Saturday night during dinner: *gaeng som* (sour-spicy orange curry soup), noodles, fried fish and scrambled eggs.

Afterwards many began suffering attacks of vomiting and diarrhea. These continued the next day, at which time school officials led them en-masse for treatment.

Patong Hospital Deputy Director Dr Atundre Lamsagun said, "Those most gravely afflicted are largely from the girls' dormitory. Teachers gave them medicine during the night, but the conditions of many worsened until this afternoon when they were brought to hospital."

A medical team inspected the dormitories, the bathrooms of which passed inspection.

In the dormitory, inspectors found wet and dry instant noodles as well as fresh tamarind that some of the girls had eaten, but it is not known with certainty what caused the outbreak.

— *Phuket Gazette*

'Health Promoting Hospital' for Kamla

THE KAMALA Public Health Center will be home to the country's first "Health Promotion Hospital", incorporating traditional Chinese medicines into its array of medical services.

The center, part of a post-tsunami project which begun in 2005, is co-funded by the Chinese government.

Deputy Public Health Minister Pansiri Kulanartsiri said during an inspection of the site last week that the Chinese offered to help build a traditional medical center on the site, which was directly affected by the 2004 tsunami.

Under the agreement, the Chi-

nese government will provide 30 million baht for development of the center and be responsible for the design of a new single-storey building that will stand beside the existing health center.

To be completed next year, the center will initially offer health checkups and traditional Thai massages to both Thais and foreigners, she said.

It will be staffed by Kamala Health Center and Patong Hospital personnel as well as Chinese medicine practitioners who will come to Phuket as part of an exchange program.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

Alien deportations to set new record

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET is on target to set a record number of deportations of illegal workers this year, with 7,086 illegals already having been deported from the province, according to the latest statistics from the Phuket Immigration Office.

In 2009, 10,790 illegals were deported, preceded by 7,867 in 2008.

Announcement of the figures comes on the heels of a nationwide crackdown by special immigration task-forces ordered by Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kajornprasart.

The task-force responsible for Phuket was sent from the Surat Thani Immigration Office, the head immigration office for the South. The force included local immigration officers who sought and deported illegal workers from May 20 to June 21.

The crackdown was conducted in conjunction with the Thai government campaign to register all foreign labor in Thailand.

The worker registration process is still far from complete, as it first requires government officials to compile lists of alien workers in the country.

The lists are then sent to Myanmar, Laos or Cambodia for confirmation of the workers' nationalities. The workers must also personally obtain documentation proving their nationalities.

The Cambodian and Lao governments have set up identification centers in Bangkok, but Myanmar has not, forcing their citizens to return home to secure personal



An illegal alien being 'processed' in Phuket Town. Photo: Gazette file

identification documents.

The list of alien workers in Phuket submitted for review included approximately 50,000 names, of which about 5,327 have been confirmed by their home countries, Mr Nopadol said.

A total of 55,316 Burmese, Lao and Cambodian laborers are permitted to work in Phuket.

"For the remaining people [alien workers] – more than 40,000 – it will take about a year, as there are many waiting to be approved. In Thailand there are around one million Burmese alone, who all must be processed," said Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) Superintendent Nopadol Ployoudee.

The PPEO has yet to receive instruction on how to handle cases of alien workers not confirmed as nationals of other countries.

Mr Nopadol said that upon con-

firmation of their employees' nationalities, employers must contact the PPEO within 30 days so that work permits can be issued for them.

Cabinet has set a February 2012 deadline for completing the national identification process, he added.

Mr Nopadol cautioned employers not to hire undocumented alien workers and advised anyone with knowledge of such activity to call the PPEO at 076-219660 or 076-219661.

"The number of illegal alien workers in Phuket is about the same as those who here legally, likely higher," he said.

"Phuket is a developed area with a lot of construction, tourism and fisheries, so many people come here to work because they can get good salaries," Mr Nopadol said.



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Gov warns over stolen goods



The counter at the Phuket City Pawnshop. The sign above the window warns of legal action against anyone who tries to pawn fake gold.

PHUKET Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop on July 14 took time out from his regular schedule to focus his attention on stolen goods being traded in Phuket.

Addressing about 300 business operators at a special seminar held to brief shop owners on their legal obligations under the Auction Sale and Antique Sale Control Act BE 2474, Governor Wichai said, "If the [business] operators did not buy stolen goods, there would be no more stealing."

Among those present at the seminar at the Katina Hotel in Phuket Town were antique dealers, gold traders, secondhand car dealers and

mobile phone shop owners.

Gov Wichai told the audience, "If sellers are sure the goods they are selling are legal, they would follow the rules, and shops must obey the law, too."

"Businesses are asked to check the ID cards of people they buy goods from, especially when buying gold, copper wire and mobile phones. This helps the government in its fight against theft and the purchase of stolen goods," he added.

Gov Wichai said that any shops found trading in stolen goods would face strict punishment and have their business licenses revoked.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Son-in-law sought over 'family arson'

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

A KALIM man whose home burned to the ground early on July 18 suspects the blaze was intentionally set by his son-in-law as an act of revenge.

Kathu Police Duty Inspector Jakkapong Luang-aon received a report of a fire on Phra Barami Rd Soi 6 about 1:15am. By the time police and 15 Patong Municipality firefighters arrived there was little left of the stilted two-story dwelling, he said.

Police questioned Ha Channoi, 53, the owner of the home, who was on the upper floor with his wife and son when the fire broke out downstairs.

All three escaped unharmed.

Mr Ha said he often reprimanded his 34-year-old son-in-law for his failure to be a good family man and had suggested a trial separation from his daughter.

The son-in-law, thinking he wanted to end the relationship



The charred remains of Mr Ha's home in Kalim. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

completely, replied with threats to burn down the family home or even kill him, Mr Ha said.

Mr Ha said he initially thought the son-in-law was kidding.

He has reassessed that view now that his home has been reduced to cinders and his son-in-law is nowhere to be

found. Mr Ha said he also lost 60,000 baht in cash that was in the home at the time.

Capt Jakkapong estimated the damages at about 700,000 baht.

Police are now seeking the son-in-law for questioning, but are not ruling out other possible causes.

Insensitivity spurs culture crackdown

By Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein

THE Phuket office of the Ministry of Culture is on the lookout for the inappropriate use of Buddha images following the shocking revelation that one foreign restaurant owner modified a Buddha image to serve as a garden fountain – one that spouted water from the crown of its head.

Phuket Culture Office director Tawichart Intorrit said on Wednesday that the sacrilegious lawn ornament, spotted in the garden in a restaurant on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong, was a sign that many foreigners who visit Phuket understand little about Thai culture.

Buddha images must be constructed according to a detailed set of body proportions to represent the Buddha's perfect harmony, both physical and spiritual.

The apex of the head, referred to in ancient texts as the

"enlightenment elevation" point, is a symbol of the Buddha's greatest enlightenment. Mr Tawichart said that the foreigner's decision to place a plumbing nozzle there was not a deliberate attempt at sacrilege, but born out of ignorance.

The offending statue has since been removed and the owner has not been charged with any crime, Mr Tawichart said after a meeting of the newly-established Safe and Creative Media Development Committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on July 14.

The public should report other inappropriate uses of Buddhist icons to his office, which lacks the manpower to make thorough inspections over the entire island, he said.

Mr Tawichart said the establishment of the new committee, which includes representatives from the media, should help increase awareness and better involve the public in the fight to preserve Thai culture for future generations.

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Confessions of a killer

From page 1

Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit told the *Gazette* that Mr Fanelli initially denied the charges, but changed his mind when confronted with evidence including CCTV images and recorded telephone conversations.

Police also explained to him that pleading guilty to a murder charge customarily leads Thai judges to commute a death sentence to life imprisonment.

Mr Fanelli, originally from New York and a former US Navy lieutenant who served aboard the USS *Nevada*, said he came to Thailand about three years ago and has lived here since.

Asked if he were the same Ronald Fanelli who was a former professional poker player who

gambled in tournaments under the name "MadYank", he laughed briefly with a tone of bitter irony before replying, "Yes, but that was a long time ago."

Mr Fanelli declined to comment on the motive for the murder, asking reporters to read his statement to police.

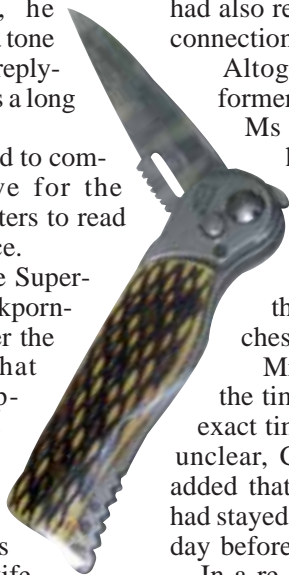
Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit told reporters after the press conference that several factors appeared to have contributed to Mr Fanelli's mental state at the time of the stabbing: he was drunk and his Thai wife had left him and taken their young child back to her native Maha

Sarakham province in Isarn. He had also recently lost his internet connection, he noted.

Altogether, this caused the former sailor to "snap" when Ms Wanphen approached him playfully in his bedroom asking for sex, Col Wanchai said.

Mr Fanelli stabbed Ms Wanphen once in the back then again in the chest, Col Wanchai added. Mr Fanelli was drunk at the time of his arrest and the exact timing of events remains unclear, Col Wanchai said, but added that it appeared Wanphen had stayed with him for about one day before she was murdered.

In a re-enactment of the murder carried out earlier, Mr Fanelli told officers that he carried the



GRIM REALITY: Fanelli at the July 19 press conference. Photo: Atchaa Kamlo

suitcase in front of him while he rode his motorbike to where he dumped Wanphen's body off Chao Fa Thani Rd in Wichit.

Ms Wanphen's wrists and ankles were found broken, apparently so her body could be stuffed into the suitcase.

The re-enactment also revealed that Mr Fanelli had returned home and hid the switchblade above the

gypsum tile roof, and then rented a house in Kata to try to avoid detection by police.

Phuket Police were under intense pressure to bring Ms Wanphen's killer to justice.

Maj Gen Pekad said the arrest followed several days of surveillance following a tip-off by a person whose identity will remain anonymous.

Neighbors knew nothing...

NEIGHBORS of Ronald Fanelli said he and his family kept to themselves and didn't have close relations with anyone in the residential estate where they lived for about one year before his sudden disappearance.

Wanphen Pienjai was murdered at a two-story townhouse in the recently-built Tantong Villas estate, opposite Phuket Villa California on Chao Fa East Rd.

The neighborhood is neat, prosperous and modern, with well-paved walks, trees and places for recreation – the type of estate conformable to the tastes of Phuket's rising middle class.

Fanelli and his family lived on a small dead-end soi – containing perhaps 20 homes – five blocks past the guarded entrance.

The house where he lived is up for rent. His former landlord, Urai



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: The home where Wanphen was murdered.

Jantorn, said that Fanelli had lived in the house one year.

"His wife contacted me about renting the house. My dealings

were always with her, because of language.


"They led normal lives as far as I could see; I didn't really know them," she said.

Neighbors said the confessed killer was rarely in evidence.



No one in the neighborhood knew him. He had no rowdy parties, no big fights, no traffic of friends or visitors.



"His wife often took the baby out for a walk in the stroller," said a fruit vendor living on the soi.

– *Marque Rome*



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PM Abhisit steps up to defend own teen critic

PRIME Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva says he fears for the well-being of a teenager forced to withdraw from a TV singing contest for posting critical remarks about the PM on Facebook.

Mr Abhisit warned against anyone threatening Withawat Thaokhamlue, 17, known as "Mark V11" on Facebook, and said he would look into how he could help the teen.

Mark V11 had lambasted the PM for not resigning after the red-shirt protests were

violently put down in May.

The youngster announced his withdrawal from "True Academy Fantasia Season 7" earlier this month after complaints about the remarks to the production company.

Academy Fantasia rules ban contestants from making political comment during the contest. But the production company refused to ban Mark V11, pointing out that the remarks were posted before the show started.

The accusations grew more serious when

users on web forums claimed the teen had insulted the monarchy. The claims were accompanied by screen shots of Facebook appearing to show the teen had posted defamatory comments about HM the King.

On July 14 his parents held a press conference to announce their son was quitting the show.

Flanked by his mother and father, Mark V11 apologized to PM Abhisit. "I wrote those remarks as a teenager would - I did not use much discretion or judgement," he said.

Wathanyu Thaokhamlue, Mark V11's father, admitted his son had criticized the PM, but claimed the screen shots showing anti-monarchy comments were doctored. The family were loyal Thais, he said.

Director-general of the Department of Special Investigations, Tharit Pengdit, said his bureau would investigate the remarks.

During Mark V11's first and last appearance on Academy Fantasia on July 17, the teenager urged all Thais to love HM the King and to reconcile.

Korean wave feared killing Thai culture

THE ROYAL Institute fears the teen craze for all things Korean is destroying the Thai language skills of the nation's youngsters, *Thai Rath* reports.

Dr Kanjana Naaksakul, an honorary fellow of the prestigious academic institute and president of the National Association of Thai Language Teachers, said that despite years of campaigning the problem of poor use of Thai persists.

The situation is now even more worrying because of the influx of Korean songs and fashion, she said. This has made Thais more interested in foreign languages than before. Thai youth are studying Korean as a supplementary subject rather than Thai, even though they can't even use their native language correctly yet.

Dr Kanjana proposed that the Ministry of Culture begin a serious campaign for the preservation and correct usage of Thai. At the same time, the Ministry of Education should emphasize the study of Thai from an early age.

The report added that the Royal Institute is also very worried about the declining use of Thailand's dialects.

Signs of Red defiance



By Dan Waites

THE RED mob may be gone, but political dissent has not entirely disappeared from Bangkok's Ratchaprasong shopping district.

A band of democracy activists has begun a new wave of protests at the commercial hub, in defiance of the state of emergency still in place in Bangkok and 15 other provinces.

Long-time campaigner Sombat Boonngamanong, 42, said his "Red Sunday" group would hold peaceful protests every Sunday to remind the public - and the government - that 90 people died in this year's red-shirt protests.

Already well known in NGO circles, Mr Sombat's name hit the headlines in late June when he was jailed for tying a red ribbon to a street sign at Ratchaprasong.

Released after two weeks, he now looks set to become a figurehead for democracy campaigners,



Mr Sombat: A thorn in the side of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

and a thorn in the side of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government.

Political magazine *Matichon Weekly* earlier this month pictured Mr Sombat - with a lone middle digit raised provocatively at the camera - on its front cover.

An article inside detailed Mr Sombat's activist credentials, describing his advocacy work for Thailand's ethnic minorities and combating human trafficking and rights violations.

No fan of Thaksin Shinawatra,

Mr Sombat allied himself with the red shirts out of opposition to the 2006 coup.

Mr Sombat insists those responsible for the 90 deaths during the 10 weeks of protests be brought to justice.

He is also demanding the lifting of emergency rule, banning gatherings of more than five people, that is still in place in 16 provinces after it was recently revoked in Lampang, Sakon Nakhon and Roi Et on July 20.

The state of emergency had

been extended to silence the red shirts, Mr Sombat earlier told *The Nation*. "I think what [the government] is most afraid of is that the people will scrutinize them," he said.

Within two days of his release from jail, on July 11 Mr Sombat led a 100-strong "flash protest" at Rachaprasong.

Shouting "People have been killed here!" and "The military shot people!", Mr Sombat and others tied red ribbons to the street sign. Other campaigners painted themselves red and lay as if dead on the ground.

The following week, Red Sunday returned. This time, riot police prevented any more red ribbons being tied.

Thai-language daily *Khao Sod* reported that police arrested one man, itinerant activist Nathee Sorawaree, and fined him 100 baht for "making loud noise and causing an annoyance". Mr Nathee was not arrested for violating the emergency decree, the paper noted.

It emerged on July 20 that the Ratchaprasong Intersection street sign had been removed by the Pathumwan district authorities because it had been defaced with graffiti.

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New plaza opens on wasteland

By Lesley Chittayanon

THE RECENT opening of Krabi's brand-new night plaza, an event celebrated with five nights of live music, cultural acts, shopping and socializing, marked a new era in Krabi development. Spirits were high and the tone of the party signaled much hope for the forthcoming high season.

The neat little bamboo retail village is the first stage of a plan to regenerate an area of wasteland close to the town center.

Project developer, former Mayor Chuan Phukaoluan, recognized the site's potential and enlisted the help of innovative architect and popular musician "P" Choy to create a new heart



for Krabi's social scene. Mr Chuan explains, "This location is so close to the town's most popular attractions, it makes sense to offer visitors a more extensive range of amenities."

He also revealed that future plans include the development of a tower hotel overlooking Krabi's iconic twin peaks, Khao Khanab Nam.

A good percentage of the shop units have been snapped up by



Above: Edgy fashion boutiques lead the new-wave shopping at the Krabi Night Plaza. Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

retailers who have cottoned on to the need to offer shoppers something fresh and organic. Finally business owners in Krabi are beginning to ditch the copycat mentality and trust their own imagination. Edgy fashion boutiques and retro coffee shops might be new kids on the Krabi block, but locals were keen to acquaint.

Making waves at the plaza is the Amata Bar, which has not only helped to revive Krabi's live mu-

sic scene but also positioned itself as a cozy watering hole for Krabi's expat community. Laid-back weeknights play to the sound of acoustic folk songs, while weekends feature classic rock mixed with more upbeat ensembles.

The space has been designed to accommodate concerts, exhibitions and other events. The on-site spa is in the final stages of completion and will soon add an additional dash of luxury to the experience.



Plaza mastermind Chuan Phukaoluan

Art expo harks back to roots

A NEW art exhibition at the Krabi Contemporary Art Gallery has unveiled an opportunity for artists based in the southern provinces to showcase their work.

The exhibition, open until September 23, is a selection of works produced by the Leh Tai Group, a band of artists from the provinces throughout the South.

Their vibrant collection makes clear reference to local culture and borrows many familiar icons of the south. Whether it's a character from the *nan talung* (shadow puppet) stage or the dappled light sprinkled through the canopy of a rubber plantation, each work has close ties with the background of its master.

Cultural symbols can be seen



One of the art works.

in even the most abstract work, while works such as *Teng goes INTER*, cleverly juxtapose comical with classical by placing the shadow puppet jester in Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man proportional diagram.

— Lesley Chittayanon

Tsunami sculpture returned

KRABI's treasured tsunami memorial sculptures have returned from Bangkok and are currently on display at Krabi City Hall.

The main artwork, entitled 'Hold Me Close', was created by the late French artist, Louise Bourgeois, and was commissioned as the striking centerpiece of Nopparat Thara Memorial Park.

Saddened by the news of the artist's death, local residents placed wreaths at the entrance to the site to mark the passing of this highly respected artist.

The relocation of the sculptures also upset locals, as they were greatly treasured and considered

an important tourist attraction in the province.

The memorial site, accessed via a wooden walkway meandering through a shady woodland area, is now eerily desolate.

Krabi resident Carolyn Srikaow, who lost her sister and daughter in the tragedy, said, "I understand the need to protect this precious artwork. However, it is important that the people of Krabi have access to it."

"It's a beautiful reminder that we will never lose touch with the loved ones we lost that day, and also to cherish every moment of life."

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Soul of Asia at Surin Plaza remains open as normal

A life wasted

I KNEW Ron (Fanelli) quite well when he was in London. [Gazette online, 'It was an accident': Wanphen's killer tells Phuket press, July 19].

Always a bit of an odd ball, but this is unbelievable. What a waste of life!

*Poker Player
London*

No sympathy

SYMPATHY for this guy? Are they kidding? How do you accidentally stab someone in the back, then in the chest? The cops should save their sympathy for the victim. RIP Khun Wanphen.

*John
California*

Time for tighter controls?

SO, YET again, being drunk makes it all okay. And also gambling seems to be a pastime. Time to control alcohol, I think. Also, this long-term tourist may have been here illegally for three years. Time for ID cards for foreigners. If you have nothing to fear and are here legally, then hopefully it may help clear out some of the dregs of society that seem to have ended up here over the last few years.

I hope the Thai police get over their sympathy and give this individual the stay he deserves in the Bangkok Hilton. I feel so upset and hurt for the family of this poor lady who was only trying to help out her family.

*Pen
Phuket*

Fantastic plastic

PLASTIC surgery for beauty contestants? If the selected girls were genuine beauties, and

Stand up and be counted

Phuket Gazette

AS SOME readers may already be aware, the 2010 National Census is underway in Phuket, which is the first Thai province where this important data is being collected. [See First Person, facing page]

This is the 100th anniversary of the national survey, conducted every 10 years since its inception, and the 11th time the counting has taken place.

Although it is somewhat coincidental that the national effort has kicked off in Phuket, it nevertheless seems appropriate given that few other provinces in Thailand have experienced the kind of social and demographic changes we here in Phuket have seen over the past 10 years.

The previous survey, conducted in 2000, put the island's population at 249,446.

The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office in June this year listed the registered population of Phuket at 335,913, but the actual figure when migrant workers from other parts of Thailand, long-stay tourists and workers from neighboring lands are factored in is much higher.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop has been quoted as saying he thinks there are about 800,000 Thais living in Phuket year-round, with another 100,000 low-wage workers from neighboring lands.

Although tourists will not be counted in the census, for the first time low-wage foreign laborers, long-stay tourists and resident expats will be.

surely they are, that should not be necessary [Gazette online, Miss Thailand World contestants in Phuket for 'training', July 21].

If brains count for as much as beauty, cosmetic surgery would also not be required. In any case, these girls should not

be tampering with their bodies at such a young age. The various clinics will be advertising their end product next!

*Laffinmahedoff
Phuket*

Over and under

I DON'T understand the need

for a flyover and an underpass either [Gazette online, Bt1.5 billion needed for Phuket underpass projects, July 20]. Is this perhaps a typo or are they really considering building both? If so, then it's certainly a brilliant way to inflate the cost involved.

That said, I fully support the proposal of a median strip all along Chao Fa West Rd. U-turns and crossing into the oncoming lane slows down and endangers the traffic. Force motorists to drive to the next proper intersection to make a safe U-turn.

*Amazing
Thailand*

Alternative healing

IT SHOULD be great when this opens [Gazette online, Phuket to get first 'Health Promoting Hospital' in Thailand, July 20]. I'm a big fan of traditional herbal medicine and acupuncture. I know there are places in Phuket Town where traditional medicine is available but the language problem can be an issue.

*Mister Ree
Phuket*

Sick and tired

WHAT is with the universal application of the word "infection" at Thai hospitals? I've been cursed with a high rate of unfortunate incidents since arriving in the Land of Smiles, and have been a bit disappointed to hear that all of my ills – whether they be animal bites, burns, mosquito-borne diseases, and even bone sprains – all conveniently fell under the same diagnosis: infection.

At the risk of sounding like a typical ignorant westerner, can expats not reasonably expect doctors at so-called "international" hospitals to speak enough English to properly explain a diagnosis? They are, after all, charging western prices. Is there a culture gap between the East and West when it comes to doctor-patient communication in which doctors don't feel the need to elaborate?

*Todd Jackson
Chalong*

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Editor: Parichat Utintu

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Features Editor: Fraser Morton

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand

General Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Production Manager: Suchart Changate

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Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website services: koy@phuketgazette.net

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General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) **Fax** 076 615240

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Issues & Answers...

Is McDonald's double-pricing?

Most expats should be aware that the global corporate giant McDonald's actively participates in double pricing in Phuket.

A comparison of the prices on their website and actual prices in Patong show a massive – up to 40% – price increase.

There is even a difference between the prices at McDonald's in Phuket Town and those charged at McDonald's in Patong.

What is one to learn from this? That McD's, far from being supportive of Thailand's important tourism industry, are actually sticking it to the visitors as much as Patong's appallingly greedy tuk-tuk drivers.

One would expect better from such a big player, and don't tell me it's because the rent is higher here – you could cope with that with a fractional price increase around the whole country, keeping the prices fair for everyone.

*Going large,
Patong*

Saichon Submakudom, Communications & PR Director at McThai (the operating company for McDonald's in Thailand), replies:

Today we operate no fewer than 134 McDonald's restaurants nationwide, from north to south, east to west.

One of the key factors that affects prices at each individual McDonald's restaurant is transportation and logistics so that we deliver fresh buns and other raw materials to our outlets every day.

In addition to this are the local labor charges, which in Phuket must cover the extra cost of staff living in a tourist

area where rent is substantially higher than in the city.

The *Phuket Gazette* is correct to point out that rentals are higher in key tourist areas, especially in Patong.

However, the price of a Big Mac is 92 baht, or US\$2.85. This is substantially lower than that in Europe, such as in Germany, where a Big Mac costs €3.62 (US\$4.67), and in France, where it costs €4.05 (US\$5.22).

Our food quality is no different to McDonald's throughout the rest of the world, and yet our costs are significantly higher.

We have priced our products lower where our guests are mainly local, therefore we have price tiers, and the prices on our website are the most commonly charged prices.

However, we have noted on the left-hand side of every menu page, "Prices and menus may differ at each branch."

For more information, contact McThai Co Ltd, 97/11 Big C Rajadumri Building, Office Room 1, 5th floor, Rajadumri Rd,

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Thailand Census 2010: Making foreigners count

FIRST PERSON

PHUKET is the first province in the country to begin data collection for the national census, collating statistics from July 1 to August 31.

The census was due to start nationwide on July 1, but was postponed in most of the country until September 1 due to the unrest in Bangkok. Phuket started early because the PPSO had already signed an agreement with Phuket Rajabhat University. Its students, who will help collect data, have exams in September.

For the census, we are not counting the number of people registered living in each house, but instead the *actual* number of people living there. This includes foreigners who have been living in Phuket for at least three months and plan to stay here.

People staying in apartments for more than three months are also being counted.

If a person's main residence is elsewhere, not in Phuket, then the survey will count where they are physically present most of the time.

Accuracy is important because the census data will affect government policies. For example, identifying an aging population will affect healthcare and welfare policies. Survey forms will be scanned by ICR [Intelligent Character Recognition] scanners and staff have been trained how to fill out the forms correctly so the scanners will read the data accurately.



Phuket Provincial Statistical Office (PPSO) chief **Yuthachai Apichaicharnkit**, is spearheading the 2010 National Census in Phuket, in which foreigners living on the island will be counted. Here he explains why.

One of our biggest problems is rain because we have only two months to complete the census.

Another big problem is people who refuse to take part. Some foreigners have refused to take part because they don't understand what is going on. We would like them to understand that this will not affect any aspects of their lives, such as laws, taxation or immigration status.

We just want to know exactly how many people are living in Phuket. The data will show only numbers, not details of the people surveyed.

To verify to the public that certain university students are working for us, they will wear their student uniforms and have student ID cards, as well as duty cards issued by the PPSO.

All information collected is treated as confidential.

In case our staff cannot communicate with foreigners being surveyed, we have intermediary forms in different languages for foreigners to fill out. Our staff will transfer the data onto the official statistics sheets later.

We are trying to publicize this in various ways, through TV interviews, radio announcements

and sound trucks with information placards on them.

I urge all organizations to help the public understand.

We contacted all 17 honorary consuls in Phuket and we have received very good cooperation. British honorary consul Martin Carpenter has given advice on the forms, which are in English, French, Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese as well as Thai. He has also kindly done radio interviews for us.

He estimates there are some 5,000 to 7,000 Brits staying in Phuket.

As for the number of Burmese laborers working and living here, World Vision Foundation of Thailand says the number of illegal aliens living in Phuket is double the number of those staying here legally, which means there are probably more than 100,000 alien workers in Phuket.

We are using fellow Burmese who can speak Thai to help workers at their camps understand that we are just counting how many of them there are and that we will not have any effect on their lives or on their work in Thailand – even if they are illegal.

Compiled by Atchaa Khamlo

Safety is just down the road

Island View

By Ruth Higgins

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



The Patong road sinkhole.

heavy rains characteristic of this time of year.

Many of these potholes are found on the smaller, more residential roads, but this does not make them any less dangerous.

To make driving in Phuket an experience as safe and relaxed as the rest of the island, there needs to be a comprehensive revamp of all roads, so an overall standard can be achieved.

With the increasing traffic issues Phuket is experiencing, the design and layout of these roads should perhaps also be addressed so that traffic can flow freely, without having to "jump left" as it approaches an intersection.

This would not only benefit residents, but also provide tourists a more pleasant, enjoyable and safer stay in the tropical paradise that is Phuket.

THERE has been some improvement to the state of the roads here in Phuket, but there is still a long way to go before they reach a consistently safe level across the island. Safe roads are necessary for Phuket, especially since the driving that goes on here is risky, to say the least.

The specific area of Chalong is a perfect example of the – literally – uneven road quality. Chao Fa East Road used to be the lesser alternative to its sleeker, wider and straighter sibling, Chao Fa West Road, but it appears to be catching up.

The section of road in front of the entrance to Land & Houses Park has had a significant upgrade, going from a windy, dusty, one-lane nightmare to a polished, safer and wider version of its former self. Crossing the small bridge outside Fatty's restaurant is no longer a near-death experience.

Kwang Road, the long, straight, wide road that connects Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West roads, also used to be scary, since the nature of the road lends itself to speeding, yet it was riddled with potholes the size of a truck's wheel.

About six months ago, however, it underwent a well-needed re-pavement and is now covered in sleek, even asphalt to the glee of many speeders.

These road upgrades are signs of positive change here in Phuket, and appropriate spending of taxpayers' money. Such efforts must be intensified, however, as the summer season has seen new potholes cropping up all over the place, due to erosion from the

...asking the questions that affect you...

Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330. Tel: 02-6964900-2. Email: communications@th.mcd.com

The Phuket Gazette notes:

"Double pricing" is a term usually used to describe when a business in a single location charges one customer a higher price than another customer purely on the basis that the customers are different.

This means the same store charging at least two different prices for the same product.

Double pricing is not usually used to describe different outlets of the same parent company charging different prices for the same product being sold at different locations.

Just how 'personal' is income tax?

My Thai wife and I have just had our first child, and my wife is looking to rejoin the workforce. As our child is still just a baby, my wife is looking for only part-time or casual work so she can still have enough time to tend to our child.

However, I have just been told that when she returns to work, the money she makes will be included in determining how much personal income tax I will have to pay, as if it were me who were earning the additional income.

That's not exactly "personal income tax". It's more like "household income tax".

Can someone please explain? I have no problem with paying my taxes, but how I can be held responsible for paying tax incurred by another family member just bamboozles me.

If it is true that I am liable to pay tax according to what other family members earn, then I can't wait until our daughter gets a job and starts earning her own salary – then I guess I'll be paying her tax... and so will she!

*Dave Cooper
Wichit*

An officer at Phuket office of the Revenue Department replies:

According to Thai law, if a husband and wife both earn income

through salaries from full-time jobs, and not through any other means, then they can choose to pay their "personal income tax" together or pay it separately.

But if the wife earns income that is not from a regular salary, then it must be included as part of the husband's income, and he must pay the tax that the wife's extra income incurs.

For more information contact the Phuket office of the Revenue Department at 23 Narisorn Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-211280, 076-214950. Fax: 076-216674.

Loving FC Phuket, since '1688'

I love the *Gazette's* coverage keeping me up to date with Phuket's own football team, FC Phuket. But one thing confuses me and I have yet to hear an explanation that makes sense: Why does the FC Phuket logo have "1688" in it? Surely it is not the year the club was formed, so why is it there?

Also, why did FC Phuket choose "South Sea Kirins" as their mascots, when they are also called the "Hulks", which I love by the way.

I have checked the FC Phuket website (fcphuket.com) and the fan website (phuketfcfanclub.com), but cannot find any answers to these questions. I look forward to any information you can provide.

*Terry Seagram
Phuket Town*

Naruebeth Ayupong, Director of FC Phuket, replies:

1688 is the lucky number for the team. We invited a *sinsae* (fortune teller) from Singapore to name our team in January this year, and our team has been better since.

This is also reflected in our company name, Football Phuket 1688 Co Ltd.

South Sea Kirins is the nickname for our team, but Hulks is the name of our fan club.

Also, green is our team's color, so we have green jerseys, and our

team is strong, just like the Hulk.

For more information: FC Phuket, 27 Moo 6, Near Ao Nam Bor School, T. Wichit, A. Muang, Phuket, 83000. Tel/Fax: 076-391233. Website: fcphuket.com

Is 'tea money' tax deductible?

If a person or a registered Thai company gives a "voluntary contribution" to any government office or to a single government officer in particular, is that voluntary contribution tax deductible?

An officer at the Phuket office of the Revenue Department, who asked not to be named, replies:

No, you cannot file a tax deduction without a receipt from the government office that you gave the money to.

For more information contact the Phuket branch of the Revenue Department at 23 Narisorn Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-211280, 076-214950. Fax: 076-216674.

When shares go up in smoke

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

THE vilification of the global oil giant BP from their ongoing catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico will not have gone unnoticed by investors with stocks and shares.

The spewing oil has not only created America's worst environmental disaster, but has also caused a financial disaster for BP's worldwide investors.

The collapse of BP's share prices will certainly cause some trouble for many Phuket expats.

Before the accident on April 20, BP provided investors with an attractive dividend yield of about 6%.

The Company was valued at US \$180 billion and was expected to provide a good return for this year and beyond.

Due to the high yield, BP's shares are included in a vast majority of UK pension funds and are also held independently by numerous investors.

As this newspaper went to print, a temporary fix had been reached in the form of a cap to contain the spewing oil, but the total financial cost of restoring the environment and containing the spill was not yet fully known.

Although BP's share price saw a marked increase following the "temporary fix", at one point during the crisis the oil gi-



BURNING MONEY: The BP oil spill is spewing the company's share price into the Gulf of Mexico. Photo: Wikimedia

ant saw its share price plummet by nearly 50%.

BP was one of the darlings of Margaret Thatcher's privatization bandwagon in the 80s and 90s. The UK Government sold its final stake in the company during the stock market crash of 1987.

Consequently, to this day it is held by thousands of UK investors. However, the impact is not confined to UK nationals.

CALPERS, the California Public Employees Retirement Fund, also holds a substantial stake in

BP and has lost approximately US\$380 million. Many other global pension plans also include BP as one of their holdings.

What a difference a day makes. Now valued at less than US\$100 billion and forced to cancel its dividend for this year, the company is in a perilous position.

Although unlikely, the possibility of bankruptcy has been raised. This should be considered a wake-up-call for investors who have significant amounts of their total assets invested in one, or only a

few companies. The possibility of trouble for investors is not limited to potential environmental disasters.

The ongoing global economic crisis has created a tumultuous environment for investors, highlighting the all-important practice of diversification.

For Phuket and other islanders, offshore investment funds offer an attractive way to diversify hard-earned savings and reduce the risk associated with investing in single stock shares.

Most funds invest in numerous

different companies, reducing the risk of one or more failing.

A fund with, for example, 50 individual investments is far less risk-prone than investing in just one of those companies.

Picking the appropriate investment fund is obviously important and a solid long-term performance record is a pre-requisite.

Investment funds come in all shapes and sizes. An excellent way of reducing risk is to invest in Multi-Asset Funds.

These funds invest in a broad spectrum of assets depending on which of those asset groups are expected to do well in the future. Those assets can include shares, bonds, commodities, property or cash.

At the moment the global economic recovery can be considered tenuous at best and therefore a low-risk investment positioning is recommended.

In the present economic climate, being heavily invested in global equities, particularly only a few individual equities, is not an advisable policy. Multi-Asset Funds provide an extra level of diversification that considerably reduces the risk when investing.

Diversification is an often used, but equally often ignored, investment theme. Ignore it at your peril however, just ask ex-Lehman Brothers bankers!

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International. Email: bill@mbmg-international.com

Car sales accelerate to 10-year high

IN JUNE, the Thai automotive market saw its highest rate of growth for the past decade.

A total of 70,557 vehicles were sold last month, representing a

growth of 62.6% year-on-year, according to Toyota Motor Thailand. This follows reports of strong sales throughout Thailand for during this year's first

quarter. In May, Car dealerships in Phuket reported first quarter sales that were up about 40% year-on-year.

Of the vehicles sold in Thailand last month, 32,946 were passenger cars, 75.7% rise from last year. The remaining 37,611 were all commercial vehicles, representing a 52.5% growth over June last year. The one-tonne pickup market segment saw a year-on-year growth of 46.7% in June, with sales of 31,327 vehicles.

Toyota Motor Thailand's vice president Vudhigorn Suriyachantanant said: "A recovering economy is bringing back con-



TOYOTA TALISMAN: The Toyota Vios is one of this year's best sellers.

sumer confidence to the market. The main boost came from sales of passenger cars in the sub-

compact segment, with various new products in the market."

Small cars that have recently been launched in the Thai market include both the hatchback and sedan versions of the Mazda2 and the Nissan March.

Ford has also launched both sedan and hatchback versions of its Fiesta, with delivery expected to start next month.

Toyota Pearl Sales Manager in Phuket, Eakaphob Boonprasarn said his dealership had the highest sales rate in Southern Thailand during the first quarter.

"We have found that the car to pick-up selling ratio is at about 60:40 in the favor of cars, the most popular of which is the Vios model," he said.

- The Nation

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By Sitthipong Nongkaew

SIAM Commercial Bank (SCB) recently raised their fixed-deposit interest rates, setting off a trend that has seen several other major Thai banks following suit. The increases follow the Bank of Thailand's (BOT) decision on July 14 to hike the key policy rate by 25 basis points.

On July 15, SCB announced that all fixed-deposit rates would be increased from 0.1% to 0.55% per annum. Later that same day, both K Bank and Krung Thai Bank (KTB) both announced increases on fixed-deposit rates in addition to an increase in loan rates.

According to the *Bangkok Post*, Thai Military Bank (TMB) also announced an increase on July 21.

President of SCB Kannikar Chalitaporn said in a press state-

Bold move as banks boost savings rates

ment that SCB is maintaining their loan rates in order to support continued economic expansion.

According to Mr Kannikar, the new rates are designed to help encourage saving. Thai Chamber of Commerce chairman Dusit Nontanakorn also commented that the new interest rates will attract foreign funds and strengthen the Thai baht.

Jirawan Thongchoo, Manager of SCB Phuket Boat Lagoon

Branch, agreed: "The interest rate has been increased in deposit accounts in keeping with the BOT's policy to raise interest.

"I think BOT has considered that if the economy is getting better, the interest rates deserve to be increased.

"It's following basic economic theory that if the economy is good, people save more money. It's also part of the government policy to promote more saving," she said.



LEADING THE WAY: Siam Commercial Bank was the first to raise savings rates.

Soaring capacity prompts new Happy routes

BASED on their recent success, Happy Air has announced that they will be diversifying their routes throughout Thailand.

Joe Sontipun, sales and marketing director of the Phuket-based scheduled carrier recently confirmed that business was good, citing the load factor on Happy

Air's Phuket-Haad Yai route as an example.

"The route has been about 70% to 80% full, with this figure continuing to rise as more people learn about the service between the two largest airports in southern Thailand," he said.

Thus far the service has been

most popular among Thais, but many foreign tourists and expat residents making "visa runs" to Penang and other cities in Malaysia are also beginning to use the service to avoid the 10-hour bus ride between Phuket and Haad Yai, the latter of which is located just 50km from the Malaysian border.

Happy Air's Phuket routes include Phuket to Haad Yai, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Langkawi, Bangkok and Rangoon.

These routes began with flights to Langkawi on July 10, to Suvarnabhumi and Rangoon on July 22 and Nakorn Sri Thammarat on July 23.

Additionally, reservation and ticketing company Juthamaf Thaimwong has revealed that Happy Air will also start flying from Bangkok to Nan starting July 24, at a price of 2,800 baht, and from Bangkok to Luang Prabang for 3,500 baht.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Opening the 'window' to your new business

THE BUSINESS Development Department of the Commerce Ministry recently kicked off the "Single Window Point" service to facilitate the setting up new businesses in Thailand.

The service will significantly ease this process in several ways. Registration will be shortened from four days to about an hour. The "Single Window Point" also only requires three documents with the company, tax payment, and employer account numbers.

The service will be located at the Commerce Ministry, Nonthaburi, and five offices in Bangkok, and will become fully operational nationwide on October 1.

New enterprises will get a single form to fill, to save paper and reduce documentation procedures.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who presided over the opening ceremony of the new service July 6, said "The government will continue to develop the system and regulations to facilitate business growth in the country and attract foreign investment," he said.

He also added that this will ensure Thailand's place as one of "the world's top 10 easiest places to do business" in the near future.

Deputy Commerce Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot said the department would allocate 40 million baht to developing the business facilitation system in Thailand.

Nandor von der Luehe, chairman to the Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce in Thailand, said it was a good start, and added that the government should streamline the whole administration and



The new "Single Window Point" service will reduce the amount of business registration documents.

ensure transparency in order to promote further business growth in Thailand.

The World Bank currently ranks Thailand 12th out of 183 countries and territories in terms of ease of doing business.

- *The Nation*

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Film

By Scott Phillips

Inception

Director: Christopher Nolan
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Ken Watanabe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Genre: Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller
Gazette Rating: 5/5

CHRISTOPHER Nolan is one of the few filmmakers that Hollywood isn't afraid to entrust a US\$200 million budget to when he pitches a project that lists him in the triple-threat role of writer, director, and producer.

It's not without good cause. He took on the same roles on his previous film, *The Dark Knight*, which became the third top-grossing film in US box office history.

More importantly, though, his movies are brilliant.

His latest production, *Inception*, will undoubtedly be a contender for the best film of year... and then some. It already holds the third spot in the famous IMDb.com Top 250 Films list, being surpassed



Leonardo DiCaprio stars in *Inception*, where dreams provide the setting in what could be the year's best film.

in average user rating only by *The Godfather* and *The Shawshank Redemption*. Yes, it's that good.

Inception is endlessly inventive, thrilling, and – get this – not afraid to assume its audience will be open to the idea of thinking about what they're watching.

Though some are criticizing the film for being too confusing, the concept behind the film is simple: Imagine a world in which people can first recreate, then consciously enter and interact within the dreams of others. As with most

dreams, the laws of time and space do not apply, allowing for some very innovative scenes.

Of course, some minds are highly valued in such a world, and those with special skills can make lots of money by entering dreams and extracting secrets from powerful people.

Cobb (DiCaprio) is such a thief. He steals secrets. "It's not strictly speaking legal," he explains.

No, I suspect that it wouldn't be.

Cobb leads a team on a mission to achieve what no one has ever

done before: Implant, rather than extract, an idea into a person's mind. This is called inception, and it requires ingenuity, deception, and a team of smart people, and dreams within dreams.

To explain more would start to spoil the movie, but suffice to say that some characters come with baggage – dark and heavy minds from troubled pasts – and their dreams don't provide the best setting for others to enter.

The plot does indeed become complex and is likely to leave even

the most attentive viewers baffled as to what is real and what is a dream, but it never fails to engage. Dreams are not places with a definite beginning, middle and end, so why should a movie about them be any different?

Rumor has it that it took Nolan close to a decade to write the script for *Inception*, possibly because he had to sort out of the rules in making dreams an on-screen reality. He does have to adhere to a few basic rules, but for the most part he has created a story in which characters are free – sometimes forced – to explore the dark recesses of each other's minds. Now that's good sci-fi.

On top of that, it's just an awesome action thriller. There are plenty of gunfights, car chases, explosions, and a zero-gravity fight scene in a hotel hallway that is destined to become legendary, that will help *Inception* stand the test of time.

So long as you don't flaunt a "don't make me think, just entertain me" persona when it comes to movies, do yourself a favor: Go see this flick.

On Sunday 1st August 2010, it's Swiss National Day – a time of considerable celebration at this Swiss-run company. Try some of the exceptional Swiss cuisine that you may have missed (there's a lot more than just fondue and rösti). Swiss music will pervade the air, but no alphorns, we're sorry to say, will be played. The grand buffet begins at 7.00 pm at Pacifica restaurant, and guests wearing the Swiss national costume will be especially welcome. THB 950 per person.

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What else is on...

Despicable Me

Directors: Pierre Coffin, Chris Renaud
Starring: Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russel Brand, Kristen Wig
Genre: Animation/Family
Gazette Rating: 4/5

Gru (voiced by Carell) is an ill-intended madman planning to steal the moon from a secret hideout in his suburban home. His plan is interrupted when he meets three orphaned girls who slowly start to change his wicked ways. Not exactly Pixar-caliber, but certainly fun enough for parents to enjoy. Kids, of course, will eat it up.



Predators

Director: Nimrod Antal
Starring: Adrian Brody, Topher Grace, Alice Braga, Walton Goggins
Genre: Action/Sci-Fi
Gazette Rating: 4/5

In this latest chapter in the Predator franchise, a mercenary (Brody) reluctantly leads a group of elite warriors to an alien planet. They come to realize they've been brought together as prey to be systematically hunted and eliminated by a new breed of Predators. Adrenaline-fuelled fun with a side order of blood and guts.



Pop Star

Director: Robert La Force
Starring: Bongkot Kongmalai, Montol Jira, Nirut Sirijunya
Genre: Drama/Thriller
Gazette Rating: 2/5

In this 90-minute soap opera, a pop-star musician, Jay (Jira), returns to Thailand after studying overseas to find his ex-girlfriend (Kongmalai) went and married his dad, but for a laughable reason. More drama ensues. It's not a comedy, but viewers might find it hilarious that this film actually takes itself seriously.



On the Menu

By Wilko

WHILE celebrating the fifth consecutive 40th birthday party of a friend's wife the other night, we discussed just how much the island has changed over the years.

It's frightening to realize that it's no longer acceptable to motorbike down to the sea with a wildly salivating crossbreed hound barking excitedly on the handlebars at the prospect of peeing on tourists' beachside sand castles. Nyet! Dogs are no longer allowed on "our" beach during the day. And it's impossible to pick up a 15-baht *khao phad gai* these days nor to actually enjoy a quiet snorkeling session at Kata without the risk of being brained by a jet-ski then getting the inflated repairs bill.

But, as painfully as longtime expats on the island have to admit it, things have to move on.

Talking of moving on: One bar which has been in operation for at least 18 years and that can lay claim to being among the forerunners of Phuket's nightlife scene is Nikita's, right on the water's edge in Rawai. Nikita's decided a few months back that it was time to stop ordering food from the next-door restaurant – a long-lasting but eclectic arrangement at the best of times – and is now serving up tasty dishes from its own kitchen.

But first, a potted history: Not unlike the Lighthouse on Chalong's waterfront, Nikita's has been the scene of many bawdy nights, high drama, hook-ups, marriage and divorce proposals and never-ending New Year's celebrations and is, incidentally, a favorite tourist spot as it offers top-of-the range Thai dishes, courtesy of Chef Sapan, lately of the nearby Royal Phuket Yacht Club, Salvatore's in Phuket Town, and Joe's South. It's not the place to meet tattooed, gold-dripping "halooa, you wanna-buy-me-dlink?" hostesses and is a firm favorite with those who enjoy the sight of the sun setting over the distant islands, nursing a cool beer or cocktail.

Celebrity chef, Anthony Bourdain, who gained instant fame 10 years ago with his oft-funny, often "why am I reading this debauchery?" book, *Kitchen Confidential*, blandly states in his



LOCAL HIDEOUT: The 18-year-old Nikita's Bar in Rawai has been a firm favorite with expats since its opening.

Nikita's niche

summary: "Never go into a restaurant that has the name of the owner on its signage" – or words to that effect. I, for one, avoid the "Mama's Kitchen" sort of places and especially ones that adhere to a particular national identity. The genius who opened a failed Polish-themed bar near us perhaps needs serious professional counseling as to what constitutes an attractive drinking location in tropical zones. Anyone who has been to grim, gray, Warsaw would testify so.

Nikita's, in sharp contrast, has been happily readapting to its new role as the beachside dispenser of good food in the area. There's a white-wine list that covers 12 labels while you can browse through a 15 label red-wine list with a bracing menu of beachside cocktails – all at 160 baht and all (hic) pretty strong. After a couple of very professionally-mixed vodka Martinis it's easy to drift off into a beachside reverie but a storm moves in and my dinner guests arrive so we move "indoors" (Nikita's is mostly fan-cooled covered and tree-covered al-fresco dining.)

We order a massaman curry, a vegetarian pizza, a cordon bleu and a blistering fish and chips cooked in Chang-Beer-fueled batter which is sublime, except for the pre-frozen chips. A twenty-minute spud-peeling session for the evening's orders would have

made all the difference. Cordon bleu with French fries (270 baht) is for only of those of a robust appetite while the massaman curry (160 baht) is perhaps Chef Sapan at his best: Its delicate flavors and light touches make it stand out. But there again, that's Thai cui-

sine... Niki, the owner, makes sure that each rice order is mixed with *khao daeng* – wholemeal rice – and this says a lot for, in many longtime resident minds', a popular beachside cocktail bar... now with great and recommendable food.

Nikita's Bar. Rawai Beach: Take

the right turn into Rawai Beach at the end of Vichit (or Wisit) Road and Nikita's is 200 meters further up on your left.

Contact T: 0812720561 E: info@nikitabarphuket.com or W: nikita-barphuket.com



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Phil Hollywood

PHIL Hollywood retired as a Commander in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1981 and set sail on his homemade 40-foot sailboat the following year.

"My dream had always been to retire early and sail around the world. I spent five years building my sailboat at home while still in the Navy.

"I went to the office from 7:30am to 3:30pm, came home and had dinner, and then worked on the boat until 11pm. When I was finished and figured out how to live on my pension, I left the Navy and left Canada. I've never been back."

With a sailing partner, Phil sailed down the west coast of North America to Panama and then out to the Galapagos Islands and on to Easter Island, Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Australia. In American Samoa, he spent 18 months designing and implementing a computerized stores system in a tuna factory.

After ten years of sailing around the Pacific Basin, he arrived in Thailand.

"I immediately fell in love with people, the food and the climate around Phuket. My plan had always been to sell the boat and buy a house when I found a place that I wanted to stay."

Phil's boat, the *Wikiwyn*, was

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

the second one to moor at the Boat Lagoon in 1992. He became the Harbormaster, a post he held for five years. During this time he set up the Andaman Sea Net, a ham radio network to pass on weather information to craft on the seas from Singapore to Sri Lanka. He also trained marina staff and set up computerized operating systems.

He was an essential member of the King's Cup Regatta organizing committee for 14 years, providing weather information and serving as administration manager.

Phil has also been active with the Langkawi International Regatta, the Phang Nga Bay Regatta and Phuket Race Week.

He started life in Eastern Ontario, Canada. He left home at age 13 and supported himself by working in a bowling alley setting up the heavy wooden pins. At age 15, he joined the Canadian Naval Reserves and was sent to Western Canada to work on a minesweeper.

He was an ordinary seaman for 12 years and rose to become a

Chief Petty Officer, the highest rank for an enlisted man.

In 1966, he became an officer and taught meteorology for many years.

He came to Southeast Asia for the first time in 1973, aboard a destroyer sent to remove Canadian soldiers from the Vietnam War. He also worked on anti-submarine patrols and served on cruisers, minesweepers, and an aircraft carrier.

After Phil sold *Wikiwyn*, he bought his home near Prince of Songkla University where he now spends his time gathering information on the internet.

He has had a lifelong interest in learning. He downloads movies and music and has taught himself video editing. On the wall of his office is a road map of Thailand, on which he has marked the extensive road network he has traveled.

"I think I've been in every province. I love to head out for a long drive around Thailand. It's much better than sailing, which is just a mode of transport, a way to get from A to B. But with driving, you can really see the country."

After many years of jogging around his neighborhood, Phil now keeps fit by working out on his stationary exercise bike.

"I'd say my life is very smooth and peaceful. I'm a happy man."



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, ah, 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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Pulau Penang in a nutshell

By Nicky Vermeulen

WHILE most people on Phuket know Pulau Penang in Malaysia for its appeal as a visa-run town, what they might not know is that the island's name derives from the areca nut tree that grow throughout the region.

July is a good time to visit the main district, Georgetown. Every year, the city holds a month-long celebration from July 1 to 31 to commemorate the addition of their historical district, nicknamed "Core Zone" to a conservation project operated by the UN.

Listed as a UN Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site on account of its culturally-rich and diverse heritage, Penang has earned the right to be conserved for future generations.

Founded in 1786, the island has, through 500 years of trading and cultural exchange between East and West, become a contrasting combination of influences; from the traditional sacred customs of Chinese ancestry to the



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: There's more to do in Penang than just apply for your Thai visa. Photo: Nicky Vermeulen

legacy of British colonialism.

Throw in some Portuguese, Islamic, Dutch and Indian influences, the evidence of which can be seen along what the locals call "the road of harmony", and you have one of the most interesting cities in South East Asia.

A scenic location in the Core Zone is in the Chew Clan village, which has been built on jetties on

the edge of the strait between Penang and mainland Malaysia.

A short walk down the pier will provide you with sneak peeks into the rustic homes of the Chew Clan members, who have been living there since the middle of the 19th Century. The Chew Clan village consists only of members from one Chinese family, the Chews.

To date there are about 700

family members living there, all with the same last name. The sons bring their wives and children into the village and any daughters have to leave when they marry into another clan.

The Khoo Clan house in Georgetown is a beautiful example of Penang's heritage. It features intricate carvings on the interior and exterior of the building, and

is covered with an array of vibrant red, blue, green and gold trimmings.

There are some other places of interest, which Discovery Overland Holidays (DOH) – one of the leading tour companies in Penang – can help you visit with one of their knowledgeable tour guides. DOH tour rates are reasonable and usually include a meal while out exploring.

Bayview Hotel Georgetown is a popular and comfortable choice for four-star accommodation. The hotel is currently running various promotions on their accommodation packages.

Firefly Airlines are also promoting their new route to Penang with three days and two nights, including airfare and accommodation.

For more information on the services available from these hospitality providers, visit DOH at discoveryoverland.com.

For the Bayview Hotel Georgetown, email bayviewgeorgetown@bayviewhotels.com or visit the website www.bayviewhotels.com

For Firefly Airlines latest deals see fireflyholiday.com.

Out and about



Kek Lok Si Buddhist temple

This temple is the biggest Buddhist temple in Southeast Asia. It's seven-story main pagoda houses 10,000 alabaster and bronze Buddhas. Also known as the "temple of supreme bliss".



Khoo Kongsi

A large Chinese clan house that produces creative photographic opportunities with its authentic old-world, pre-war charm. Chinese operas are held at the clan house during the seventh lunar month each year.



Discover Penang by trishaw

Take a walk or trishaw through the oldest and most historical neighborhood of Georgetown, known as "The Core Zone", as many of the structures in this area are on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



Georgetown by night

Enjoy a meal at the only revolving restaurant in Penang. It is located on the top floor of the Bayview Hotel Georgetown and provides spectacular night views of the island as diners revolve 360° over the course of an hour.



Banana leaf cuisine

All that multi-cultural history makes for an equal amount of multi-cultural food. A must-try gastronomic experience is banana leaf cuisine, which customers eat with their hands. Wash it down with a glass of mango lassi.

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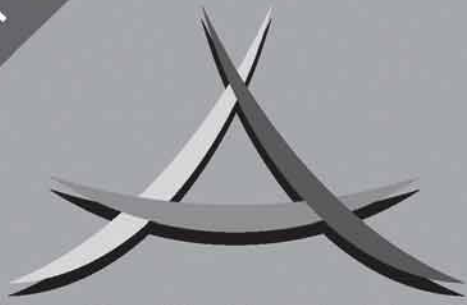
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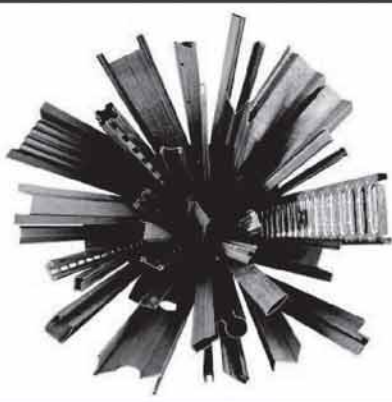
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Sala's Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ – July 31



Join Sala Phuket for their Ocean BBQ. DJ Tom will set the mood for the afternoon while children enjoy the pool and garden games and Chef Jan serves up his usual mouthwatering BBQ fare, including Australian ribeye, slow-smoked pork ribs, grilled veggies and fresh salads. The price is 950 baht per person. From 1pm-5pm at Sala Phuket Resort and Spa. Contact Tibor Baan for details. T: 076-338888 E: fbphuket@salaphuket.com W: salaphuket.com

June 6-August 8. Belly Dancing Course

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, at the RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com

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 Lounge" with movies, video games and more to keep the young ones occupied while par-

ents relax with happy hour prices and barbecue fare in the Festival Beer Tent. From 2pm-midnight at Canal Shopping Village. For details contact Chureeporn Manabutr. T: 076-362330 E: shopping@lagunaphuket.com W: lagunaphuket.com/familyfestival

July 21-25. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is four days of world-class yacht racing and five nights of beachside parties at the 5-star Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. The regatta is run over seven classes, including cruising/bareboat/charter yachts. It's competitive, high-octane racing for the serious boats and fun courses around the island for the less serious racers. From 10am - 11pm. For details contact Grenville Fordham. T: 076-264491 E: raceweek@image-asia.com W: phuketraceweek.com

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 24. Seafood Extravaganza at Le Meridien Phuket

Enjoy a night of seafood fare and indulgent portions coupled with an equally mouth-watering spread of appetizers, soups, salads and an dessert selection. 1,350 baht net per adult. Get a 20% discount when you present this listing upon arrival. From 7pm-10:30pm at Pakarang Restaurant. For further information contact Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. T: 076-370100 E: reservations.phuketbeach@lemeridien.com W: lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort

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.

July 29-August 1. Architect & Engineering Exhibition 2010

See the latest breakthroughs in construction technology, interior design and building maintenance at the Construction Materials and Tools Exhibition. Products from more than 100 manufacturers and importers. New light-weight structural materials. Learn how to design smart homes for multi-million-dollar projects – IPTV, 3G internet, IP Phone, CCTV and high-tech devices. The latest products for home spas, swimming pools and gymnasiums. From 11am-8pm at Royal Phuket City Hotel. Contact PIC Phuket Co. T: 076-522828 E: info@picphuket.com W: aaashow.com

August 1. Swiss Feast

Exceptional cuisine at a grand Swiss buffet. There's a lot more than just fondue and rösti. Swiss music will fill the air, but no Alphorns will be played! 950 baht per person. From 7pm-10pm at the Pacifica Restaurant. Contact Carlos Sanchez Vizan. T: 076-396139 E: carlos.vizan@moevenpick.com W: moevenpick-phuket.com

Aug 2-6. Kids Sports, Arts & Adventure Day Camp

PIA Sports and Leisure Club's Kids Camps combine the best of sports, arts and adventure programs. The camps are to help students develop their self-esteem, confidence and leadership qualities. From 9am-5pm at the PIA Sports & Leisure Club. Contact Khun Nok T: 076-376000 W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

Aug 7-8. PIA's Kids Adventure Weekend

Come and camp overnight at PIA's Sports and Leisure Club's Kids Camps adventure weekend for 6-14 year olds. The camp will take place at the PIA Sports & Leisure Club, and is part of the Arts and Adventure Day Camp. Contact Khun Nok for more information. T: 076-376000 W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

August 4-7. First annual Stereolab Phuket Kite Jam

Surin Beach and Stereolab will host the first ever international Kiteboarding Competition in Phuket, under the "KTA Open Event" umbrella. From 9am - 5pm. Registration will be on the beach, or you can contact and pre-register on the website. For further information contact Willy Kerr. T: 089-529 2050. E: willy@kiteboardtour.asia W: kiteboardtour.asia

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

August 3. Curry Fridays

Indian food buffs are invited to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet with classic Indian dishes like chicken tikka masala, mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs and more for 399 baht. Draft beer by the glass for 50 baht. From 7pm - 11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. For further information contact Seemant Raju. T: 076-286464 E: sm@karonseasand.com W: karonseasand.com

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Laguna- August 8

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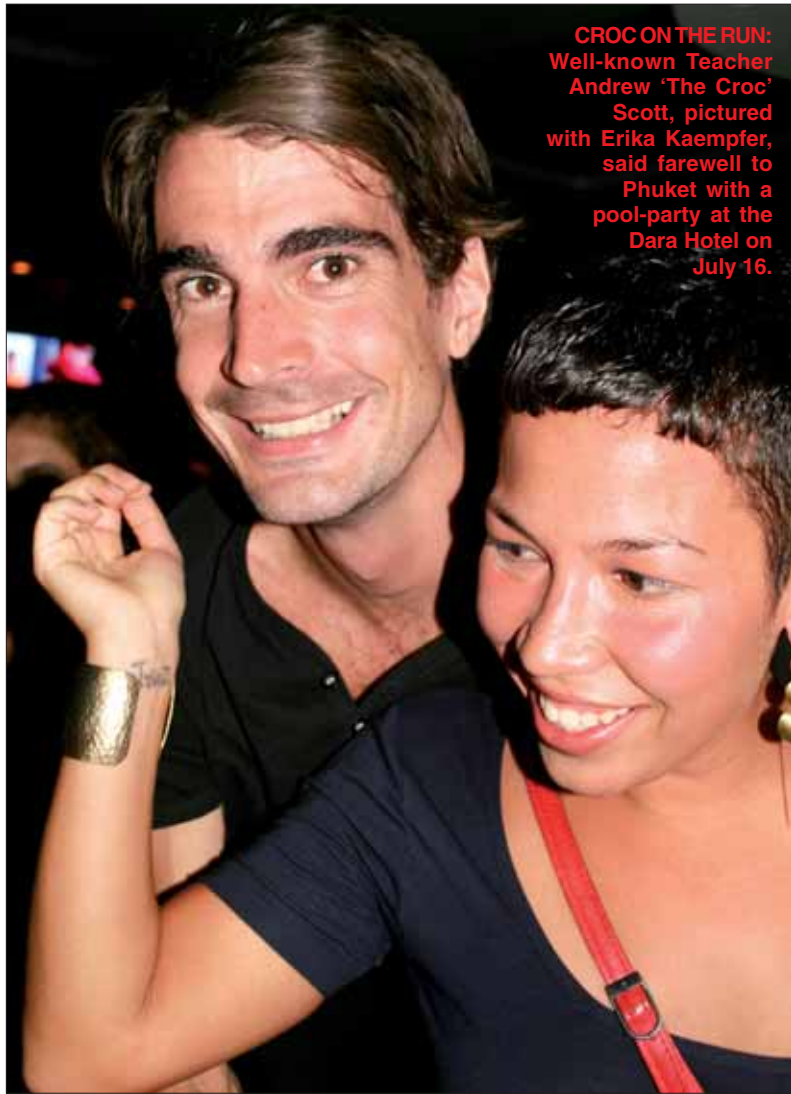


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YOUR Phuket



CROC ON THE RUN: Well-known Teacher Andrew 'The Croc' Scott, pictured with Erika Kaempfer, said farewell to Phuket with a pool-party at the Dara Hotel on July 16.



IN TRAINING: Miss Thailand contestants (above) have been using the Cape Panwa Hotel as their "Training Camp" in preparation for the Miss Thailand World 2010 pageant. Photo:Thanasorn Chookdate



TENNIS BOUT: The Evason Phuket hosted its first tennis championship from July 9 to 11, with 32 doubles teams taking part from around Thailand's south.

HOSPITAL HELPING HAND: Bangkok Hospital Phuket staff and their trusty mascot recently held free-of-charge medical lessons for students from the Bann Bang Lham and Bann Kho Klang schools in Phang Nga.






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Raceweek in focus

WITH this year's Six Senses Phuket Raceweek getting underway on July 21 the *Phuket Gazette* is proud to announce the winner of this year's Phuket Raceweek Amateur Photo Contest.

Simon Andrews won with his photo "Close Quarters" (below) showing two yachts in very close proximity as they prepare to round a mark mid-race, capturing in an instant just how competitive yacht racing can be in Phuket regattas.

For his exceptional photo, Mr Andrews has won a five-night stay at the The Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa, home of the Phuket Raceweek regatta this year. The event will be held in and around Chalong Bay from July 21 to 25. Professional photographers and people working in publishing were not eligible to enter. A special mention goes to the photo "Evolution Sail Crew in Action" (right) submitted by Anne Sophie on behalf of the Maestracci family.

On June 20, DaVinci held its Launch Party for the restaurant's new yacht at Les Angeles at the Royal Phuket Marina.

At the launch, a blessing ceremony was held on the yacht, and the DaVinci raceteam, who will be taking part in raceweek, posed for a few photos (bottom, right).

From left are: Michael Coleman, Philippe Auer, Andy Pape and Frank Schefter.



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For further information go to www.tourismthailand.org/thailandgrandsale2010 or click the banner on our website: www.phuketbulletin.co.th



WORD DETECTIVE

All the words listed below appear in the puzzle - horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backwards. Find them and circle them. If you are an especially skilled word detective, you may also find an additional 'secret word' hidden in the puzzle.

Theme: Wet season

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

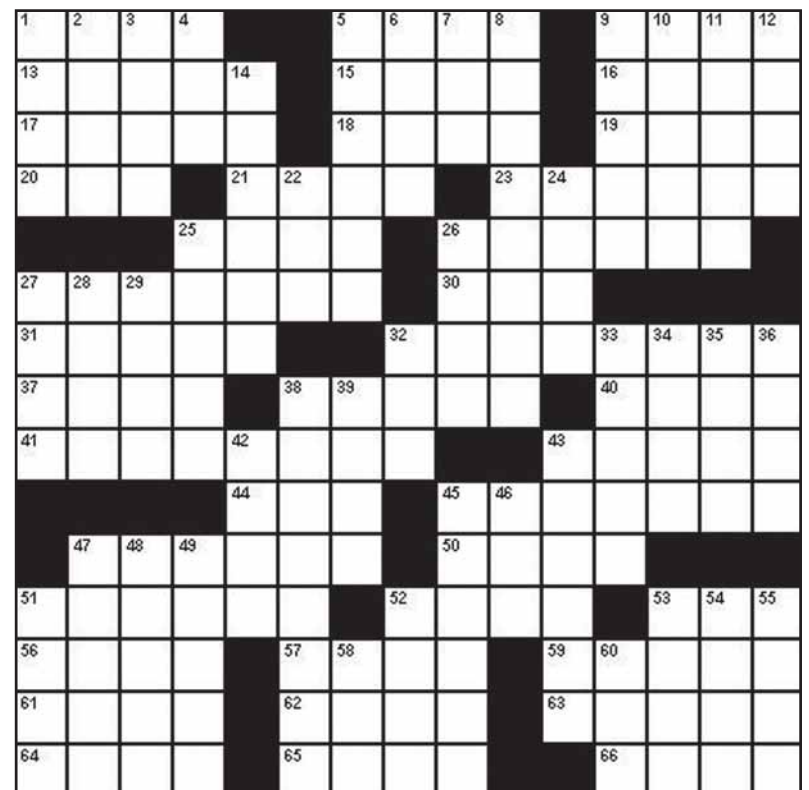
Rain, waves, puddles, river, ponchos, mosquitos, frogs, wet, green, cold, mud, sliding, slipping, season, sinkholes, downpour, jackets, dark sky, storm clouds, lightning, thunder, drizzle, monsoon, rip current.

Across

1. Impersonator
5. Floor coverings
9. Small piece of wood
13. Sensational;
15. Drug-yielding plant
16. "All The Way To ____", song by REM
17. Battery terminal
18. Words of denial
19. Finishes
20. DDE's command
21. Roasting rod
23. Horse-drawn vehicle in India
25. Passport endorsement
26. Hemoglobin deficiency
27. Cutting
30. Atmosphere
31. "____ by any other name"
32. Very likely
37. Dispatched
38. Tree insect
40. Small combo
- 41- Wisdom
43. Jargon
44. "Hold On Tight" band
45. Plain of East Africa
47. Scottish sheep dog
50. Nights before
51. High-speed skiing
52. Examine by touch
53. Invoice abbr.
56. Brain wave
57. Prepare a book or film for release
59. Golden Horde member
61. Solid oils
62. Indian nursemaid
63. More
64. Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland
65. Network of nerves
66. New Orleans is The Big ____

Down

1. Wing-like parts
2. Football kick
3. Switch ending
4. Free
5. Lunatic
6. Bunches
7. Small child
8. Feudal lord
9. Fatty part of milk



10. Artist Rousseau
11. Chief of the Vedic gods
12. Bouquet
14. Crave
22. Trident-shaped letter
24. Aromatic plant
25. Prospect
26. River in central Switzerland
27. Back talk
28. Calculus calculation
29. Chinese secret society
32. Ask invasive questions
33. Collection of maps
34. Fiber source
35. Waterfall

36. Indian exercise method
38. A type of interpolation, transform, or map
39. Siouan speaker
42. Honeycomb unit
43. Slender
45. Boil
46. Hail, to Caesar
47. Aromatic wood
48. "Awake and Sing!" playwright
49. Buy alternative
51. Spouse
52. Decree
53. ____ boy!
54. Roman god of war
55. Salver
58. Coloring material
60. Chopper

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Used with permission

Puzzle solutions on page 29

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos will need to practice putting something out of sight and out of mind this week. An issue that you cannot resolve for the time being could occupy your thoughts, leaving little space to concentrate on matters which you can address. The stars suggest that August will bring resolution. If you are celebrating a birthday during the days ahead, variety is forecast to be the spice of your working life in the coming year.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): What you see is what you get this week. Virgoans aren't usually inclined to indulge in too much daydreaming, but the stars suggest that an abstract mood could cause you to expect unrealistic outcomes. Where romance is concerned, you are advised to keep your feet on the ground as an air sign is forecast to spin stories around you. An end of the month bonus should boost your bank balance.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): At work the ball is in your court this week. Many Librans will find themselves in an enviable position regarding choices for the future.

Your plans to create more consistent financial security are taking shape and you should not listen to advice from unreliable sources – a water sign is predicted to suggest a new investment possibility, but failure is highlighted.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpios should gain the control they need this week. If this relates to a business situation, you will be in the best position possible to dictate what will happen next. However, where romance is concerned, there will be a price to pay if you steamroll a partner's opinions. If you are single, the stars indicate that a match can be made with an earth sign you already know.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Visitors could be a drag on your energy during the last week of July. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius who are desperate to offload some responsibility should not feel guilty. Leaving others to their own devices won't shed a bad light on you. Where love is concerned, your free-spirited nature is not what an earth sign is seeking. The number one can bring good fortune next Wednesday.



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Many Capricorns are forecast to reach a turning point this week. By the time August commences, you could be on a completely different track. Those hoping for improvement in their working environment are forecast to stumble across a golden opportunity. A romantic partner shows you that action speaks louder than words this weekend. Friendship with another earth sign is forecast to be affected by a financial question.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Those born under the sign of Aquarius who have been confused by someone giving them the cold shoulder are forecast to find out the reason why this week. Sunday is a good day to clear the air, but the stars suggest that it will take a while for this relationship to heal. Your enthusiasm for a work project is dampened by the interference

of a fire sign who won't listen to your opinion.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your resilience is strong during the last week of July. Pisceans who have nearly reached breaking point over a difficult issue will be inspired to approach it from a new direction. The stars back your efforts to see success. You may disagree with an air sign friend's choice of romantic partner, and are advised to restrict conversation to other subjects.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians' ability to bounce back should ensure that you can compensate for mistakes made earlier this month. The stars predict that the last week of July will be a productive build-up to achievement in August. There are signs that romantically related troubles could distract you from work – this Sunday is a good day to reach compromises. Tuesday is a lucky day for finances.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans are forecast to be at cross purposes with certain individuals this week. You are advised to be careful when having contact with

fire signs, particularly if this involves property matters. Those hoping to relocate will see eye to eye with other earth signs. Capricorn has some helpful hints this weekend. Where romance is concerned, while the cat's away, the mouse might be tempted to play.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your instincts are not at their sharpest this week. An unusually sluggish mood could cause Geminis to be left behind, leaving others to gain. It would be wise to delay important appointments until August commences as the stars suggest your energy will be stronger then. Finances are highlighted to be a source of disagreement for those with a partner this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Someone who was a mine of information earlier this year has the ability to help you further. Cancerians who would like to put their lives on a more even keel are forecast to be satisfied with developments this week. Events this weekend will remind you that romance can be found where you least expect it. Cupid is ready to support a liaison with an earth sign, but flirtation with Aquarius won't lead to anything serious.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Shortcut road in town gets the nod

Pimwara Choksakulpan

FOLLOWING a successful public hearing process, Phuket City Municipality will move forward with a project to build a new road connecting Chao Fa East Rd to Saphan Hin.

The final public hearing, organized jointly by the Department of Rural Roads and Phuket City Municipality, was held at the project site on July 8.

About 100 people gathered for the event, which was held under a tent outside the grounds of the Mineral Resources Center 2, across the street from the entrance to Suan Luang Park on Chao Fa East Rd.

The hearing was chaired by Anupong Jongwang, head of the education and information technology division at the Rural Roads Department Region 8 headquarters in Krabi.

Among those attending were Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana, Phuket Rural Roads Office Director Teeraporn

Jirattanakorn, local officials and residents.

There was an almost unanimous agreement that the project should move forward as no serious objections were put forward.

The 24-million-baht road will be built under the Department of Rural Road's "Dust Free Road" initiative, which is funded under the *Thai Khem Khaeng* (Strong Thailand) fiscal stimulus package.

Work is scheduled for completion by December 8, 2010.

The road will connect Sakdidet Soi 1 and Chao Fa East Rd, passing through two plots of Treasury Department land covering a total of about 20 rai.

The first plot, about 12 rai, is currently assigned to the Industry Ministry's Primary Industries and Mines Office (PIMO), Region 4. The second seven-rai plot is used by the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center.

The 684-meter-long section needed to complete the road will start at the back of PIMO grounds and connect with the existing



Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

GETTING TO WORK: The eagerly awaited Saphan Hin shortcut road is due to be completed by December.

Phang Muang Khor Rd that is home to several government offices, including the Phuket Provincial Employment Office and Red Cross Regional Blood Bank.

Phang Muang Sai Khor Rd which has yet to be officially named, is currently a dead end road that exits onto Sakdidet Soi 1, near the junction with Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd.

Upon completion, the new road should ease growing rush-hour congestion along Chao Fa East Rd and the narrow Sakdidet Soi 1, which is currently the only connector between Saphan Hin and points west and south.

"I guarantee Phuket City people will benefit from this road. It will make driving more convenient, reduce the number of accidents

along Sakdidet Soi 1 and save lives," Mayor Somjai said.

The road should provide some improvement to long-suffering commuters in the area, but is unlikely to quell local outcry over the need to complete Sakdidet Soi 7, a project which has been held up for over a decade because it would involve the destruction of protected mangrove forest.



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Brewing battlelines

THE TERM “non-traditional accommodation”, which refers to vacation homes, condos, or apartment rentals, is slowly becoming more than a blip on the hospitality sector’s radar. Competition is heating up between this rising market and traditional accommodation, which typically refers to hotels.

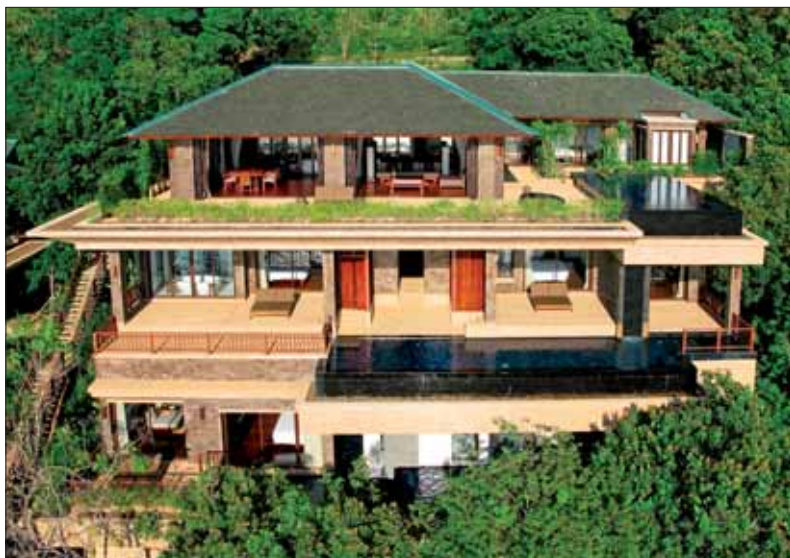
One move that recently caught the attention of the hotel and tourism world is the launch of Exclusive Villas by Paresa, a new venture by the private pool villa resort of the same name in Kamala’s Millionaire’s Mile. Paresa has seized an out-of-the-box opportunity to take advantage of its existing high standard of service to take on outside villa management and rental services for its nearby neighbor, Villa Amanzi at Cape Sol.

The use of Paresa’s facilities for villa owners and guests, such as the spa, restaurants, fitness center and others, are included as part of the deal and provide an increase of incremental revenue for the villa.

Paresa’s General Manager, Scot Toon, views the move as a win-win for both the hotel and villa owners.

The new trend of extending the hospitality services of major resorts to neighboring private residences is becoming increasingly common. The Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort’s new service offerings and InVision Hospitality’s move into Bang Tao’s The Residence are a few other examples.

Following the real estate market slump in the wake of the Thaksin coup and the global financial meltdown, brokers increasingly moved into the more stable environment of estate management and the associated off-shoot of rentals. The past two years has also seen the emergence



The Villa Amanzi in Kamala, now under the hospitality services of neighboring Paresa Resort. Photo: Paresa Phuket



of a number of independent-villa booking sites on the internet.

For many real estate agents, resales and rentals are currently providing the support for their livelihood amidst an ongoing hope for a property rebound. Often heard in whispers and behind closed doors, agents continue to wonder if the property boom is gone for good, or if it is just waiting for a jump start.

What is becoming evident though is that like any developing business model, the ability to adapt is essential for survival. Hotels are slowly diversifying and entering the scene of rentals, creating a bridge between two major competing markets of the tourism industry.

At the same time, villas are slowly learning how to play the volume-based strategy that dominates tourism-industry thinking. What that means is that prices will inevitably drop in the near future.

Ultimately, the loser in the game will be the property owner, who simply wants rental yields commensurate with their investments.

Non-traditional accommodation remains important in any resort destination. It offers great niche products and value for the money. Be it condo-hotels, oceanfront vacation homes or even an apartment rental, the options are attractive.

In today’s market, though the hotel supply continues to surge, these types of properties all need some sort of management, sales and marketing operations in order to compete. Determining who is better at this – hotels or agents – there are merits and demerits for both. Scale often lacks personality, but it does add reach.

I remember sitting on a rock at the southern tip of Africa at the Cape of Good Hope a number of years ago. It was mesmerizing to watch the convergence of two great oceans as they swelled and swayed, each giving and taking but continuing to be part of the same.

Much can be said for hotels, rental operators and booking sites. As for the appeal of Phuket, they all contribute to the tourism scene in their own valuable way.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

Wyndham making island debut in December

The US-based Wyndham Hotel Group, which represents over 7,000 properties worldwide, will open the new 133-room Wyndham Pantipa Resort in Kalim this December. Perched on the hillside with ocean views, the property is near to the entertainment and nightlife district of Patong. The hotel chain is looking to expand both their core namesake and Ramada brands in Phuket in the near future.

The great escape with David Lees

Long-standing tropical villa interior designer David Lees, who’s work graces many of Phuket’s high-end residences, has moved into the hospitality market. He and his wife have restored a residential villa in Bangkok’s Sukhumvit area, near Bumrungrad Hospital into a boutique hotel. Named the Ariyasomvilla, a newly built addition was just added to the original structure from the 1940s and now features 25 rooms along with an organic restaurant and lush gardens. Combining both Thai and Asian influences, the vibe is a peaceful oasis in the heart of the Big Mango.

Laguna summer rates target residents

Leading destination resort Laguna Phuket has rolled out special summer rates for both expat and Thai residents at their seven properties. With entry level offerings from 2,000 baht up through 7,500 baht per night for the upscale pool villas at Banyan Tree, Laguna is trying to reach a large pool of potential vacationers. The offer is valid until the end of October and includes brand names such as Sheraton Dusit and Outrigger.

Nominations open for Asia Spa Awards



Photo courtesy Golden Tulip Mangosteen

Nominations were recently opened for the sixth annual Asia Spa Awards and will remain open until the end of August. With a longstanding base of quality spas with innovative designs, including the award-winning Six Senses and the recently opened Ayurveda Health Spa at Golden Tulip Mangosteen, a number of Phuket-based spas look to be highly competitive in the selection process. Awards will be going public in mid-November, with top honors recognizing excellence in innovation, individual destination, cuisine and design. Details can be obtained at W: asiapaawards.com.



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Paying US\$7m for Kamala Liberty



HOUSE ON THE HILL: The Liberty Villa overlooks the Andaman Sea in Kamala.

LIBERTY Villa, a private residence on Millionaire's Mile, designed by Parisian architect Arte Charpentier, has recently been placed on the market for US\$7 million (about 224 million baht).

The one-rai property on the Kamala headland supports a living area of 1,213 square meters which is split into five levels and offers a number of unique features, including a cinema, a private man-made beach and a series of

LUXURY
living

elevators linking floors. The lavish villa flaunts five bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, each decorated in its own unique style and color-scheme.

An entertainment room is

equipped with a poolside deck and mini-kitchen.

Aside from a Thai kitchen, there is also the villa's master kitchen, boasting a breakfast bar with ample space to seat six people and fitted with all mod-cons you would expect in a luxury multi-million baht Phuket pad.

Top-of-the-line appliances, stainless steel cabinets, corian countertops, gas and electric cooking utilities, a ceiling mounted



NOT TOO SHABBY: The villa's cinema (top, right) and some of the bedrooms.

extractor fan and a walk-in wine cooler will keep foodies occupied in the kitchen for a while.

A 17.5-meter by four-meter infinity pool is paired with an outdoor bar for further indulgence and the property's sala has a 270° ocean-view with a wrap-around deck and four sets of floor to ceiling folding glass doors.

Although the villa is well equipped with appliances and

finishings, new buyers will need to furnish the villa with their own ornaments and furniture.

The villa is not listed as a residential property, but instead is listed as a company. Buyers should note they will be buying all shares of the company to purchase the property.

For more information contact Joanne Baylis at E: sales@awesomevillas.com or visit W: awesomevillas.com

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Gardening

By Green Sleeves

ALL GARDENERS have heard of annuals, biennials, and perennials. If pressed, they will tell you that annuals are plants that bloom only once, and will need to be re-planted or re-sown the following year. Biennials, on the other hand, generally flower the year after they have been planted and then give up the ghost, while perennials, in the right conditions, will come back year after year.

The distinction is sometimes blurred in a tropical garden, because many flowering plants here do not die back completely on account of the temperature never dropping low enough to kill them off. For example, pelargoniums [*geraniums*], which in Europe are generally grown as annuals because they will not survive winter frosts, enjoy an extended life-cycle in the sub-tropics and tropics.

Nonetheless, general rules of thumb do apply and most annuals in a Phuket garden will flower only for one season. So why bother with them? After all, shrubs will go on year after year, often with minimal maintenance.

The main reason is that annuals provide a brilliant range of colors, bloom more-or-less continuously during their solitary season, often possess both single and double forms, and generally flower at a manageable height, where their striking hues can be fully appreciated.

Annuals with a low habit include petunias, impatiens [busy lissies], alyssum, gazanias, gerberas, pansies and lobelias. Taller plants include the "black-eyed Susan" [*rudbeckias*], snapdragons, larkspurs, hollyhocks, statice, and cosmos daisies.

Because they invariably grow well in Phuket, favored annuals include African marigolds [*tagetes*] and gomphrenas, an attractive and good-natured annual that thrives in both containers and in open ground. As with the best annuals, *Gomphrena globosa*, also known as "bachelor button", produces its globular, tightly-packed flowers continuously, especially if you dead-head the old bracts. The standard color is deep magenta, but there is also a russet-red cultivar which can be readily propagated from packeted seed.

In bloom but once a year

Simple to maintain, beautiful to look at:
The world of annuals

HEAD TURNER: The gerbera can be found in garden centers throughout Phuket and comes in a range of striking colors. Photo: Forest Purnell

Since it hails from Central America, it is perfectly at home in a Thai garden.

The tender annual gerberas, a spectacular member of the sunflower family, can be found in containers in some garden centers, but less often in actual gardens. It is one of the most dazzling of all the daisies, with large flowers – pink, white, red or yellow – that may be as much as 12cm across, and with a striking center that consists of hundreds of tightly packed florets.

Sometimes this center – or capitulum – is a contrasting black. gerberas require full sun, mildly acidic soil and regular watering in the dry season.

Although they belong to the same family of asteraceae, African marigolds are much less fussy about conditions. Moreover, the *Tagetes erecta* has a happy tendency to self-seed, so last year's crop often reappears, phoenix-like, in the form of seedlings.

The large, densely-petalled heads are usually chrome yellow or deep orange in color, and are often used to provide a vivid border for flower beds.

The smaller French marigold has a neater habit and russet red flowers, often tipped with yellow.

Both have attractive, pinnate leaves and are said to deter certain root-eating critters such as nematodes. When crushed, the leaves exude a pleasant, musky odor. Packets of seeds are widely

available, but you may be able to beg, borrow or steal some from a fellow gardener.

Zinnias are another annual that do well in Thailand. While they can grow in temperate climes, they originate from Mexico and enjoy the sunny climate of places like Phuket.

Zinnia violaceae is one of the most colorful of plants. Apart from the varied flowers, which range in shape from dome to daisy-like, the zinnia has a palette of colors matched by few flowers: white, yellow, orange, red, purple and even green. The flowers appear, characteristically, as single dramatic blooms at the end of long stems, and are much loved by butterflies.

Some gardeners grow them expressly for this reason, but they are a striking flower in their own right. They are easy to grow from seeds, do well in containers, and, like African marigolds, usually reappear as seedlings in the following year.

Two observations: Though they grow in the wild in central America, they appreciate a moist, humus-rich soil and a modicum of shade. Otherwise they will be stunted and produce small flowers. Secondly, do not expect the re-seeded versions exactly to replicate the colors of their parents.

If you have a garden that you would like to see featured, please email pcampbell45@gmail.com.

Tip of the week

Mowing tropical grass

THE GRASS in Phuket lawns may well be Malaysia grass [*stenotaphrum*], also known as St Augustine grass. Other warm-season varieties include Bermuda, bahia, and zoysia, but they are not easy to find. Malaysia grass, recognized by its broad, flat leaves, is arguably better in shade and can tolerate dry periods.

But be careful when you cut Malaysia grass. It has a creeping habit and spreads by means of surface runners or stolons. If you trim it too drastically, the runners will be eliminated, and the grass will lose much of its capacity to thicken and expand. Temperate grasses, such as rye, bluegrass, or fescue enjoy a really close shave, as golf greens testify, but not Malaysia.



Photo: Wikimedia

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FERRARI



Properties For Sale

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS GOLF VILLE



for sale. Kathu, 3 bedrooms, maid room, aircon, small swimming pool, Chanote title. 8 million baht. Tel: 081-854 0061 (English), 087-395 7301 (English & Thai).

2.85 MILLION BAHT NEAR BOAT LAGOON



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30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Daorung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

BRAND-NEW CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

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4 km from Layan Beach, 3 bedroom pool villas for sale or rent. 40% finance available for up to 15 years. Interest free. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709-2933.

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

New 37sqm one-bedroom condo for sale at Royal Place, near the Tesco Lotus intersection on the bypass road. Comes fully furnished including all electrical appliances. Ready to move in August. Complex has pool, gym, restaurant etc. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: drbearnshaw@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale. 62sqw, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

NEW HOUSE IN THE BANYAN VILLA



for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

www.Phuket-Villa-Property.com

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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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet Village at Land & House, Chalong. Good location and entrance from By-Pass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

at Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

LAND IN BANG TAO

for sale. 470sqm, includes Chanote title. Ready to build houses with a fence. Tel: 084-851 6121.

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

LAND FOR SALE

near the main road to Baan Don - Chermg Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1-story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at T. Tai Muang, Phang Nga. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

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for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peace and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.8 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

CONDO IN KRABI

89sqm, 2-bedroom condo, fully furnished. Corner unit, 7th floor in Ao Nang, Krabi. Mountain and sea views. Price: 4.59 million baht. Please contact: K. Chaiyot. Tel: 081-737 9404.

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.

LAYAN LAND



for sale. 11 rai, flat land. 3 min from Layan beach, hill and lake view. Price 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE SEA VIEW LAND

Super sea view land 132sqwah. 76 meter from sea level. Nor sor 3 gor. 2 minutes from Patong Bay. Urgent sale for 8.2 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW LAND

for sale. 17 rai with view of Loch Palm Golf Course. Connects to main road. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Price 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-269 8492.

NEW TOWNHOUSE



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

LIVELY HOUSE IN RAWAI



In 111sq. wah of land. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and space around. No furniture, renovated sale for 3.9 million baht o.n.o. Contact to view or for more info. Tel: 087-689 9679, 084-052 2400.

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR



For sale. 2 rai, 90sq wah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 7.5 million baht o.n.o. No agent! Tel: 087-270 9093.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Gor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

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Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

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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.

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for sale. Ocean, pool & mountain view. Price: 19.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

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

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Located in north Patong. 2 bedrooms. Tel: 086-276 5117. For pics, please contact jihshand@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG

On Nanai Road. 2 stories, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Jungceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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SURIN BEACH

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PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG

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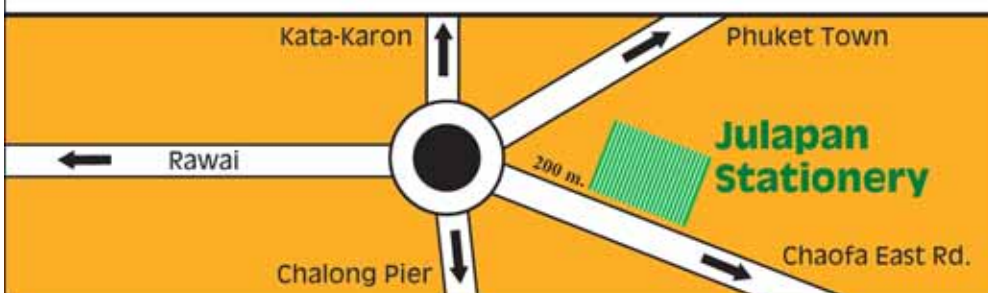
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Furnished with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Located on a private estate with security. Walled pool and garden. 10 minutes to BIS. Rent: 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

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Near the monument, 3 aircons, hi-speed internet, cable TV. Long-term rent preferable. Price: 17,500 baht per month or sale 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

PHUKET VILLA DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

EUROPEAN-STYLE BUNGALOW

Renovated bungalow for long-term rent. 4 bedrooms, large living room, annex, study and dining room. Large renovated western-style kitchen with pantry. Charming front garden and a back garden with totally renovated pool close to Laguna and walking distance to Bang Tao Beach. Tel: 076-270703, 087-265 4268 (English). Email: henkt@hku.hk

FRIENDSHIP BEACH

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen, balcony, garden and gardener, sala & BBQ. Fully furnished including aircon, fans, shared pool, private entrance and secure parking. Price: 18,000 baht per month + utilities + cable + internet/TV. Tel: 089-729 7622

KATA CONDO



Large, western, 110 sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with huge covered terrace Fully fitted teak kitchen, baths with granite tops, fully furnished, cable, ADSL, parking. Located in a quiet area. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

30 RAI FOR LEASE

Flat land in new Daorung School. Very good location for business. More details. Tel: 081-691 2526.

MODERN HOUSE NEAR BANG TAO BEACH



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_supertik@yahoo.co.th

SEA VIEW HOUSE RAWAI

1 bedroom + loft, 1 bathroom, kitchen, high & vaulted ceilings, lots of windows. Fully furnished, Including aircon and WiFi. Price: 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-540 2391.

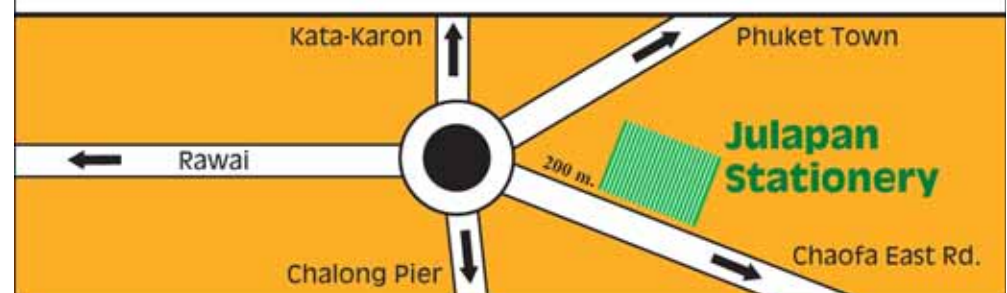
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LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

Riviera 48 Flybridge (2000)

- Caterpillar 3196b 660hp x 2 engines
- Onan 12kw genset (new)
- Full Raymarine instrumentation
- 3 cabin 2 head layout
- Bauer dive compressor
- Thai VAT paid

\$450,000 USD

Firefly 850 Cat (2006)

2,200,000 THB

Kanter 54 (1994)

\$550,000 USD

Jeanneau Prestige 34S (2006)

\$175,000 USD

Gulf Craft Ambassador 25 (2005)

1,750,000 THB

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
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.net

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

DUNCANSON 30 SLOOP
Cruiser/racer, reduced to 1 million baht. 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

SELLING YOUR BOAT?
Try www.boatshedphuket.com The "no sale no fee" brokers. Call Alan for more information. Tel: 084-8426 146.

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.

RL28 SWING KEEL SLOOP
Big sail wardrobe. Price: AUS\$33,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

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. www.boatshedphuket.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

BOAT + INCOME 5 MILLION BAHT



2008 Gulf craft. In perfect condition + fully loaded with the best equipment. Now servicing 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

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.

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

BOAT STORAGE AVAILABLE
Boat storage close to Boat Lagoon. Power, water, security. Contact for more details at: jgkg24@hotmail.com


BAYLINER SPEED 18.5FT BOAT FOR SALE
5.9 meters. 130Hp in outboard, like new. Now 750,000 baht or best offer. More details. Tel: 081-788 8280.

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

PHUKET RACEWEEK 21-25 JULY
Can still take 3 more paying crew on Swan 55 for Raceweek. Call Horst as above for details. Tel: 078-383080, 086-940 1860 (English). Fax 076-381934. Email: bigasail@smart.co.th. www.bigasailing.com

RIVA HULL AND MERCURY 40HP
Riva Hull style, 10m long, for sale to the best offer. Mercury Seapro 40Hp for sale: 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-238947, 081-968 3118. Email: moodiving@yahoo.com

MOTORSAILER



Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

KING'S CUP WINNER FOR SALE
Firefly 850 one design cut. Regatta winner. Top condition. GM racing sails. Price 1.8 million baht. Call Bill 084-057 5756.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES



Word detective secret word: water

Crossword puzzle:

1	A	P	E	R				5	M	A	T	S		9	C	H	I	P				
13	L	U	R	I	D			15	A	L	O	E		16	R	E	N	O				
17	A	N	O	D	E			18	N	O	T	I		19	E	N	D	S				
20	E	T	O			21	S	P	I	T			23	G	H	A	R	R	Y			
						25	V	I	S	A			26	A	N	E	M	I	A			
27	S	A	T	I	R	I	C					30	A	I	R							
31	A	R	O	S	E					32	P	R	O	B	A	B	L	Y				
37	S	E	N	T				38	B	O	R	E	R		40	T	R	I	O			
41	S	A	G	A				42	C	I	T	Y		43	S	L	A	N	G			
								44	E	L	O			45	S	A	V	A	N	N	A	
								47	C	O	L	L	I	E		50	E	V	E	S		
51	W	E	D	E	L	N							52	F	E	E	L		53	A	M	T
56	I	D	E	A				57	E	D	I	T		59	T	A	T	A	R			
61	F	A	T	S				62	A	Y	A	H		63	E	X	T	R	A			
64	E	R	S	E				65	R	E	T	E		66	E	A	S	Y				

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!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

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Last 3 digits on back of card

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

NANNY
JULY 15-SEPT 1
Babysitter for 6 month girl. 11am-5pm. Must speak some English. Tel: 080-521 0788. Email: shopgirl108@gmail.com

POOL MANAGER-ENGINEER
Urgently required a person to manage our large pool inventory. Also an experienced site engineer needed to monitor and supervise staff. Excellent pay and conditions. Tel: 076-527594, 089-1956722. Email: neung@phuketmarbella.com

PR MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR
Palazzo Theatre and Restaurant in Phuket looking for PR Manager/Administrator. Must have experience in the promotion and distribution of an entertainment project in the tourist market. Tel: 076-202277, 082-810 1518 (English). Send your resume to: bondstudios@mail.ru

ENGLISH THAI TEACH
Teachers available in Kathu/Patong. Translation service available. Contact Richi. Tel: 089-723 7727.

POOL CLEANER
Full-time position in Chalong area. Salary includes social security. Tel: 081-8934661, 081-9758351. Email: valiant@loxinfo.co.th

BOUTIQUE HOTEL
Seeking an Assistant Hotel Manager, Thai national - 25 to 35 years old. Must have college degree in hospitality field, 1 year work experience in a hotel - Front Office and Food and Beverage. Must also have strong communication skills in English and knowledgeable in Excel. We offer a competitive salary, very exciting commission and bonus structure. Also seeking: Bartender/Receptionist - Thai national. Must have strong communication skills in English, 1 year work experience in the food and beverage industry, friendly and good with guests. Salary 7,500 baht per month, service charge and bonus. Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccblosseshotel.com

STAFF REQUIRED
Need to strengthen our web development team. Applicants must have previous experience in mainly PHP, MySQL. Knowledge of javascript, css, seo optimization and flash is a plus. Full-time. We'd like you to start ASAP. Tel: 076-239820. Fax: 076-239828. Email: noinah@latitude1maritime.com For further details, please see our website at www.latitude1maritime.com

NEW BUSINESS OPENING PATONG
Famous Entertainment Co Ltd
Seeking the following:
* Club Manager
* Bar Manager
* Restaurant Manager
* Marketing Person
* Accountant/Book Keeper
* Administration Officer
All applicants must have experience in related positions and must speak Thai and English. Will pay top salary and help with relocation for the right person. Contact: Tal Derhy on +66885-00 8646. Please send an updated CV/resume to: tal@themet.com.au

LIVE IN NANNY
Family looking for a live-in nanny/housekeeper. Must speak English and have experience. Please send your CV and reference letter to gala1234573@yahoo.com

NATIVE ENGLISH
Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12, 5-7 years old children, located in Chalong. Work hours: Mon-Fri (08.00-16.00). Start in August. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

PHUKET BABYSITTING
We are a care agency looking for a professional, dedicated career carer for one of our clients. He has a friendly and outgoing personality and requires social and physical support due to a disability. You will be required to help with personal and domestic care duties, such as lifting, washing, dressing, eating and social outings. - Candidates must have good English
- Experience in care work
- References
- Thai national
Please send your CV to: info@phuketbabysitting.com

WINE TASTE
International Wine Importers Co., Ltd.
68 Lagoon Rd, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-270852 Fax: 076-270851

Assistant Accountant

Qualifications:

- High vocational diploma up to a bachelor's degree in related fields
- Experience in basic accounting
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Leadership qualities

Interested candidates, please send your CV with recent photo to: info@wineandtaste.com

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS
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.

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>

INSTITUT ESTHEDERM PARIS
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-esthderm.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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

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




Spa Therapist

- Female (Thai Nationality)
- Minimum 2 years Spa therapy experience in an international standard Spa.
- Relevant license/massage certificate and qualification required.
- Team player and Professional attitude
- Flexibility with scheduling including evening, weekends and holidays.
- Able to communicate verbally in English.
- Non overseas experience is required

Hair Stylist

- Female
- Minimum 2 years Hair styling experience in an international standard Salon.
- Technical skill of ladies and gents' hair cutting and styling, hair coloring, hair straightening, hair treatments, equipment operations, manicure, pedicure and waxing required.
- Team player and professional attitude
- Flexibility with scheduling including evening, weekends and holidays.
- Able to communicate verbally in English.

Please submit your resume with current photograph and salary expectation to
ang@asianahotels.com or shri@asianahotels.com

Asiana Hotel
 1/238, Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR), Semmencherry, Chennai – 600 119, Tamil Nadu, India
www.asianahotels.com



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNICATION LIASION 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



SALA Phuket Resort and Spa:

SALA Phuket is a stylish 5 star resort located on Maikhao Beach, Phuket. The property offers 79 luxurious villas and suites on unspoilt beach frontage.

SALA Resorts and spas is a home grown Thai hospitality company which owns and operates three luxury resorts in the Kingdom.

We are looking for the following professionals:

Food & Beverage

- FB Supervisor 2 Positions
- Waiter/Waitress 2 Positions
- Bartender 2 Positions

Restaurant Manager

Requirements:

- We require an enthusiastic and experienced restaurant professional
- Excellent leadership and communication skills, understandings how to manage people with an emphasis on training & development
- Bangkok F&B experience would be an advantage
- Candidates with restaurant, bar and room service experience is preferred in return for the right candidate an excellent package is on offer

A chance to join one of the most prestigious and talked about 5 star boutique resorts in Phuket

Chief Accountant

1 Position

Spa

- Spa Therapist 1 Position
- Spa Beautician 1 Position

Requirements:

- General knowledge of the hospitality industry
- English Language – moderate to proficient
- Teamwork - must be able to work effectively with all colleagues within the resort

If you have what it takes and you would like to join our dynamic team, please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources Dept. Contact details below.

Human Resources Department
 333 Moo 3, T.Maikhao, A.Talang Phuket 83110 THAILAND
 Tel: 076-338888 Fax: 076-348101 E-mail: hrphuket@salaphuket.com
 For more information about SALA Resorts & Spas
 Please visit our website at www.salaresorts.com

SECRETARY WANTED
 For property management company in Cherng 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.

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.

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 Please visit our website at: www.graingerdesigns.com.au

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-534 4964 (English & Thai). Email: unikorn_jr@yahoo.com

GOLDEN COMPASS MANAGEMENT
 Seeking experienced closers for their desk in Patong. Package includes commission, spiffs and guaranteed daily up flow. Please contact: John Gillinder. Tel: 084-308 3688. Email: johnngillinder@hotmail.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. For further details, please email your CV to: careers@palmhouseprimaryschool.com

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

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

Employment Wanted

EMPLOYMENT WANTED
 Chef with 5 years experience in top London restaurants (Non-request). Tel: 083-640 8003. Email: monodyalderson@hotmail.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

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

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

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

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

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

JIGSAW PUZZLES

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Claire Haigh (right) defeated Sun Jiao in an intense fight at Martial Combat 6 in Singapore. Photo: James Goyder

Phuket fighter takes honors in Singapore

By James Goyder

A LONG-term Phuket resident made history in Singapore earlier this month after claiming an intense victory in the first major women's mixed martial arts fight to ever take place in the country.

Claire Haigh, who is from the UK but has lived in Chalong for over two years, was the star of the show at Martial Combat 6. Her battle against Sun Jiao from China was the fight of the night, with Haigh emerging victorious by way of ground and pound in the third and final round.

Her victory was witnessed by over 1,000 people at Sentosa Resorts World and will be seen by millions more when it is broadcast by ESPN Star Sports to 24 Asian countries.

Haigh is a Muay Thai champion who trains at Tiger Muay Thai and is used to fighting at the stadiums in Patong.

Haigh was the favorite going into the contest, but her Chinese

opponent proved to be stiff competition. The two exchanged explosive attacks in the first round, with Haigh landing a kick and right hook early, followed by Jiao countering with kicks to the lower body.

Haigh dominated most of the round, but the clock expired before she could do any real damage.

In round two, Haigh secured an early take-down and took Jiao's back, but did not manage to force her into submission. Rising to their feet, Haigh landed several key punches to wear Jiao down before securing another Muay Thai clinch and several devastating straight knees before the round finished.

By the third round, it appeared that the body blows were taking their toll on Jiao. Haigh then took the fight to the floor and mounted her opponent while landing a series of brutal elbows, causing the referee to step in and stop the fight with one minute and 30 seconds left on the clock.

"I started to get the timings of her attacks better as the fight progressed, and she didn't seem to be strong on ground fighting positions. Eventually, I was able to take advantage of her fatigue and finish the fight," she said.

The following night at Martial Combat 6, another long term Phuket resident was in action. Ray Elbe, the head of the MMA program at Tiger Muay Thai in Chalong, became the Martial Combat Superfight Champion after defeating Alan Fenades from India with a first round submission.

PM Cup to lure young footy stars

SOME of the most promising young footballers in Thailand will arrive in Phuket at the end of this month to take part in group play of the sixth annual Thailand Prime Minister's Cup football tournament.

Phuket Tourism and Sport Office Director Buayan Suwanmanee said Phuket will host group play in the boy's 16-and-under category from July 31 to August 7.

Big prizes are at stake: the top two teams will go on to play in the 220,000-baht final matches, set to take place at Suphachalasai Stadium in Bangkok from September 17 to 19.

The same prize money will be up for grabs in the 18-and-under category, with 200,000-baht prizes in the 12-and under, 14-and-under and women's open categories.

The men's open winners will

collect a whopping 580,000 baht.

Ten football teams, each the winners of their respective regions, will be divided into two groups as follows:

Group A: Pathum Thani, Nakhon Sawan, Suphanburi, Phatthalung, Bangkok.

Group B: Chonburi, Surin, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, Phuket.

The first match, which kicks off at 4pm on Saturday, July 31 at Surakul Stadium, will pit hometown favorites Phuket against Surin.

Other matches will be played at the FIFA Tsunami Memorial Football Center, at the Baan Ao Nam Bor School on Cape Panwa, and at the Chong Talay Wittayakhom School field.

Be sure not to miss it, the tournament is promising to have some of Thailand's best footballing young stars on show.

— Phuket Gazette

Current standings: Division Two (Southern Section)

Rank	Team	Points	Rank	Team	Points
1	FC Phuket	34	8	Pattani FC	22
2	Satun Utd FC	28	9	Yala FC	21
3	Ranong FC	28	10	Hat Yai FC	20
4	Trang FC	27	11	Nakhon Sri	
5	Surat			Thammarat FC	18
	Thani FC	27	12	Phang Nga FC	15
6	Phatthalung FC	25	13	Chumphon FC	12
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By James Goyder

FC Phuket lost 2-0 at home to Yala on July 18 in a surprise result that is a setback to their otherwise impressive bid to win the Football Association of Thailand's Division Two Southern title.

FC Phuket went into the game at the top of the table having taken maximum points from every home match so far this season.

Yala, by contrast, were sitting in tenth position, with just four wins from sixteen games.

The home side got off to the worst possible start when they conceded the opening goal from a harmless looking free kick after only two minutes.

FC Phuket keeper Safari Nelson was in poor position when Yala's Abdun Safee launched the free kick from the halfway line over his head and into the empty net.

Yala FC could easily have gone two goals up five minutes later when they saw a strike ruled out by a dubious linesman's flag.

FC Phuket enjoyed a lot of possession after that, but were unable to create quality chances and Yala FC took the lead into halftime.

A second half onslaught was expected by the Surakul faithful, but Yala were desperate to hold onto their lead and changed tactics accordingly, choosing to play their midfield extremely close to their defense.

In the 64th minute FC Phuket's teenage striker Adisak Kraisor



DOWN BUT NOT OUT: FC Phuket manager Arjan Songsamsub saw his team lose their first home game this season on July 17. Photo:Fraser Morton

was brought down in the box setting up a penalty kick for Diarra Ali, but it was a tame effort that Yala keeper Nirudin Nideha easily stopped.

The feeling that it was not FC Phuket's day was reinforced five minutes later, when Diarra Ali was given a glorious chance to atone

for his earlier penalty miss but dragged his shot wide.

Despite FC Phuket's dominance, when the second goal did arrive it was Yala who scored it.

In the 84th minute Amat Kadaffi received the ball wide on the left wing while his strike partner Maha Manayoopee was off the pitch

receiving medical treatment.

Alone with four FC Phuket defenders between him and the goal, he decided to go it alone.

He did so with brilliant effect, leaving three defenders trailing in his wake before cutting inside and placing a shot beyond the despairing dive of the hapless Nelson.

Despite the setback, FC Phuket remain seven points clear at the top of Division Two (Southern Section) and are on course for a place in the promotion playoffs.

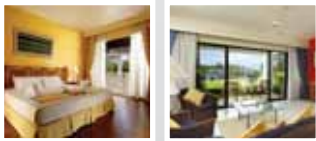
See page 35 for the latest league table for the Division Two Southern title.

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