

Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition

Volume 17 Issue 33

August 14 - 20, 2010

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

Locals want voice in island's future

LOCAL environmental and community groups are fighting the implementation of Phuket's General Development Plan and have filed a written appeal to amend the document, which outlines major development across the island.

Addressed to Gov Wichai Phraisa-ngob, the letter was received last week by Vice Governor Teerayut Eimtrakul who commented that a committee would be arranged to consider issues raised in the document before passing on any suggested amendments to the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning (DPT), reported the Thai Public Relations Department.

The various groups were led by veteran environmental activist Tanu Nabnian. Targets of their suggested amendments are the Phuket General Plan of 2005 as well as a new draft plan not yet approved.

The DPT in conjunction with their Phuket office are amending the Phuket General Development Plan of 2005 and drafting ministerial regulations for a new plan, details of which are currently under consideration by the Office of



CONCRETE JUNGLE: An aerial view of Patong. Environmentalists are pitching for more input in the island's development master plan. Photo: Helicam

Royal Decrees.

"Local groups affected by the plans, under the aegis of the Phuket Coastal Community Organization Network, are exercising our right to petition for amend-

ment, under the relevant laws and the 2007 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, sections 66 and 67, and the National Health Act of 2007, section 11," said Mr Tanu.

"To develop the suggested

amendments the group worked with relevant government agencies, technical institutions, private groups, private development organizations and individual members of our network. The proposed amendments are aimed at fostering balanced, sustainable development and bringing about the utmost benefit to society and the general public," he added.

Amendment of the 2005 Plan and of the draft plan will also "solve problems related to environmental quality, protecting and conserving natural resources, and protecting valuable, beautiful traditions and local culture," Mr Tanu said.

Impetus for the suggested amendments came from review of the draft plan, in which all areas of Phuket with some density of inhabitants were zoned in colors indicating they were all open for continued residential development, he explained.

Most areas were shaded yellow, indicating low-density residential zones.

"But the character of communities differs in the various areas

Continued on Page 2

More airport taxis approved

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE Transport Ministry has formally approved a request by Airports of Thailand (AoT) to increase the number of taxis and vans that can operate at Phuket International Airport by 60.

News of the approval came at a meeting chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Nivit Aroonrat at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 6.

Phuket Land Transport Office Director Kanok Siripanichkorn told the meeting that a letter from the Interior Ministry arrived in Phuket on July 12 confirming that the AoT's request for the increases had been formally approved by the Ministry of Transport.

The request was for long-time concessionaire Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Cooperative Ltd (PBC) to operate 30 more vans and for rival operator Phuket Mai Khao Sakoo (PMK) to operate 30 more taxis.

The request followed a compromise deal brokered by Senate Transport Committee members, Transport Ministry Permanent Secretary Suphoth Sublom and Phuket International Airport Director Pratueng Sornkham in early

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Expats can enter census data online

FOREIGNERS in Phuket wanting to take part in the national census can do so on line from September 1, the Phuket Provincial Statistical Office has told the *Gazette*.

Prapai Pukngarm, a technical and planning officer at the office, said the National Statistical Office (NSO) website (www.nso.go.th) should be ready to accept census data from September 1, when data collection begins nationwide.

The NSO has arranged for Phuket Rajabhat University students to take on the

data collection in Phuket, which began July 1. They were allowed to begin data collection before the rest of the country because of their exam schedule and because the political protests in Bangkok that caused the postponement in some regions of the country did not directly affect Phuket.

Ms Prapai said foreigners can also take part by picking up census forms at Phuket Immigration. The forms are available in different languages, including English, French, Chinese and Japanese.

Once completed, the forms can be returned to the NSO by post, she said.

"However, only about 15% of the forms we have put out are coming back to us, so we would prefer to have our staff collect the data directly," she said.

If nobody is at home when the student census collectors visit, the students will return later and try again.

They also leave "appointment forms" residents can fill out advising them of a convenient time for the students to return, Ms Prapai added.



Paraphernalia used to promote the 10-year event. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

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

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FC Phuket are on the
brink of clinching the
division title.

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City 'wet market' to open this month

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

ALTHOUGH vendors and city officials continue to haggle over costs, the new 280-million-baht wet market on Ranong Rd in Phuket Town will open by the end of the month, Phuket City Municipality says, after Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana and city councilors met vendor representatives at Phuket City Hall on August 2.

It was the third such meeting that aimed at finding a way to get the vendors into the new facility, structural work on which was completed over a year ago.

Mayor Somjai said the market should open by the end of August as 319 of the 425 vendors with rights to occupy stalls had already signed contracts with the city.

The vendors, who have since June 2008 been at a temporary market on Wirat Hongyok Rd set up for them free by the municipality, made five requests to the city during the meeting.

The vendors asked for a reduction in the fee for construction of the custom-built stalls they will occupy, a fee that currently stands at 15,000 baht per square meter.

Mayor Somjai said the fee was



The new market on Ranong Rd. Photo: Phuket Gazette

based on an agreement made at a public hearing four years ago, when both sides accepted that the city would cover 65% of the total construction costs and the tenants would pay the remainder.

This fact and the municipality's current financial situation made it impossible for the municipality to pay more, she said.

The vendors also asked the municipality to lower the fees to be paid to the city when transferring stall rental rights, currently 6,000 baht/sqm in the case of transfer to an unrelated party, and 1,000

baht/sqm in case of transferal to an heir. Mayor Somjai said the high rate was the only way to ensure the market remains in the hands of Phuket Town residents.

The third request by the vendors was to extend the contract rental period from 20 to 30 years.

To this, Mayor Somjai reminded them that all 425 vendors who traded at the old market had been provided space in the new market, even though they had no formal documents guaranteeing such rights when they were at the old market.

Over Bt1m seized in Phuket meth arrest

A FORMER driver at a local school was arrested at Tah Chat Chai checkpoint with 200 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on the evening of August 9.

Acting on a tip-off, Tah Chat Chai Police led by Lt Nopparat Kongsuk pulled over a red-plated Vigo pickup at 7pm.

A search of the vehicle uncovered 200 *ya bah* pills stashed inside a plastic bag stuffed into a sock inside the cab.

Police arrested the driver, 34-year-old Boonsong Pinkaew of Phang Nga.

Also seized along with the Vigo

was 169,000 baht in cash, seven bank account books indicating average balances of about 100,000 baht each, five bank cards and a cellphone.

Police said that Mr Boonsong had confessed to duty officer Watcharin Jirattikalwiwat that he possessed the Category 1 narcotics with intent to distribute to customers in Phuket.

Mr Boonsong explained to the police that he had once been a driver at Thalang Technical College, but then he quit the job when he found trading drugs to be more lucrative.

Locals petition for voice in island development

From page 1

indicating low-density residential zones. "But the character of communities differs in the various areas. Cities, especially, differ from communities outside city limits, and that results in planning at odds with the facts," he said.

Citing as evidence of such, Mr Tanu mentioned "areas slated for single family residences located inside forest conservation areas and exceptions that allowed for apartment blocks in delimited coastal areas... No sorting out has

been done of where development might be appropriate, with the result that it will occur in conservation areas around the island. That conflicts with restrictions aimed at preserving forests, water-courses, aquifers and the environment," he said.

Another concern involved places designated for tourism, recreation and marina development.

"Plans should discriminate between areas appropriate or inappropriate for such developments and clearly specify the kinds of developments allowed. Uncon-

trolled tourism in every locale makes preservation of the environment and fisheries difficult," he said.

V/Gov Teerayut said a committee including members from the Provincial Office, the Provincial Public Works and Planning Office, and representatives from the Phuket Coastal Community Organization Network (PCCON) will consider proposals to amend the draft plan. Proposals accepted by the committee will then be passed on by the Provincial Office to the DPT Planning Commission.

PCCON includes representatives from the Mai Khao Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Group, the Phuket Provincial Resource Conservation Group, the Pa Khlok Community Support Youth Group, the Phuket Community Development Association, the Phuket People's Institute, and the Andaman Natural Resources Revival Co-Operation Organization - "all the grassroots community groups are involved in conservation of coastal resources, protecting forest and other public lands from encroachment, problem-solving and reducing social tensions at the local level, and grassroots economic development," Mr Tanu said.

- Phuket Gazette

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Island readies for revered monk's 114th birthday

By Atchaa Khamlo

HUNDREDS of well-wishers are expected to turn out to see revered Phuket monk Luang Pu Supha at his eponymous temple in Chalong to celebrate his 114th birthday next month.

Although Luang Pu Supha is not recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man, for many of those closest to him, Luang Pu Supha is actually celebrating his 116th birthday.

His birth certificate is claimed to have been registered two years after he was born. The certificate reads September 17, 1896.

This makes him either four days – or two-years and four-days – older than American Walter Bruening, currently recognized as the world's oldest living person.

One of Luang Pu Supha's closest aides and temple committee member, Kriangsak "Ko Keng" Suksoomboon said, "If Guinness World Records would like to come to prove his age, then this would be a good thing, but we will not pay for that," Ko Keng said.

To verify such a record, a Guinness gerontology expert would need to come to Phuket, but at a cost of about US\$5,000.

As this newspaper went to print, Luang Pu Supha was on pilgrimage to a temple in Medan, Indonesia, for five-day trip with his closest aides.



Luang Pu Supha before his pilgrimage to Medan.

Before he left, Luang Pu Supha was in good spirits about his trip and upcoming birthday celebrations.

"His body is strong but inside he is getting old now," said Ko Keng.

Recently Luang Pu Supha was admitted to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok to receive treatment for his "enlarged heart", but has been recovering well, he added.

The supercentenarian birthday celebrations will begin on September 16 and continue the next day.

Luang Pu Supha plans to release 119 birds to freedom as well as award 139 scholarships before members of the public will be invited to pay their respects at 1pm on his birthday.

Additional reporting by Fraser Morten

More airport taxis on their way

From page 1

tor Pratueng Sornkham in early May.

The deal came during an emergency meeting at the airport following complaints by the PBC that PMK had been unjustly awarded the right to operate 30 more limousines at the airport.

Under the compromise agreement now approved, the PBC's 30 new passenger vans will raise its

fleet total to 180 vehicles: 150 taxis and 30 minivans. Phuket Mai Khao Sakoo will have 110 vehicles: 50 minivans and 60 taxis.

The new vehicles will be allowed to operate without an increase in concession fees until the two groups' current concession contracts expire.

The PBC contract ends September 12, while the PMK concession runs until January 11 next year.

Two more tourists drown

THE body Bahraini tourist Ali Abdulaziz Alsaheed, 25, was recovered early on August 10, three days after disappearing in heavy surf off Karon Beach.

Mr Alsaheed worked as a life-guard at a water park in Bahrain from February to July before resigning to take his post as a physical education teacher.

Mr Alsaheed was one of two foreign tourists to drown at a Phuket beach on August 8.

The other was Chinese tourist Chao Dakun, who reportedly died at Patong Hospital after being pulled unconscious from the water at Kata Beach.

Absolute check on street cred

A RECENT flurry of complaints to the *Gazette* about Absolute street touts in Patong intimidating tourists beyond the bounds of reasonable salesmanship has prompted the fractional ownership operation to "seriously review the conduct and personal discipline of its marketing staff" and introduce a zero-tolerance policy on its staff intimidating potential clients.

Among the complainants to call the *Gazette* was an Australian tourist who has returned to Phuket for his annual vacation for the past five years. "They follow you everywhere, and they just keep on following you... It's ruining the whole street. I've never seen it so bad," he said.

Astounded by the frequency he and his friends were stopped on the street, they decided to count how many times they were approached in a single day. The total: 17 times in one day.

"They even stop the bikes. This morning I saw an Absolute bike actually turn around and chase a tourist who was riding another bike, which is terrible," he added.

In a formal reply by email to the *Gazette*, Tony O'Reilly, Strategic Marketing Director of Absolute Group of Companies, said, "Absolute would like to remind the public that there are many companies operating on the streets of Phuket, and Absolute does seem to regularly get blamed for the negative actions of others. Being the biggest, we are a soft target, but we accept this fact."

"Over the last few months Absolute have terminated a dozen or so staff for exactly the type of misconduct stated above. These individuals were then employed by various other companies in Phuket, and have been spotted



Absolute street staff (right) have a tough new 'zero tolerance' policy to face if found harrasing potential clients. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

wearing Absolute uniforms whilst employed by somebody else. Absolute are striving to eradicate this problem."

To avoid such complaints being leveled at the company again, Mr O'Reilly announced, "Further to these recent remarks, Absolutes Global Board of Directors has put in place a new groundbreaking 'Zero Tolerance Policy' for Absolute employees."

"To that end, a new help-line number 076-346256 has been established so that any disgruntled members of the general public can talk directly to management or leave a message."

"All comments will be registered and made accountable for immediate follow up, with the responsible staff members acknowledging that the net result could be dismissal/work permit removed."

"Further still, [people can] email Feedback@Absolutemail.net and we will also act upon the infor-

mation supplied (in strictest confidence).

He added that all Absolute street staff now must wear name badges and unique numbers on their persons for easy identification.

"So that the general public's perception of Absolute is clear. Absolute totally understands that there should always be an equilibrium between 'disturbing' a tourist and 'supplying information/an opportunity' to a tourist. Absolute's goal always being that of a balanced approach and not to be intimidating," explained Mr O'Reilly.

"The reality is and always has been, that when followed with politeness and mutual respect, the approach of the tourists is highly successful from the perspective of supporting commerce in Phuket and Thailand and has been creating jobs in Thailand and supporting various charities for years and years," he said.

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DINERS at the popular P Pizza House restaurant in Samkong, Phuket Town, got a fright recently when a man in an adjacent lot fired up a blowtorch and began searing the flesh of what appeared to be a strange new creature with enormous front claws.

Closer inspection revealed the animal was in fact a goose the man had caught and killed, then hung upside down with wire.

The surprised diners initially confused its rump and anus for a one-eyed head and its thin neck for a tail. Its webbed feet, curled up under the effect of rigor mortis, were mistaken for claws. P Pizza serves tasty Italian and Thai cuisine – but goose is not on the menu.

Lucky numbers take root

AN OBSCENELY-shaped tree at a police station in the northern province of Phayao has reportedly predicted the winning lottery numbers.

The talented tamarind tree is in the yard of Phayao Muang Police Station. The tree has an approximately two-foot-long gash in its trunk with a fist-sized sparkling lump at one end.

Villagers say the combination makes the tree look like it has a large female sexual organ.

QUEER news

Thongphian Thammakhan, 50, the owner of a shop on the police station grounds, said the tree is about 100 years old. She said the tree has always had the gash in the trunk but has only recently

developed the shiny mound. Villagers are apparently unsure as to why the lump shines.

Using deeply-held beliefs in numerology, villagers managed to find the number 008 in the tree's trunk. Some villagers then bought lottery tickets in Phayao. After the number came up, the reputation of the tree soared.

There are as yet no further reports of correct predictions from the tree.

– Thai Rath

Taking

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE past two weeks have been busy for scam artists, as well as the law enforcement agencies tasked with catching them. Nine Taiwanese and four Chinese nationals arrested in Chonburi on August 6 are alleged to have lured people into transferring more than 350 million baht into their accounts via ATM machines.

Shortly after, two Germans were arrested as suspected members of an internet banking theft ring targeting Thais. The pair are suspected of transferring some 100 million baht from Thai bank accounts.

Meanwhile, Phuket has been experiencing its own hike in ATM crime. The latest scam to hit the island involves an elaborate scheme using a fake automated phone call from a bank, a person to field questions from the victim live on the phone, and a woman impersonating a Royal Thai Police Department of Special Investigation (DSI) officer.

One woman who nearly fell prey to the con artists told the *Gazette*, "One day I got an automated call with a recorded voice saying the message was from Kasikorn Bank (KBank). It said I was more than 38,000 baht overdue in credit card payments.

"The call asked me to press a button to be put through to the call center if I had any questions. I was angry because I didn't have any credit cards, so I pressed the call center extension."

"The man who answered the phone said I was in debt and had to pay it back. I insisted I never had a credit card, never even applied for one.

"He asked me more questions: whether I had ever applied for any credit cards or paid for anything with a credit card belonging to someone else. I didn't like these questions; they didn't seem right to me," she said.

"Then he told me that someone might be using a copy of my ID card to apply for credit cards," she added. That scared her.

"He said he would contact the DSI to confirm whether I had any



outstanding debts. If not, I would be sent an official letter confirming I had no debts and would not have to pay any money 'back'."

About five minutes later, she received a call from a woman saying she was the DSI officer assigned to her case.

"She spoke so quickly and used such long words that I could not catch her name and position. She said she was recording the conversation and told me to answer truthfully, or I would end up in a lot of trouble," said the woman.

THE STING

"I told her everything, that I had never used or even applied for a credit card, I told her how many bank accounts I had and how much I had in each bank account.

"After I strongly insisted I owed no debts, the woman said she would send me a 'very important document' confirming this. I gave her my address, but the letter never arrived."



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scams to the bank



ATM attack: Paying the price

ON MARCH 3, Ian Laferme, one of the longest-residing foreigners on Phuket and holder of the first work permit issued in Phuket, went to update his bankbook at the ATM of the Chalong branch of Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) – only to discover more than 300,000 baht was missing.

Flustered, he entered the bank only to be told that the book was issued by the SCB Rassada branch in Phuket Town, so he had to go there to complain.

At the Rassada branch, staff printed out the details of the transactions showing that about 50,000 baht per day was taken out with five 10,000-baht withdrawals per day. All the transactions were done via ATMs in Pattaya over a week, though Mr Laferme says the card literally stayed in his wallet right up until he discovered the money had gone. The bank said this was a police matter.



CCTV image of a man withdrawing money from Mr Laferme's account.

Phuket City Police, however, told Mr Laferme that they have no dealings with Pattaya police, and that he should go to Pattaya to file the report there.

So Mr Laferme went to Pattaya City Police Station and filed report on March 5, and then on to SCB's head office in Bangkok, where he contacted their fraud section and filed a report there.

After being stonewalled by the bank for over a month Mr Laferme

enlisted the help of a friend, David Kirk, to help him with research and correspondence.

In the correspondence was a CCTV photograph of a young foreigner with a baseball cap withdrawing money from Mr Laferme's account.

Surawit Chamrascharoen, manager of SCB's Fraud Management Division, told the *Gazette*, "I have submitted an official request for special consideration under the circumstances given, but the bank maintains that it's the consumer's responsibility."

"My superiors know he has filed complaints with all the related organizations and we are happy to give those agencies the reasons why the bank has made its decision... My superiors have also contacted him directly, but we will not give any details to the media."

– Marc Mulloy
and Atchaa Khamlo

TRICKY: Know exactly which buttons to press, and why. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

"Everything seemed so real: the automated call, the sound of the people typing on the phone, the noise of the recording machine starting. They gave names, positions and departments all with clear voices," she recalled.

Fortunately, the woman had very little money in her bank accounts at the time. "If they had called after pay day, I probably would have lost my money," she said.

The woman explained that a friend's recent bad experience was still fresh in her mind when the scammers called.

"My friend told me that her farang friend got a call like this, believed them and transferred over 100,000 baht.

"They asked her to go to the ATM, press the buttons for a foreign language and follow their directions on which buttons to press after that. She didn't know she was transferring money," she said.

FOREWARNED

The growing menace of ATM crime has spurred banks nationwide to issue customer warnings. Kuanchai Waiyasuttra, of KBank's Public Relations department, explained, "This problem has been around for a long time. We have conducted public awareness campaigns warning not just our customers, but everyone.

"Recently, the bank board gave radio interviews to warn people. If people are not sure, they should call our office. Some people continue to be fooled into transferring money to criminals, so all banks, including ours, keep warning people."

At Bangkok Bank, call center staffer Apinya Kuedjaeng said the bank was taking steps to make it clear on ATM screens when a transfer

was about to take place. No matter what language the entry screen was set for, warning messages in English and Thai will appear, she said. "The new system will be available soon, but we don't have a launch date yet," she said, adding that her bank received many reports of scammers trying the "foreign language" trick.

"People who have been tricked like this must report it to the police straight away, then the police will fax the report to the bank so we can freeze the ATM cards and bank accounts immediately," Ms Apinya said.

An officer at the DSI, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette*, "We often hold press conferences and warn people via TV and newspapers."

The division gets its fair share of scam reports. One call center officer said that some 20 reports are filed a day on average.

Any suspected scams can be reported by calling the police hotline 1135, the officer added.

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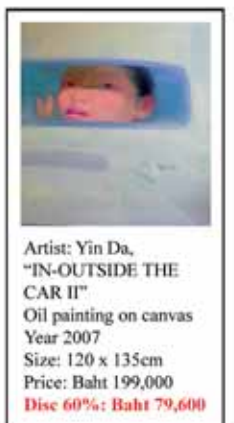
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999 rare trees honor Mother's Day

PHUKET Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop on August 9 presided over the opening of a project to plant 999 *yang na* trees at Rama IX Park as part of activities in honor of HM The Queen's Birthday on August 12.

The Kata-Karon Hotel Business Association, together with Krungthai Bank, the Rotary Club of Tungkha and the Phuket chapter of the volunteer Land Protection Unit of the Royal Thai Army Women's Reserve Corps, started proceedings at 9am.

As most Thais consider the number "9"

auspicious, activities included the release of 9,999 "effective micro-organism" (EM) balls into ponds at the park, also known as Suan Luang. EM balls are said to benefit whatever environment they are introduced into.

Yang na or "hariy-leaved apitong" trees, were once common on the island but have been reduced to only 10, said Kata-Karon Hotel Business Association President Somchai Silapont. Reaching up to 40 meters, the species is known as the "king of trees" in Southeast Asia, he added.

Among the many dignitaries present were Gov Wichai's wife Thaisika, who attended in her capacity as President of the Phuket chapter of the Thai Red Cross Society, and Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana.

The project fell under an Interior Ministry initiative that aimed to have 7.7 million *yang na* trees planted throughout the country as a tribute to HM Queen Sirikit.

The project, which began August 12 last year, was to be completed by August 12 this year.



Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop plants a *yang na* tree with his wife, Thaisika.

Bus terminal saga continues

PHUKET: A plan by the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) to open its new provincial bus station by October 1 is in jeopardy because local residents oppose having buses do U-turns on Thepkasattri Road, the *Gazette* has learned.

PLTO Chief Kanok Siri-panichkorn told the *Gazette* earlier this month that his office hoped to have the 128-million-baht facility in operation by October 1.

Work on Phuket Bus Terminal 2 was completed in December last year, but neither Rassada Municipality nor the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, citing financial constraints, agreed to take over its day-to-day operation.

Mr Kanok told the *Gazette* that his agency would run the station itself until Rassada Municipality is ready for the task, but opposition to that plan is now coming from local residents.

Local residents say its opening would endanger them because it would force departing buses to do U-turns on busy Thepkasattri Road. They also noted that no public hearings were ever held on issues that would directly affect them.

Those opposed have posted large banners in the area that read



TURNAROUND: Under the plan, this U-turn will accommodate all northbound buses leaving the new bus terminal.

"For the safety of local residents, don't let buses U-turn here."

Among the most notable local residents of the area are the Wanich family, whose estate sits right in front of the U-turn.

Phuket Provincial Office will now need to meet with the local

residents and their leaders to try to find an equitable solution, but the process will delay the opening past the originally scheduled October 1 date, Mr Kanok said.

When the project was first put forward by the Transport Office it included plans to build a flyover

that would have eliminated the need for large tour buses to make U-turns on Thepkasattri Rd, already Phuket's longest and most deadly stretch of road.

That vital element of the project was never approved, however.

— Stephen Michael Fein

Foreign tourists lax on learning Thai culture

FOREIGN visitors to Phuket make some, but not considerable, effort to understand and respect Thai culture, the latest *Phuket Gazette* Readers' Poll reveals.

A total of 325 readers took part in the two-week survey, starting July 22.

The poll followed a report by the local Culture Ministry office that a foreigner running a restaurant in Patong had disrespected local culture by modifying a large Buddha image to serve as a garden fountain, one with water flowing from the top of its head.

Overall, 58% agreed with the statement "foreign tourists make some, but not considerable, effort to understand and respect Thai culture." A smaller number, 27.4%, felt "foreign tourists make little or no effort to understand and respect Thai culture."

The least popular of the three responses received 13.8% of the vote: "Foreign tourists make a strong effort to understand and respect Thai culture." There was little variation among those identifying themselves as resident expats or Thai nationals: about a third of both groups felt tourists made little or no effort to understand the local culture.

Of those identifying themselves as tourists or visitors to Phuket, 20% felt this was the case.

Another 20% said they felt foreign tourists make a strong effort to understand and respect Thai culture. The majority (60%) felt the effort lay somewhere in the middle.

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Protesters flout decree

AROUND THE nation

PROTESTS continue as both yellow and red shirts gather despite the emergency rule banning gatherings of more than five people in Bangkok and nine other provinces.

On August 7 at least 1,500 members of a yellow-shirt faction calling itself the Thailand Patriots Network (TPN) rallied in central Bangkok, demanding the government take firmer action on the Preah Vihear border dispute with Cambodia.

The next day, around 200 members of pro-democracy group Red Sunday rallied in Chiang Rai to protest the arrests in July of five students for violating the emergency law, Thai daily newspaper *Khao Sod* reported.

There were no reports of arrests at either protest.

Although the World Court ruled in 1962 that the Preah Vihear temple belonged to Cambodia, Thai nationalists claim it as their own. The 4.6-square-kilometer plot of land around the temple is also disputed.

Protesters were demanding the annulment of a memorandum of



PM Abhisit tries to reassure PAD protesters. Photo: The Nation

understanding (MoU) signed by former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai in 2000, claiming it effectively ceded the disputed land to Cambodia.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva took the unusual step of speaking in front of the protesters, telling them that the MoU was merely an agreement to start the process of

boundary demarcation and did not infringe on Thai sovereignty.

The PM also held a three-hour televised debate with TPN leaders on April 8.

The opposition Pheu Thai Party claimed the PM's Democrat Party and the TPN were stirring up nationalism to distract the public's attention away from the terrorism

proceedings underway against leaders from the closely aligned People's Alliance for Democracy.

Pheu Thai earlier announced it would take legal action against the government if it failed to stop the protest. If the government did nothing, it would prove the government applied "double standards", Pheu Thai Party spokesman Jirayu Huangsap said.

The Pheu Thai Party was notably silent on the Red Sunday protest.

The Red Sunday protest was led by veteran democracy activist Sombat Boon-ngam-anong.

Protesters dressed in school uniforms tied a large red ribbon to the City Tower Clock in Chiang Rai, where emergency rule still applies.

The demonstration was a reaction to the arrests of four university students and one high-school student who have been charged with violating the emergency decree. The high-school student was forced to undergo mental evaluation by authorities.

"This is a severe violation of political rights," Mr Sombat told *The Nation* newspaper.

"Millions of people are against this law, including Anand Panyarachun, chairman of the Committee on National Reform. Does this mean millions of Thais are crazy?"

— *Phuket Gazette*

Thailand's new top cop to take on corruption

POLICE General Wichean Pote-phosree is to become Thailand's new national police chief following a vote by the National Police Board on August 9.

The board took just 15 minutes to confirm the promotion, voting 8-0 in favor of Gen Wichean's candidacy, Thai daily newspaper *Khao Sod* reported.

Gen Wichean is currently deputy police chief under acting chief Gen Prateep Tanprasert. He will take over after Gen Prateep retires next month.

Among his priorities are ending the politicization of the force and rooting out corruption.

Gen Wichien spent the major part of his career as a royal guard before being elevated to the rank of general in 2002. He returned to the police service after the 2006 coup. Although he is widely respected in security circles, he claims no power base among police ranks.



'Tour company' drugged customers

POLICE have arrested a gang of five whose Bangkok tour company was allegedly a front for a credit card fraud operation.

Members of the gang plied tourists with water laced with sleeping pills, then stole their credit cards.

The suspects were named at police press conference August 7 as Kittaya Suansamosorn, 32, Thatchai Jilirachaneekorn, 32, Thanit Daojaroenphorn, 29,

Phakphum Sriphaphong, 32, and Thalisa Daojaroenphorn, 32.

Mr Thatchai told police he arranged tours around Bangkok and other provinces. Most of his clients and victims were foreign tourists.

The suspects will be charged with a range of offenses including theft, fraud and forging official documents.

— *Kom Chad Luek*

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What a disgrace!

I am appalled about the discovery of the cockfighting ring in Rawai reported in last weeks *Gazette*.

As if there weren't enough animal cruelty going on in this country with all the stray cats and dogs, elephants working in the tourism industry and monkeys performing shows, people find a way to make this kind of torture a sport! Terrible!

I know that gambling to the detriment of animals is commonplace around the world, but it just saddens me to hear that it is going on in my own backyard. I hope that the police continue to uncover and fine these people so this kind of behavior will stop.

Megan O'Rieley
Rawai

Stop pointing the finger over drowning deaths

I am tired of hearing about what needs to be done, what is being done, and what is being done wrong regarding beach safety.

Yes, there are beach guards, red flags, verbal warnings, visibly turbulent seas, shortages of ambulances, need for more funding and a high number of deaths.

The fact that emergency response and search and rescue may not be up to par with what is expected in more developed countries is something that needs to be addressed.

But, it won't do anything to discourage excited tourists who will – as it has been shown – take a dip in Phuket's dangerous waters at any cost.

There are only a few ways to prevent these tragedies from recurring: one highly effective, yet

When traffic ills become terminal

Phuket Gazette

RESIDENTS of Rassada Village 2 have good reason to complain about the lack of a public hearing before the construction of Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in their community, but now that the station has sat idle for seven months, it is time for all stakeholders to sit down together and work out a solution acceptable to all sides.

As long-term observers of the local media will recall, plans to build a new bus terminal outside the city center dated back decades.

The need for a new station was obvious for years: the narrow streets and increasing traffic congestion of Phuket Town made it no place for lumbering air-conditioned coaches spewing out diesel exhaust on their way to the old terminal off Phang Nga Rd, which can hardly be considered a convenient or central location in 2010.

Much like plans to build an international convention center somewhere on the island, the issue of where to site the new terminal was a sticking point for years. Numerous possible sites were put forward then rejected, even as land prices continued to skyrocket.

As written in this space years ago, a better location for the station would have been closer to Bang Khu Junction, where the bypass road splits from Thepkasattri Rd. This would have spared taxis, cars and buses the need to head north to reach the bypass road on their way to destinations to the south and west.

But given the years of delay, the Phuket Land Transport Office under its chief Kanok Siripanichkorn is to be commended for finally

getting the Transport Ministry to fund the project, even if the location on the heavy-traffic Thepkasattri Rd southbound is less than ideal in several respects – some of which are just now coming into sharper focus [see Page 6].

In the latest development, local leaders have submitted a letter of complaint to Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop. Apart from the impending traffic nightmare that will result from buses doing U-turns on Thepkasattri Rd, they have also complained that they were never given a chance to voice their concerns at a public hearing. If this is indeed the case, it is an exceptional oversight given the fact that bus stations around the world are loud and dirty, attracting a fair share of vagrants, touts and criminals.

But looking at a positive side that few seem to have considered, the bus station will inevitably bring a lot of commerce to an area that until recently had only the Supercheap shopping complex as its main commercial drawing card.

All that said, the terminal is built, much-needed and its eventual opening inevitable. There are several ways to deal with the traffic problems, but it must be done quickly and in a way acceptable to local residents whose concerns have been ignored for too long.

We just need to learn to deal with the fact that this is going to happen and stop pointing the finger at beach guards, hotels and whomever else we feel like blaming, aside from overly-confident tourists.

Carl Johns
Rawai

One man's dog is another man's black pudding

I read a letter in a recent *Gazette* about a man who was worried that someone would one day make a "hotdog" out of his little Manchester Terrier [Phuket Gazette, Bang Tao: Please don't eat my dog, July 31].

At first thought the idea that someone could actually eat man's supposed best friend was unimaginable.

Then I began thinking about the things that the majority demographic here on this island eat.

I have seen skinned frogs stacked on tables with more live frogs in a bucket nearby, in case supplies run dry. I have seen the empty shells of big apple snails, and I have seen some other familiar animal shapes hanging from hooks in market stalls. There are the fried beetles and crickets as well as snakes and their blood.

It seems that Asian people in general eat just about anything. I have Korean friends who have eaten cats and dogs.

Westerners are quick to label them as barbaric or primitive for eating creatures we would normally keep for pets.

We don't realize, until pointed out, that there are things we eat that they think are ludicrous: crocodiles, horses, haggis, black pudding, white pudding, and whales.

Vicky
Phuket

costly measure would be to have the beaches cordoned off and patrolled by armed police or soldiers who would arrest anyone trying to swim. Another would be to ban travel to Phuket during the monsoon season; I'm sure everyone

would be thrilled with that. Or, could we possibly steer beachgoers to the much less "touristy" east coast? I somehow doubt that would happen without someone whinging.

Unless something of this mag-

nitude takes place, we are not going to see much of a change in behavior on our beaches. Improvements in beach guarding and lifesaving techniques are essential, but by no means will affect a drastic reduction in drownings.

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website services: koy@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net

Events Sponsorships: events@phuketgazette.net

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

Issues & Answers...

What's with the cable porn?

Did anyone notice the Korean porno on Phuket Cable Channel 1 the other day? It wasn't just once or twice, but for hours. I kept flicking back as I couldn't believe it was still going.

My husband said I must have been dreaming because porn is illegal in Thailand.

I'm not happy with Phuket Cable Company. I can only take so much of the inefficient monitoring of programs.

Movies that are supposed to be in English, but yet again they switch to Thai. Who else out there has had enough? I know I have.

Toni Ashton-Moir
Kathu

A staff member at Phuket Cable Co Ltd replies:

We did not play any porn films, and we are so sorry about this happening. There was a technical fault with the broadcasting equipment, and the porn film was

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IssuesAnswers

somehow broadcast to our viewers by accident.

About programs being broadcast in the wrong language, this is also the result of problems with the equipment. The language automatically switches from English to Thai. We have already informed the TV signal control room about all of these problems.

We have had many customers calling to complain about this issue.

For more information, call us at 076-258448.

Blinded by the signs

As residents on Soi Khuanyang on Patong Hill, we were already

struggling to get out onto Phra Barami Rd.

Now it has become even more difficult because several commercial signs block the view so that it is nearly impossible to see cars coming from the left. Who is permitting these signs and who can we complain to?

An officer at Patong Municipality replies:

Patong Municipality approved permission for the signs to be erected. If you wish to file a complaint, you can do so directly to Patong Municipality.

You can also call directly to the Public Works Division of Patong Municipality at 076-342630 to file your complaint.

Are contracts written in English valid in Thailand?

According to the local police in Phuket, the contracts that I have made with my ex-girlfriend are not

Fins for the future

FIRST PERSON

FINSWIMMING is swimming with either bifins (traditional fins) or monofins, which is a single fin with both feet attached. Fins can increase your swimming speed by up to 30% and provide the freedom to move like a fish. It is claimed that with a monofin, a person can swim up to 30 or 35 kilometers-per-hour, which is the fastest underwater speed for a human.

When you use the monofin to swim, you can move really fast and burn more calories because it requires the use of almost every muscle, especially in the abdomen, back, waist and legs.

I have been involved with swimming since I was six years old and have taught swimming in three different countries over 20 years. Thailand is the first place I have encountered where children are first taught to swim without fins. I think this is odd, because it is harder to swim without fins. They should first train with fins, then move on to swimming without them.

If we think about sitting down, standing up and walking, we will notice that our feet are always grounded on some kind of surface. We know there is something underneath our feet, which allows us to decide which direction we will go. But in the water, we are floating and don't know which direction we will go, as the options are greater. That tends to cause people to panic, or have fear.

Using fins, however, creates a feeling of standing on something, helping us float in the water. It provides a more "familiar" feeling and can help people succeed in swim-



Vladimir Karmazin, 54, is a Russian world-class finswimmer and trainer. With over 20 years experience teaching the sport, he was trainer of the Thailand finswimming team that brought home six medals from the 25th SEA Games in Laos last November. He now runs a private finswimming training business at Phuket Country Home Village on Chao Fa East Road.

ming. That's why I suggest swim teachers in Thailand train their students how to swim using fins, before doing so without. Start with bifins, then progress to the monofin.

I think the future for the monofin looks strong. There really isn't any equipment that could better help us use our own muscles to go faster in water. The shape could be modified a bit. If you notice how a fish swims, its tail is connected to its spine so it can move faster. In the future, we may have some new type of equipment that mimics this so we can more accurately imitate the movement of fish. Regardless of equipment, to succeed in competition and go faster, swimmers need to have strong bodies and minds to drive

them toward their goal.

Countries with good fin-swimmers are Russia, China, Columbia and Italy. Thailand has the potential to go far with this sport as well. I have trained 28 national finswimmers for Thailand, and I hope to train swimming teachers on finswimming so they can spread this sport among younger generations.

I held a training session supported by the TDA Diving Association (Thailand) on August 7 and 8 and hope to do more in the future. Later we can gather these students to build a national finswimming team for international competition.

*Compiled by
Pimwara Choksakulpan*

The butt of a smoking joke

Island View

By Fraser Morton

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



Messages on outdoor ashtrays like this one are common in the UK.

THERE'S good reason for non-smokers to be fuming on Phuket.

Two years after the government slapped a smoking ban on air-conditioned restaurants and pubs, it's easier than ever to breathe in second-hand smoke or get burned by some cigarette-wielding maniac in a disco on Soi Open-late at 3am.

February 11, 2008 was when smokers nationwide wheezed in disbelief at news of the government's smoking ban.

Mobs of non-smokers goaded their smoking friends as the habit seemed to finally have been kicked out the door marked "socially acceptable" and into the gutter marked "filthy-undesirable-habit".

Additionally, owners of outdoor restaurants and markets were required to designate smoking zones.

Show me one smoking zone in a market or outdoor restaurant in Phuket today and I'll eat my hat, a big one.

Fines for violations were set at 20,000 baht for venue operators and each offender forced to pay 2,000 baht.

It's such a hard law to enforce in Phuket.

For a start, the sheer number of bars, clubs and restaurants in nightlife areas make it difficult for police to check every night.

If 200 people are caught puffing away in one club, then who gets a ticket? All of them? That's a lot of paperwork.

Throw in the added bonus of bar staff trying to tell their intoxicated customers that they can't enjoy their favorite pastime with their favorite ale, and all hell is li-

able to break loose.

I would hazard a guess that the reason for the lack of enforcement is two-fold: Venues, can't, or won't enforce the ban in crowded clubs because there are too many offenders to keep tabs on and police can't waste time stubbing out punters' cigarettes and writing them up.

So what's the answer?

In the UK, local councils have hired teams of "smoke police" that have helped enforce the smoking ban.

But wait, comes the cry, "Doesn't Phuket have volunteer, and foreign volunteer police officers already?"

Yes, we do.

Maybe it's time Phuket's volunteer police officers are given powers to fine smoking punters in Phuket nightclubs.

It might help us all breathe easier.

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

valid because they are in English. Is this true?

These particular contracts concern objects such as land, motorbikes, houses and so on. They are written according to English law and they all include signatures from both parties and witnesses.

If the contracts are not valid, what should I have done to make a valid contract?

*Tommy
Address supplied*

Anuwat Nittayaweerawat, case officer at the Phuket Provincial Court, replies:

This contract is valid, but it must be translated into Thai language. The police will not accept the contract in English. You will need to get a translation from a translation center.

This is not a criminal case, it is a civil case, but the police will make a record of the contracts if you bring them in Thai.

You can hire a lawyer to sue your ex-girlfriend if she has defaulted on any of the contracts.

The case would be handled by the Phuket Provincial Court.

For more information, call the Phuket Provincial Court at 076-211160 or 076-210269.

Someone's killing our cats and dogs

For the second time in one year someone spread poison around our village on purpose, killing several dogs and cats.

I think this is illegal, and I'm wondering who to contact with this issue.

*Caroline Susan Boysen
Thalang*

An officer at the Thalang Police Station replies:

Pets are personal possessions and if you find that yours have been poisoned you can report it to the police responsible for your area.

Also, if you suspect someone of poisoning other animals in your area, you can report it to local police.

For more information, call Thalang Police Station at 076-313919.

Meting out the taxi surcharges

Last week I used a "meter taxi" from the airport with a friend who wanted to go to Patong.

I wanted to get out of the taxi at the Caltex gas station in Kathu.

When they realized this at the meter taxi office, they demanded that I pay 600 baht because there would be two drop-offs.

This is a meter taxi, so any additional drop-offs should be factored into the price of the meter, right?

The fact that the taxi wouldn't need to make any adjustment to its route to drop me off made no difference.

We took the taxi, I got out when the lights were red and when it arrived in Patong the price wasn't the 430 baht on the meter, but 600 baht.

Considering all this, how can

they call themselves "meter" taxis?

*Matt
Kathu*

An officer at the Taxi Meter Association replies:

If one person takes a meter taxi to Patong, it will cost about 450 baht and we normally use the meter.

The price to drop off an additional passenger – even if it's on the way – will be more than the normal fare.

We will settle on a price before leaving the airport.

If you get into any of our meter taxis and the driver does not turn on the meter, please note the license plate number and the name of the driver posted inside the taxi.

You can then call us with the information at 076-202171 or 082-4211644 and we will look into it and take action.

For more information, please visit our website at taximeter-phuket.com.

Alternatively, send an email to us at taxi.meter.phuket@hotmail.com.

Do I need a work permit to sell land?

Do foreigners need a work permit to sell real estate in Thailand?

Name and address supplied

An officer at the Phuket Provincial Land Office replies:

If you mean to ask whether or not foreigners can work for a company and sell real estate as part of an ongoing business, then you will need a work permit to sell land like this.

However, if you are asking about selling your own land, then you probably already know that foreigners cannot own land in Thailand in their own name, though they may own their houses and buildings in their own name.

If the property is land and is "owned" through a company and you do not work for that company, then you don't need to have a work permit to sell that property.

For more information, call the Phuket Provincial Land Office at 076-212103.

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



Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket has appointed **Sriparin Nuthae** as their new Marketing Communications and Public Relations Manager. Ms Sriparin holds a masters degree in Business Administration in Hospitality and Tourism Management and two bachelor degrees. Prior to joining Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, Ms Sriparin worked at Banyan Tree Phuket and Al Wadi, United Arab Emirates.



Indigo Pearl has promoted **Ana Soriano** as their new Director of Housekeeping. She is originally from the Philippines and graduated in Hotel and Restaurant Administration from the University of the Philippines. Ms Soriano has many years experience as a housekeeper, having worked in numerous countries, including Brunei, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia for five-star independent boutique hotels.



Pongsaton Jomtepmala, has opened "Sub Pongsaton," a distribution company for whiskey and water to restaurants, bars, hotels, tour companies and events. He graduated from the Prince of Songkla University, majoring in Computer Engineering. He previously worked at the *Phuket Gazette* in IT support, and has opened Suk ko restaurant in Yaowarat Road.

THAI and Tiger merger takes off

Phuket to benefit from more budget flights on smaller planes

By Alastair Carthew

THAI Airways International (THAI) recently announced a joint venture with Singapore's low-cost carrier Tiger Airways.

This will benefit Phuket travelers wanting more options for direct flights outside of Thailand and will significantly increase the capacity of domestic low-cost flights.

The deal, however, has become somewhat subject to internal Thai political wrangling, which may affect the final structure of the joint venture.

THAI President Piyasvasti Amranand said the joint venture would take on the ever-expanding AirAsia in the budget operator sector. The current plan is to start flying early 2011 to eight destinations from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

Nok Air, THAI's own budget subsidiary, which has weathered tough times, has also announced a plan to add eight planes – four Boeing 737-800s and four ATR-72 turboprops – to its current fleet of eight aircraft.

This should also benefit Phuket, as Nok Air currently only has one daily return flight between Bangkok and Phuket. More capacity would enable this to increase,



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: Nok Air – THAI's budget subsidiary – will expand its fleet by eight new planes to offer more budget flights as part of a new business venture with Singapore's Tiger Airways. Photo: Binder donedat/Flickr

especially during the high season.

Phuket's positioning in this grand strategy, as the key tourist destination in Thailand, is absolutely pivotal to THAI/Tiger Airways, Nok Air and AirAsia.

With 19 daily flights the Bangkok-Phuket route is AirAsia's largest by far within Thailand. THAI currently operates 13 daily flights on the route.

Using the Phuket-Singapore

route as an example, THAI flies to Singapore 17 times daily, but all of them via Bangkok. AirAsia flies directly from Phuket to Singapore once daily while Tiger Airways also has one daily return flight.

Direct flights on budget carriers that avoid the need to transit through a premium carrier's hub are clearly preferred by customers, particularly within a region like Asia, with many prime

locations within a close radius.

AirAsia, through various subsidiaries, has quickly built a network flying to more than 20 countries, including Great Britain, China, Taiwan, and Australia, as well as to Phuket, Haad Yai, Krabi, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani and Chiang Mai in Thailand.

Tiger Airways has found the competition from AirAsia and other budget carriers very intense,

so THAI's 49 percent share-holding (100 million baht) and the opportunity to expand its network with even more flights to major destinations like Phuket will underpin such expansion.

Tiger Airways currently flies to destinations within an approximate five-hour radius around Singapore to 19 destinations in eight countries around the region. Thailand is its first and biggest market, with four cities served.

Tiger Airways' consolidated profit recently improved by 568 million baht – from a loss of 340 million baht in 2007 to a profit of 227 million baht in 2008. Not bad for a startup operation.

But Asia is now awash with budget carriers, so the joint venture also makes sense in shoring up THAI's full service network in Asia and growing Tiger Airways'. Competitors for the joint venture in Asia include Firefly out of Penang, Hong Kong Express, Jetstar Australia, Silk Air Singapore and Pacific Airlines Vietnam, to name a few.

The joint venture strategy appears to be for Tiger Airways to take AirAsia head on in prices out of Thailand, rather than trying to compete from its current Singapore hub, thus taking advantage of Thailand's central location.

The big question that remains is whether Tiger Airways will cannibalize THAI's full service routes to such destinations, resulting in a loss of income.

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Resilient real estate market

CBRE reports first quarter high, but projects a dip next quarter due to the ongoing EU debt crisis.

By Anand Singh

PHUKET'S residential property market has shown signs of recovery throughout the first quarter of this year, according to research by CB Richard Ellis Thailand.

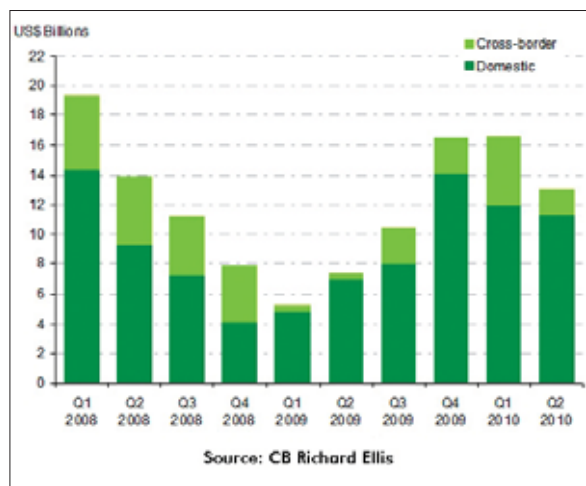
The island's market pricing has held strong because of the limited supply and cost of beach-front properties, CBRE reports.

This fundamental appeal has enabled Phuket's real estate market to abate the problems brought about by the global financial crisis, which has caused downturn in several other rival markets.

With the Thai political climate improving significantly in recent months, the next quarters may continue to show improved growth.

Although this year's first quarter saw growth in residential property sales, these did not compare to the rates enjoyed in 2007, before the onset of the financial crisis.

In addition to luxury villas that have attracted wealthy buyers for years, condominiums and resort-style apartments are becoming popular amongst buyers who are



looking for more affordable choices of residence.

At the start of this year, the total number of completed resort condominiums stood at about 3,000, an increase of 39% from the start of last year. CBRE estimates that 88% of these completed units have been sold.

The hotel market on the other hand showed remarkable recovery compared to the first quarter of last year, with average daily rates of selected hotels rising by as much as 7.6%, compared

to the same period last year.

According to research published by CBRE Thailand, the luxury hotel sector saw the most impressive growth in average daily rates, up by 10.3% from last year's first quarter.

Occupancy rates of selected hotels had also risen from 61.9% in last year's first quarter to 79.3% in this year's first quarter. That said, more newly built hotels are continuing to join the market.

The total supply of hotel rooms increased by 18% in the first quarter

this year, compared to last year.

According to CBRE, there are several hotels under construction around the island that, when completed, could add thousands more rooms to the island's hotel industry. By next year the total supply of hotel rooms is predicted to increase by 26.2%.

The south-western coast of Phuket remains a strong area for hotel developers, with a majority of the island's hotels located around the three main beaches: Patong, Kata and Karon.

However, data on the second quarter of this year showed that real estate markets in Asia took a dip compared to the first quarter, with investment volumes falling by 22% quarter-on-quarter.

With news of the sovereign debt crisis in the EU threatening to derail the fragile global economic recovery, investor sentiment may have been hampered significantly. Phuket's real estate market continues to recover year-on-year, in line with other markets in Asia's major commercial centers.



ON THE UP: Interest in condominiums and waterfront properties like this pool villa at the Paresa Resort have helped Phuket's real estate market in Q1 this year (see graph). Photo: Paresa

Accor expanding into Thai mega-brand

ACCOR plans to operate up to 13 additional hotels in Thailand over the next three years, which will make it the largest international chain operator in the country.

Paul Stevens, Accor Thailand director of operations, on August 9 said the group would operate four new hotels in Bangkok with a total of 1,030 rooms by the end of this year.

He said the group had also signed management agreements with eight or nine hotels and resorts in destinations

including Phuket, Samui and Pattaya.

Accor claims to be the largest international hotel-chain operator in Thailand in terms of number of rooms. The group currently operates 42 properties with 10,044 rooms under several brands: Sofitel, Pullman, Novotel, Grand Mercure, Mercure, M Gallery and ibis.

"Thailand has the potential to grow due to its good location in the region, its culture and food, infrastructure and logistics system and inexpensive destinations," said Mr Stevens.

During the recent political violence in Bangkok, the Accor group closed seven hotels in the capital. However, the group resumed operations shortly after the rioting ended.

Mr Stevens said the group had already received new bookings averaging 78-85% of capacity for the run-up to the high season, similar to the same period last year but 15% higher than in 2008.

"We see the coming months running into the high season being surprisingly buoy-

ant. There is no reason why the high season cannot eclipse last seasons's results" he said.

He said foreigners were returning to Thailand and that hotel business was recovering. However, the group will not start lowering its rates, preferring to use a more strategic approach to win business.

He added that general occupancy and growth in market share in key areas such as Bangkok and Phuket were quiet positive.

- The Nation

BitSiren Company Ltd.,
Phuket, Thailand

has acquired the operating assets of

Asia Webworks Company Ltd.,
Phuket, Thailand

with effect from August 1, 2010.

R. Fox & Co. acted as principal advisor to
BitSiren Co. Ltd. in this transaction.

This announcement appears as a matter of record.

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Pantuda 'Goi' Jivavisitnont and her son Porpiang 'Paul' Jivavisitnont.



Pornpun Thanangpol and her son Yanakorn 'Focus' Thanangpol, also pictured top right.

Child's play

New early-learning center is giving parents an alternative and fun educational option for their kids.

WITH the recent opening of Gymboree Play and Music Center, a new early-learning center in Central Festival, Phuket toddlers and their parents are having a ball – painting, scrambling over climbing frames – and most importantly getting a professional education service in a safe environment.

The Gymboree Play & Music Center opened its doors on June 19 and offers classes for children under the age of five. The world-wide educational franchise has become one of the leaders in childrens' development programs and focuses on three main areas of growth – cognitive, physical and social.

Gymboree staff believe the parent and child interacting together allows the parent the opportunity to better understand their child's development.

After moving to Phuket from Malaysia, Khun Kanokporn "A" Ilstam, Managing Director of the Gymboree, said that her idea to open a center on the island came from a lack of good educational resources for young children on Phuket.

"I found that there were no places for kids under five-years-old. It made me think about what those children are doing at home, whether they were sleeping all day or watching TV," said Mrs Kanokporn.

But with her new venture, Mrs Kanokporn and her team of qualified teachers are giving young children a new educational platform to prepare them for primary school.

Gymboree's headquarters are based in San Francisco where the first center was opened by founder Joan Barnes in 1976.

It has since grown, with over 630 institutes world-wide, each of which receive teaching materials from the U.S in order to meet international education standards.

Parents at the Phuket branch already seem pleased with the results. Parent Pantuda Jivavisitnont said: "I bring my child to Gymboree because I want him to learn more than just a normal classroom syllabus. He can enjoy fun activities and learn social skills at here."

– Thanasorn Chookate



Kanokporn 'A' Ilstam, Managing Director of Gymboree. Photos: Thanasorn Chookate

Faking it: It's not worth it for a few baht

WELCOME to the *Gazette's* new column dedicated to teaching English as a foreign language on Phuket. Once a month, this column will shine light on industry developments, share classroom insights, tackle tough issues like corporal punishment and discuss the ins-and-outs of legal issues affecting teachers today.

Let's begin with the most commonly asked question: Do I need a university degree to teach? Well, the short answer is: It depends.

According to the Teachers' Council of Thailand, a teacher is someone who "is licensed to give services to the public based on knowledge and expertise". This basically means all teachers at

primary, secondary and university-levels of education, as well as language schools and teacher training centers, need a teaching license.

Legislators had to set the bar somewhere and considering degrees mean so much in Thai culture, issuing licenses based on degree certificates was the logical benchmark. Cry foul if you must, but you can file complaints higher than the palm trees and still not change a thing.

Whether it be a bachelor's degree of arts or science, for the purposes of obtaining a license, it matters not in the eyes of officials at the Ministry of Education (MoE). Just be sure to keep your original degree in a safe place.

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

Scrape the bottom of the options barrel and talk of fake degrees soon surfaces. Regardless of the merits of this deceptive method, those days are nearly over. The sooner people realize that, the sooner we can stop talking about them.

People certainly teach on Phuket with fake degrees, but they do so at a significant risk to their pocketbooks and freedom. Remember that if caught teaching with fake credentials, punishment is much more severe than simply teaching without a work permit.

The Kingdom saw a wave of illegal teachers arrested in 2007. It has been reported that random background checks on 1,000 of the 6,807 foreign nationals that applied for teaching licenses found that 65 produced false certificates

to obtain their jobs – which is not a terribly high number.

In 2009, a high-profile member of Thailand's most popular forum for foreign teachers was arrested for teaching without a license. His punishment was lenient – a 3,000 baht fine and a six-month suspended prison sentence. It should have been double, he reportedly said.

Following the arrest, the teacher in question publicly warned others in the industry.

"There is someone at the Ministry checking all degrees...I think that you [teachers] have every reason to be concerned. I got off light, but I fear that this will not happen in every case," he added. When it comes to obtaining a license, "be careful" is the message from the hapless teacher in this case.

Yet it's not all doom and gloom for those without degrees on Phuket.

Juggling a spot of teaching

between beach time for Phuket teachers is possible, but it means that they'll be limited to jobs that do not require the MoE's license.

Non-licensed teaching jobs can be found in the corporate sector. These gigs are harder to find and tend to be awarded to those who go out in search of jobs rather than waiting for them to drop like rays of sunshine from Phuket's skies.

Many unlicensed teachers take risks by teaching small classes or private lessons where wages are low. On Phuket, pay rates range between 200-500 baht an hour, which is well below averages found off Phuket. Added to this, they can expect lots of travel time, plenty of unpaid cancellations and odd hours. Of course, some are able to make this work, but it does take time and it isn't the type of teaching job most are looking for.

While those without degrees are tempted to risk it, they shouldn't forget that they risk getting severely burned in a number of ways. Their employers know this too, and may ask to work for extremely low wages or apply pressure to work in sub-standard conditions. Unlicensed teaching also doesn't lend itself to chasing up clients who don't pay.

Like it or not, with a degree in-hand, doors open and salaries improve while academia's rays of legitimacy shine down upon these teachers' newly tanned and smiling faces.

See www.ksp.or.th/Khurusapha/en/ for more information on teaching licences in Thailand.

If you have a TEFL or TESOL issue you want addressed, contact Eric at kru.phuket@gmail.com

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Footloose with Tocqueville

Books

By James Eckardt

Parrot and Olivier in America

By Peter Carey

FOR most novelists, the pinnacle of their lifetime achievement is winning the Booker Prize.

Peter Carey has won two of them; one for *Oscar and Lucinda*, a novel about colonial Australia, and another for *True History of the Kelly Gang*, about the outback folk hero Ned Kelly. Born in Australia, he has lived in New York City for the past couple decades.

In his twelfth novel, *Parrot and Olivier in America* (Faber and Faber, London, 2010, 451pp) he follows his usual pattern of adapting an historical novel to address contemporary concerns. In this case, his subject is the nature of democracy. The novel is based on Alexis de Tocqueville's journey to



America in the 1830s, which formed the basis for his celebrated book on American democracy.

This is fiction, however, and Carey takes great liberties. The real de Tocqueville was accompanied by a fellow French aristocrat on his journey. Carey conveniently kills this companion off in a dual

shortly before the de Tocqueville character — Olivier Jean-Baptiste de Clarel de Barfleur de Barmont — sails from the coast of France. The real focus is on his fictional traveling companion, the English servant and radical printer Jack Parrot.

The aristocrat Olivier is appalled by the results of the French Revolution and Napoleon.

On the opposite end of the social spectrum is Jack Parrot, who grew up in England wandering with his itinerant printer father. Printers in those days were great admirers of other politically radical figures like Thomas Paine and Benjamin Franklin. But a shady counterfeiting scheme causes Jack to lose his father and set off on a life of exile in Australia and France.

He is recruited by a royalist spy and secret lover of Olivier's mother, to accompany Olivier on his voyage to America. The two initially despise each other and their alternate narrative chapters are richly comical in their mutual misunderstanding. America will,

of course, change both of them.

Two thirds through the story, after a separation, Olivier encounters a stranger on the docks of Philadelphia who appears "illiterate, hard as wood, overdressed, uncultured..."

Olivier sees in this stranger and his appearance an embodiment of the spirit of the forming

democracy in America

In a clever and revealing twist, the stranger then salutes Olivier as he realizes it's his own servant.

The two come to an understanding in the strange new world, alternating between helping and exasperating each other. The plot gallops along with all manner of wildly comical characters.

Bestsellers

English language books in Thailand

1) The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

Stieg Larsson (350 baht)

2) Last Night in Twisted River

John Irving (350 baht)

3) The Girl who Played with Fire

Stieg Larsson (350 baht)

4) I, Alex Cross

James Patterson (350 baht)

5) Assegai – Wilbur Smith (350 baht)



Behind the pages

Suzanne Collins

FEW authors have the skill to tap into the young adult readership so successfully that adults are forced to acknowledge the hype, often becoming fans themselves in the process.

Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy is the latest series to create such an international reading sensation, joining the ranks of Harry Potter and Twilight.

The latest installment of the trilogy, *Mockingjay*, currently holds the third spot on amazon.com's top 10 bestsellers list, and that's just from pre-sales.

Novels with such universal appeal often make overnight superstars of the authors. Hardly a household name before the first *Hunger Games* book was released in 2008, *Time Magazine* named Collins as one of 2010's most influential people in the world.

Her career began as a writer for children's television shows before writing books for younger children. *Hunger Games* was her first attempt to reach the teenage audience, much to the delight of her ever-growing fan base. One *Mockingjay* fan wrote on a review



Collins at the 2010 Time 100 most influential people in the world gala.

blog: "Love this book. If I wasn't married, I'd have to marry this book. I read it so quickly it was never even on my 'currently reading' shelf, which I've only done before with Harry Potter books."

While not all may share the extent of this reader's enthusiasm, the hysteria is undeniable.

— Scott Phillips

Photo: Wikimedia



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David Arell

DAVID Arell has been the Director for Chem-Dry Thailand for the past ten years. With his brother, Richard, they brought one of the world's largest cleaning systems to the country with their master franchise.

More recently, David has embarked on a brand new venture, Sustainable Return Ltd, with O.B. Wetzell, well known for his work with luxury villa projects. Sustainable Return offers environmentally appropriate technologies to the building industry. David is an Accredited Professional with LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

"Chem Dry is proud to be offering Green Cleaning, using a cleaner called 'The Natural', which is safe for the environment and effective on everything from boats to mattresses," he says.

He manages the staff at Chem Dry and focuses on business development, strategic planning and operations, as well as accounting and information systems.

David is also very active with the Rotary Club of Patong Beach where he served as President in 2006-2007. He also served, from 2008-2009, as Assistant Governor of the Rotary District in which Phuket's several Phuket Rotary clubs are based.

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

He spends much of his free time volunteering with Rotary projects around the island. During his tenure as President, he worked with a Rotary Club in Sweden to help Life Home Project, a local initiative to assist women and children with HIV, to acquire a water filtration system, a vehicle and a kitchen.

On an ongoing basis, David works to expand the club's Scholarship program for Thai students in primary and secondary schools.

David was born in the U.S. and attended the University of Massachusetts before graduating from the University of Arizona in 1982, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

He was recruited by Macy's, one of America's leading department stores, for their management training Program and spent most of the 1980s working for Macy's in New York City, in positions of increasing responsibility – audit manager, accounts payable manager and sales manager.

"Living in New York City during the 1980s was fantastic. I spent my free time going to some of the world's best museums and best live theater, and rollerblading around Central Park."

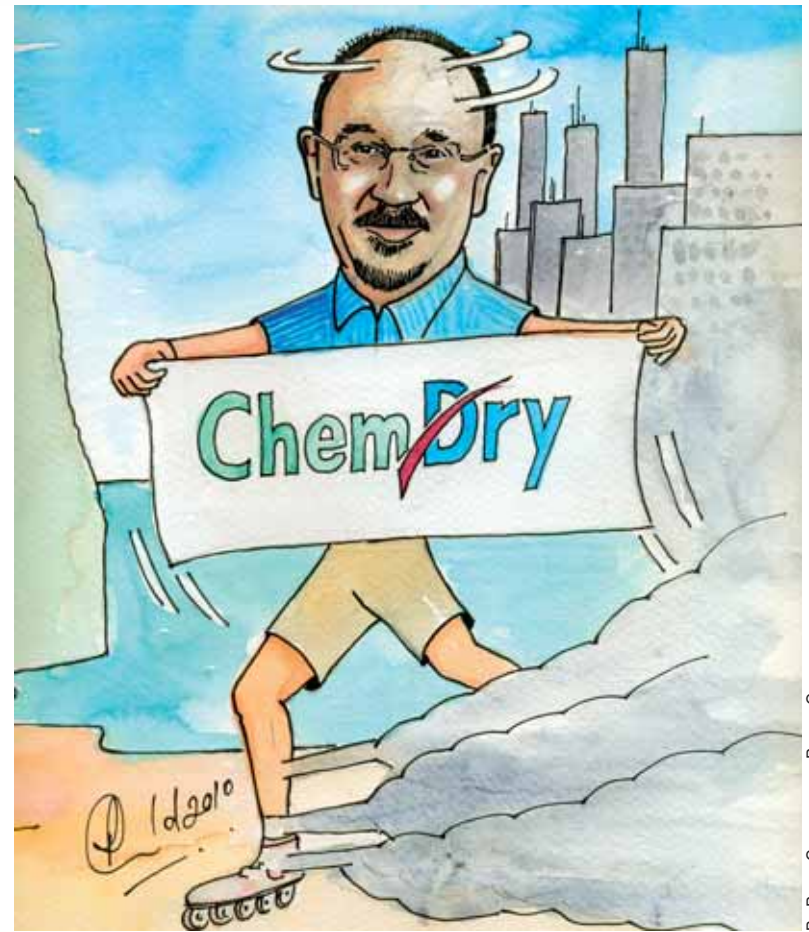
During the early 1990s, David was Director of Selling Services for Conran's Habitat, a national home furnishings chain, where he supervised distribution, catalogue operations and sales audits.

He was then VP - Administration for Herman's Sporting Goods where he performed a successful merger that brought the business out of bankruptcy by implementing cost control programs.

Before he moved to Thailand to set up his own business with his brother in 2000, David helped organize start-up companies and worked as Chief Financial Officer and Controller for other businesses.

"My brother and I had talked for many years about working together. After my first visit to Thailand, I decided it was time to look for an opportunity, and found it in the purchase of the master franchise for Thailand for Chem-Dry, which has 3,000 offices in 50 countries."

David most recently joined the Board and serves as Vice President of the Home and Life Orphanage in Phang Nga, which cares for 23 orphans. When he is not busy devoting his free time to others, he does yoga, reads and develops his skills as a fantasy and science fiction writer.



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

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

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Fixing Rino's broken heart

Father battles to save his 10-year-old son from a rare heart condition.

By Marc Mulloy

LITTLE Rino Mangon Vogt is a boy who knows he could die before the end of this year. He has just turned 10-years-old.

Rino is suffering from a rare and congenital heart condition known as Ebstein's Anomaly. Usually present at birth, this life threatening anomaly can show itself at any time, even into adulthood.

The cause lies within one of the heart's valves. It is enlarged, in the wrong position and is leaking blood back into the heart. Left untreated the weakened heart will degenerate and form blood clots, giving rise to strokes, tissue damage in the heart, often leading to death.

Rino's father, locally known musician, songwriter and film-maker Ritchie Newton, is determined to save his son. He spends 18-hours-a-day working to raise the money needed for a life-saving operation for Rino. He has formed Rino's Heart Foundation – a certified trust to handle donations – and is organizing sponsorships, performances and events using every ounce of his love and energy to raise the money needed.

"I will never forget the night we came back from Bangkok in June after checking Rino's heart with a cardiologist. The diagnosis was devastating," said Ritchie.

"Rino was exhausted from all the tests and went straight to bed. I felt so helpless, so angry and sad. I asked myself over and over, 'What the hell can I do to save his life?'"

"I looked in at Rino sleeping... I vowed to move heaven and earth for my lovely



BRAVE: Rino Mangon Vogt urgently needs an operation to fix his broken heart.

boy. I was going to do whatever it took. I was not going to allow him to die. And this was the moment that his song came into my heart."

The song is called *Together We Are Strong* and was recorded by Ritchie the following day in his studio and later on with musicians from all over Koh Samui including the choir from Rino's school.

"This was the hardest song I have ever written. I cried my heart out with every line I wrote," said Ritchie.

The song and the charity Ritchie founded aims to raise the two-million baht needed to cover Rino's open-heart surgery and the aftercare that will need to follow.

"First I must save my son, but if there is more money I want to continue helping any child who has this condition."

Ritchie has already asked Rino's doctor to look out for another child to help. He has put his

career on hold and intends to devote himself to saving children.

"The song *Together We Are Strong* is my gift to all kids suffering from this affliction," Ritchie said.

Ritchie has already received in-cash and-kind donations, but more are needed to save little Rino.

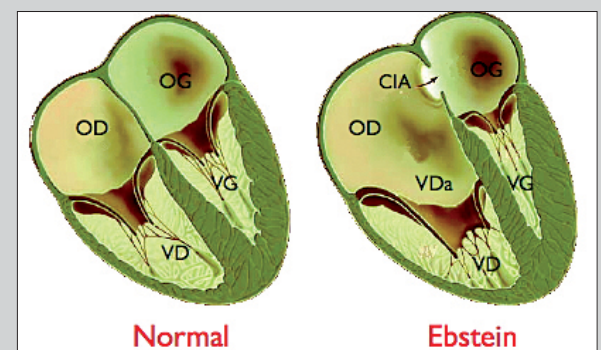
In a bid to raise more funds, Ritchie is organizing Rock4Rino, an all-day family music festival in Koh Samui on October 24, as well as many other community events.

Ritchie has already approached Thai



FATHER'S HELP: Ritchie Newton is trying to raise money for Rino.

What's wrong with Rino's heart?



Normal **Ebstein**

Ebstein's anomaly is a heart defect in which the opening of the tricuspid valve is displaced towards the apex of the right ventricle of the heart. This causes the right atrium to be large and the anatomic right ventricle to be small in size.

reggae legend Job2Do and has confirmed bands including Ovada Showband, Rock Angels, Siam Band and Climax Band who will perform at the Koh Samui benefit.

When asked what message Ritchie wanted to put out to *Gazette* readers he said: "How many parents and kids have to go through what we are now going through? We need everyone's help to reach our target so please help us in any way at all. Remember there are lives depending on it."

See www.rinosheart.com for more information on Rino's heart condition and progress.


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Reeling in wonder at a tiny fish dish

CHEF Jared Hucks, who creates the beautiful food at the ultra chic Da Maurizio Ristorante in Patong, finds the taste of umami the most exciting in his cuisine.

It is widely considered to be the newest taste sensation, fusing sweet, sour, bitter and salty to define the personality of fine ingredients.

Umami's savory flavors arise from the presence of glutamic acid, which provides an accelerated impact to specific meats, mushrooms and even some vegetables.

Chef Jared is both an artist and a scientist in the kitchen.

He is intrigued about what happens when traditional menus combine with unique ingredients to create the Da

In the Kitchen with Chef Jared Hucks

Maurizio standard of tradition, evolution and balance.

He also likes to stimulate his guests' sense of wonder at food.

"I want to appeal to all five of the senses when I consider the potential combinations and preparation of food," he says.

Jared attended the prestigious French Culinary Institute in New York and was Chef de Passionate and Chef de Partie at the Sydney Opera House.

In addition to the above, he has also filled the position of Chef de Partie at some of the top restaurants in Colorado,

the ski capital of America.

Advice he gives for the recipe he has shared below is "For fresh Phuket Sardine filets I would suggest going to the seafront at Rawai beach and buying the fish as it comes off the boat.

"Make sure the flesh is firm and the eyes are clear and the gills are a nice, healthy, red color".

Furthermore, he says "always buy fish that is packed in ice and never buy fish that has been soaking under water".

For the recipe below Jared says the combination of the sardines, zucchini, potato, tomato foam and spices will produce umami taste sensation.

— Bruce Stanley



FISH ON A DISH: Chef Jared Hucks and his sardine speciality.



Fresh Phuket sardine filets with zucchini croquettes and tomato foam

Prep time: 1 hour +
Cooking time: 3-4 minutes

Basil Foam

Ingredients:

500g Roma tomato
10g fresh basil
A pinch of sea salt

Method

Chop tomatoes and rinse basil. Place in a food processor with some salt and blend for five minutes. Refrigerate for half an hour.

Zucchini Croquette

Ingredients:

300g zucchini
1 small potato
½tsp fresh chopped parsley
½tsp fresh chopped thyme
1tsp chopped spring onion
2tsp chopped shallot
1tsp grated lemon zest
2tbsp parmigiano reggiano

1 pinch of cayenne pepper
1 egg yolk (keep the white for crusting)

For crusting and frying

125g bread crumbs in a small mixing bowl
125g semolina or all purpose flour in a small mixing bowl
3 whisked eggs in small mixing bowl
Pure olive oil for shallow frying

Method

Parboil potato until tender. Let cool. Grate zucchini and potato into a bowl, add egg yolk and chopped herbs. Preserve in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes.

Make eight cakes about 30 grams each and dip each one into the flour, then the egg and finally coat it with bread crumbs.

In a sauté pan, heat a quarter to half an inch of olive oil to about 325°F (165°C) and add a few the croquettes. Fry for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown.

Remove and place them on a paper towel to drain the oil.

Fresh Sardine Filets

Ingredients:

100-120g fresh sardines
40ml pure olive oil
1 clove smashed garlic
2 pinches of sea salt
2 pinches of freshly ground white pepper

Method

Filet and remove sardine rib bones. Season with salt and pepper. Over medium heat, warm a sauté pan, add the olive oil and the garlic.

When garlic begins to sizzle, add fish, skin facing up, and turn the heat down. Cook for 30-45 seconds.

Remove fillets from pan and place on clean towel to drain oil.

To serve, place croquettes on plate and lay a sardine fillet on top of it. Dollop the basil foam to the top and garnish to individual preference. Serves 2-4.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 26-August 20. Summer Family Festival at Laguna

The Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival is for kids and parents. There will be a bouncy castle, flying trapeze and "Kidz Lounge" with activities for the young ones. Parents can enjoy 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

August 19-20. Passion for Perfume Workshop

The Passion for Perfume Program at The Pavillions is conducted by world-renowned perfumer Stephen V Dowthwaite. He will help attendees create a personal scent. Price for the two-day workshop is 7,000++ baht. From 9am-5pm. For more information please contact Sophie Couturier T: 076-317600 E: rm.phuket@thepavillionsresorts.com W: thepavillionsresorts.com

August 19. Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

PIWC's August lunch will be held at Indochine in Kamala, from 11:30am-2pm. Everyone is welcome. Members: 450 baht; guests 600 baht. It is necessary to register in advance. This is a monthly event; the next one will be on September 16. Contact Carole Dux for more information: T: 076-200730 E: arnulpthy@loxinfo.co.th W: phuketiwc.com

August 20. Back to Skool Party

It's back to school at Laguna Phuket! The Back to School party in Canal Village will bring down the curtain on this year's Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival. Students can join Laguna in the festivities by wearing their school uniforms for a night of fun. Entertainment includes a flying trapeze show, barbecue fare, bouncy

Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal – Aug 20



Come enjoy an authentic Indian curry buffet. Selections include Chicken Tikka Masala, Mutton Vindaloo, juicy kebabs and much more. All you can eat for 399 baht. Draught beer by the glass for 50 baht and special discounts on other drinks. At Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. From 7pm-11:30pm on alternating Fridays. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For further information contact Seemant Raju. T: 081-629 5063 E: sm@karonseasand.com W: karonseasand.com

castle, trampoline and more. From 5:30-10:30 at the Canal Village in Laguna Phuket. For more information contact Robin Wilson T: 076-326300 E: robinw@lagunaphuket.com W: lagunaphuket.com/familyfestival

August 24-28. Lebanese Cuisine with Chef Suleiman Abu Tarieh

Evason invites everyone to sample the creations of Chef Suleiman as a guest chef. He specializes in Middle Eastern foods, particularly Arabic and Lebanese cuisines, and has created some dishes that fuse classical ingredients and add a modern twist. From 6pm-11:30pm each night at the Into the Med restaurant in Evason. For more information contact Alain Ruffier T: 076-381010 E: eamfb-phuket@sixsenses.com W: sixsenses.com

August 29. Scrambles Golf Tournament

The Rotary Club presents the 2010 Patong Beach Fun & Charity Golf Tournament. All profits are donated to the Home & Life Phang Nga Family Care Foundation to provide a safe and caring home for children. The golfing fee is 3,500 baht with the LPGC member discounted rate, including dinner. Dinner alone for 600 baht per person; children under seven

years free. For more information contact OB Wetzell 081-892 9207 E: ob@sustainablereturn.com W: rotarypatong.org

September 5. Amateur Golf Open Tournament

The third round of the tournament to find Phuket's best amateur golfer is being held at the Blue Canyon Country Club's Lakes Course. Trophies will be awarded to the top three players in each flight. The top two places in each flight join the 12 qualifiers from the previous rounds in the season-ending Master's event, to be held in May 2011. From 12pm-3pm. Contact Neil or Mark T: 087-856 4426 E: phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com W: phuketamateurgolfopen.com

October 1-3. Asian Hospitality & Travel Show

The Asian Hospitality & Travel Show will bring together suppliers and exhibitors in industries from all over Asia and will offer professionally coordinated business appointments between sellers and suppliers. 2,000+ visitors are expected. From 11am-8pm at Central Festival Exhibition Centre. Contact Simon Samaan for more information. T: 084-768 0536 E: simon@eventsthailand.net W: eventsthailand.net

October 23. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ok Pansa)

On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) is over for the monks.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

This holiday commemorates the

reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 2-7. 2010 Swatch FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour for women.

Over 70 of the world's top volleyball teams will take part in this year's tournament. Volleyball clinics and an amateur tournament will be ongoing. Admission is free. From 9am-6:30pm at Karon Beach. Contact Geoffrey Rowe T: 02-311 3414 E: geoffrey@pentanglepromotions.com W: pentanglepromotions.com

November 13. 'One Night in Rio' PIWC's Annual Party

The Phuket International Women's Club annual fund raising event will be held at The Hilton from 6:30pm-1am under the theme "One Night in Rio". Tickets are 3,000 baht, inclusive of Latin American cocktails, buffet dinner, drinks and entertainment. Early bird discount for tickets purchased by September 30. Contact Sue T: 087-277 6948 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

Free Computer Clinics

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join *For Dummies...* author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his FREE weekly seminars. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

August 22, 29 – Chalong

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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YOUR Phuket

The Kata meet



With about 40 managers from Bangkok in attendance, media giant the Nation Multimedia Group (NMG) held its annual marketing conference in Phuket last week. The keynote speaker was Kata Group Director Eam Thavornwongwongse (3rd from left). Also pictured (from left) are *Phuket Gazette* Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand; Kata Group Director Jiruttha Thavornwongwongse; NMG Board Chairman Thanachai Theerapattananong; *Phuket Gazette* Publisher John Magee; and *The Nation's* Chief Operating Officer, Pana Janviroj.



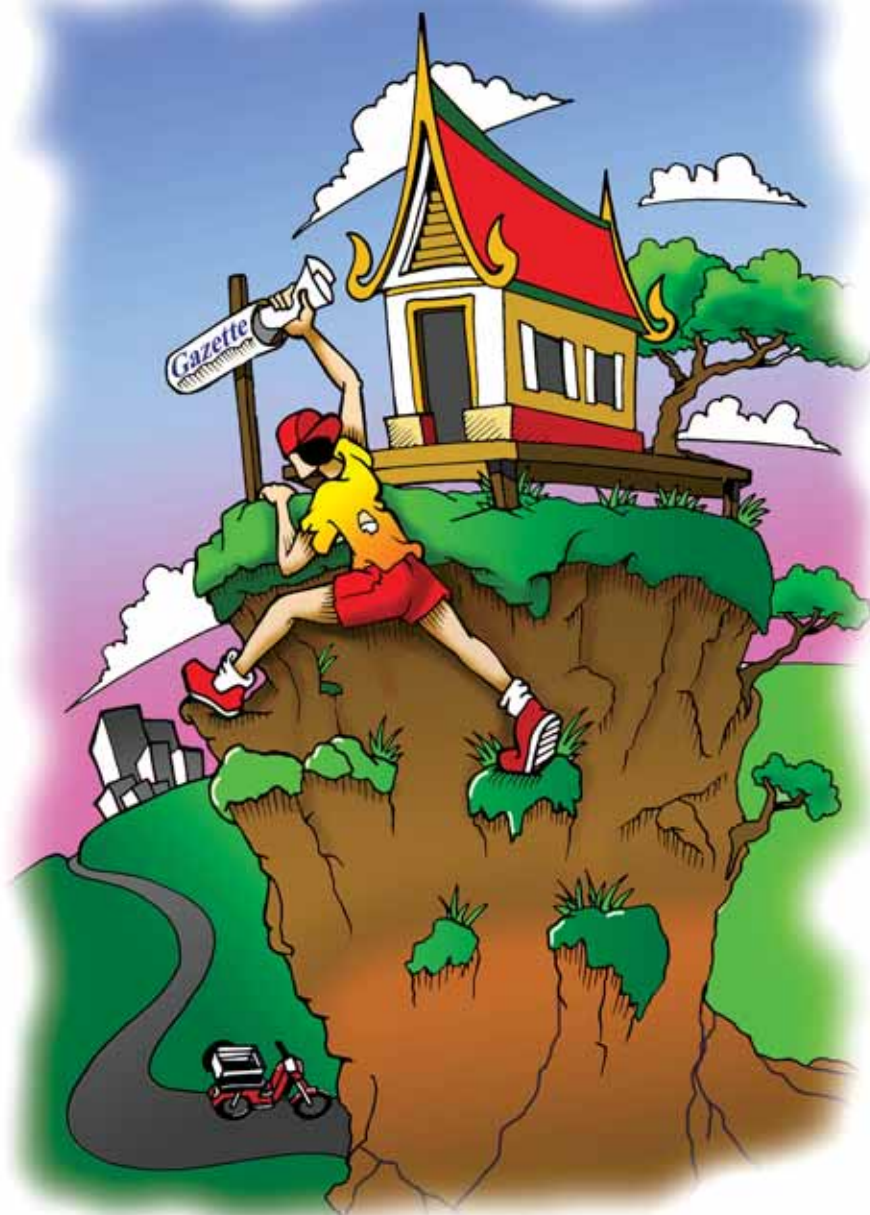
The Häfele Design Center opened its doors in lavish style.



HOT STUFF: The new Häfele Design Center, located opposite Big C, opened with a stunning series of performances and exhibits on August 6. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

MAIN PHOTO: President of the Red Cross Society Phuket Taisika Phraisangob (left) with Häfele Phuket showroom manager Varunchai Rungruan, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisangob, Marivic Hellstern and Director of Tepandine Patricia Isaac.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Models showcased the latest in swimwear fashions at the Häfele opening, much to the liking of the audience.



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hot opening



Events Thailand committee member Simon Samaan.



Tim Frost and Patricia Isaac.



Tony 'Chainsaw' Wilson with The Rockin' Angels band.



CROWD PLEASER: Colin 'Ily' Hill rocks out with his band.

Friendship rocks hard

ROCK NIGHT: The Music Extravaganza at Friendship Beach hit all the right notes on August 11.

Rob Davis on guitar (right) and (far right), Executive Chef Charley Maurer with Restaurant Manager Mannarumon Bench and their kitchen staff.

Photos: Fraser Morton



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

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Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

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Puerk-Pailin	80	5,680,000	100,000	2,740,000	2,840,000
Puerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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- * The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

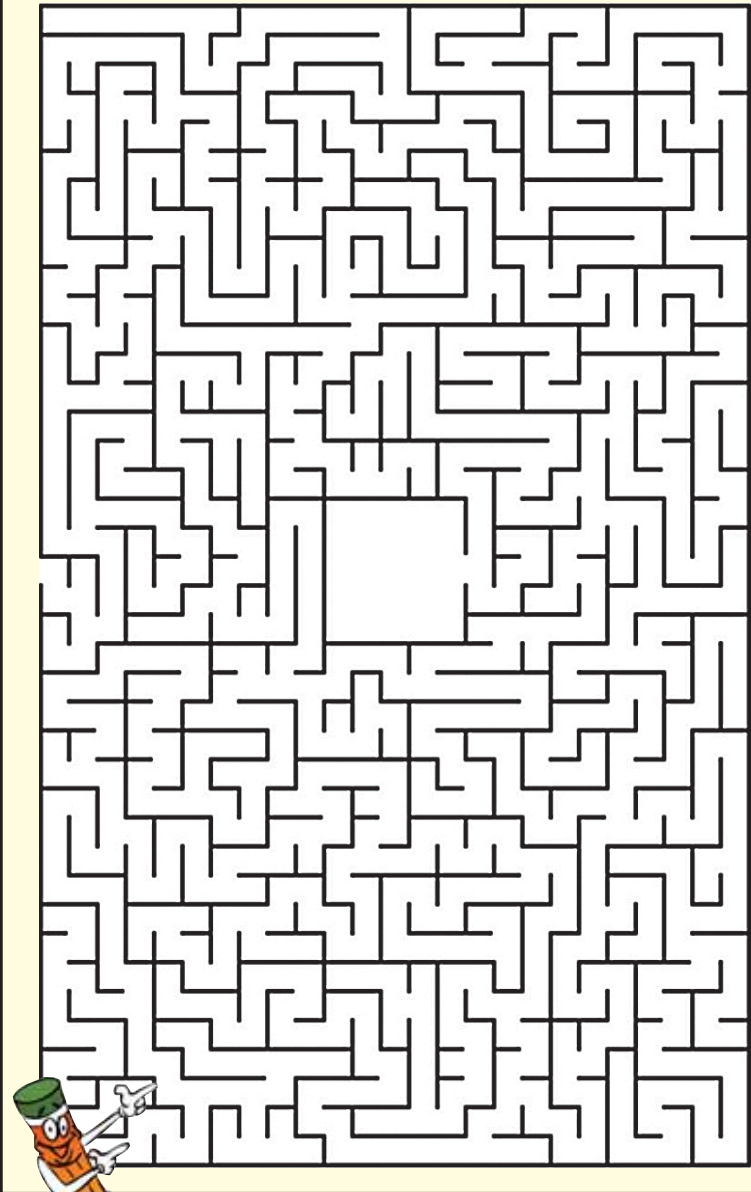
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Tel: 076-381151-2 Fax: 076-381111
Email: info@lhphuket.com <http://www.lhphuket.com>



Location Map



A Gazette staff member completed this maze in two minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way from A to B.

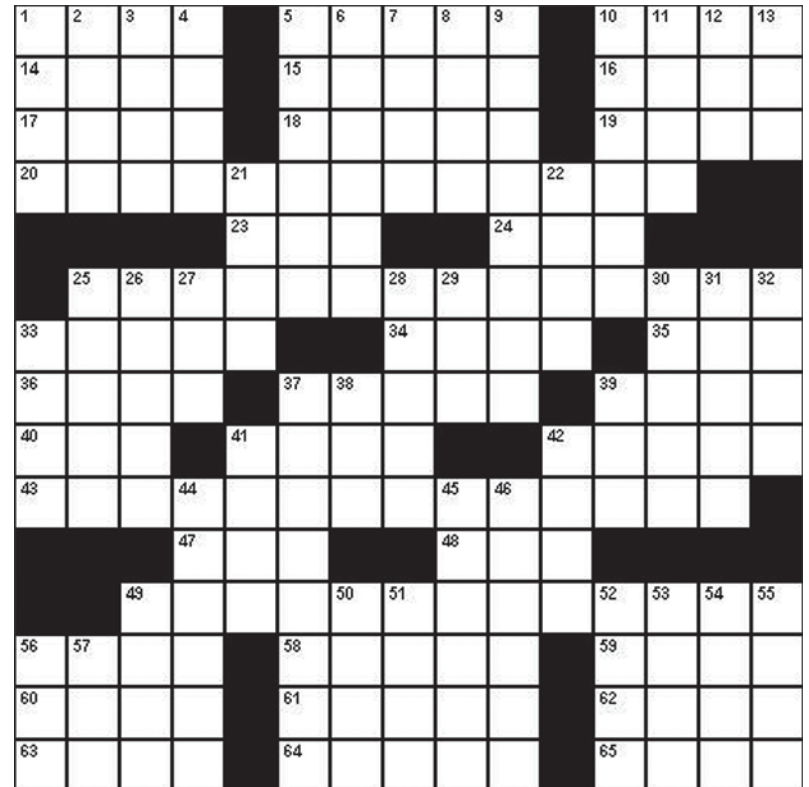


Across

1. Boring, so to speak
5. One on track?
10. Former name of Thailand
14. Acting part
15. Eat away
16. Cube creator Rubik
17. Affirm solemnly
18. Legal right
19. Defense group since 1949
20. Decentralize
23. Battery size
24. Cabinet dept.
25. Unreachable
33. South American ruminant
34. Bit
35. Fleur-de-___
36. Conductor Klemperer
37. Tumbles
39. Makes brown
40. Man-mouse connector
41. Shriveled, without moisture
42. Lover of Juliet
43. Unfairly meted out
47. Ingot
48. Actress Balin
49. Philosophy of law
56. Chief god of ancient Greece
58. Echolocation
59. Boxer Spinks
60. Sommer of film
61. Digression
62. Inwardly
63. Supplements, with "out"
64. Back streets
65. Bristle

Down

1. Actor Pitt
2. Deep affection
3. Novelist Waugh
4. Illustrious warrior
5. Baggage porter
6. Debt that remains unpaid
7. Masked critter
8. Prepare a book or film for release
9. Withdraws
10. Nissan model
11. Dies ___



12. As a female, you could be queen or worker
13. Sound of a cow
21. California wine region
22. Turkish honorific
25. Extreme
26. Birth-related
27. Latin 101 word
28. Crude carrier
29. "You've got mail" co.
30. Hold responsible
31. Covered on the inside
32. Canadian gas brand

33. Apparatus for weaving
37. Retaliation
38. Guadalajara gold
39. Freight weight
41. Box
42. Highway
44. Mistreats
45. Vehement speech
46. Hardens
49. Feint
50. Slammin' Sammy
51. Nabokov novel
52. Some Ivy Leaguers
53. Branta sandvicensis
54. Young male horse
55. "Orinoco Flow" singer
56. Mark of Zorro
57. Antlered animal

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

LEO (July 24-August 22): A colleague's untoward behavior puts a sour note on your week at work. Although Leos may be inclined to comment, silence is golden. Your general theme during the second half of August is to concentrate on your own business. Those who are self-employed are forecast to find a new outlet for their talents. If your birthday is due in the coming week, you will see that stronger self-confidence leads to more success in the year ahead.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A new investment opportunity appeals to Virgoans, but the stars suggest you could be skating on thin ice. Finances should be approached with caution during the second half of August. This week, a misunderstanding with bureaucracy requires a tactful approach. Where romance is concerned, the stars advise that you shouldn't push your luck with a water sign. Impressing an Arian will be far less trouble. Wear emerald green to enhance your charisma.



LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The most progress can be made by maintaining a calm, tolerant attitude. Librans who are too quick to judge will fail at the first fence this week. Some frustration could

be caused by work colleagues taking last minute vacation. If this means that you have to work overtime, take note of how much time is involved. The stars suggest that your good deeds will be paid back next month.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Family life is subject to some stress this weekend when someone wants more than you are prepared to give. Scorpions will have reason to regret that they made rash promises earlier this month, but going back on your word is not recommended. There will be pleasant distraction in your love-life – a holiday romance could become something more serious. The number eight can bring some good fortune on Monday.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): One chapter of your life is due to finish and most Sagittarians won't be sorry to see the end of it. If this relates to a work situation, there are signs that an earth sign friend can make a worthwhile introduction that could lead to a new job. In the event of a personal relationship coming to an end, the stars advise that agreements concerning finances should be handled cautiously.



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Many Capricorns could be wondering why a particular dream hasn't come true yet. The stars advise you to relax your attitude and be prepared to accept less than you thought you needed. The last half of August will be a time to reflect on most areas of your life. Where romance is concerned, a relationship that was becoming too hot to handle finally cools down. The number three is lucky this weekend.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A power struggle at work should see Aquarians finally getting what they want this week. Someone with influence is forecast to develop more respect for your talents. In the world of friendship, a fire sign's enthusiasm over a new relationship could tempt you to say what you really think. This could be a recipe for disaster, so think carefully before you comment. The number six can bring good luck this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Concentration is difficult for many of those born under the sign of Pisces this week. Too much introspection could be the reason for this and you are advised to mingle with light-hearted friends who will help you see the sunny side of life. Those recovering from a broken heart should learn something to their advantage this weekend. Money matters are well-starred, but investments should be delayed until you have sought professional advice.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Backing out of a commitment proves easier than you suspected this week. Arians who were regretting a rashly made promise should find the perfect escape clause. Where business is concerned, astral conditions encourage you to explore further away from familiar ground this week. Your luck in love with an earth sign improves, but the stars indicate that you may receive unwelcome contact from an old flame this weekend.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Making plans that work out is tricky this week. Taur-eans won't be able to count on others fitting in with

their arrangements, so the stars advise focus on being flexible. New friends with similar creative interests are forecast to come into your life between now and the end of August. Where finances are concerned, your money tree needs more careful pruning to ensure that it grows more fruitfully.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A recent minor dispute can turn out to have a positive side this week. Geminis finally have the time to reflect on recent events and will be able to move forward accordingly. Your love of jokes could land you in hot water this weekend – a romantic interest is predicted to take words spoken in jest at face value. A family member who was feeling forgotten appreciates your spontaneous gesture.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): A tedious side is revealed to a new scheme that you were enthusiastic about earlier this month. If this is due to collaboration with a slow moving earth sign, you might start to consider leaving this person behind. Cancerians who find themselves at a crossroads should take a while to think before deciding which direction to head in. Those with a partner have reason to be thankful for this person's support.

PROPERTY Gazette

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

Gov drives road change



IN CONTROL: Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop helped work on the new road.

CONSTRUCTION began August 6 on a new road that will link Saphan Hin to Chao Fa East Rd in Phuket Town.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop kicked off the first phase of construction, which took place near the Mineral Center 2 by operating an excavator and a compactor.

The 684-meter-long road,

temporarily named Phang Muang Khor Road, will have drainage, 1.5-meter-wide sidewalks, and streetlights every 35 meters on both sides.

Karanrat Construction Company is responsible for the construction, and the contract calls for completion by December 8 of this year.

– **Pimwara Choksakulpan**

Laguna sells to Dusit Thani for Bt2.62bn

LAGUNA Phuket has sold the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket resort to Dusit Thani Public Company Limited (DTC) – the company currently operating the resort – for 2.62 billion baht, according to a Stock Exchange of Thailand transaction report.

According to information on the Laguna Resort and Hotels (LRH) Plc website, the sale was prompted in part by the fact that the resort's management agreement with the Dusit chain was set to expire in approximately two years.

The 226-room upscale property, opened in 1987, was the first built by visionary Singaporean hotel developer KP Ho at Laguna, an integrated resort complex built on degraded tin mining land along Bangtao Bay in Cherng Talay.

The deal was brokered by international property consultants Jones Lang LaSalle, based out of Singapore.

According to the report, LRH plans to use the proceeds to invest in a resort project outside Thailand, to repay bank loans, and/or to pay dividends.

The overseas investment is



The lobby of Dusit Thani Laguna.

aimed at diversifying LRH's operations outside Phuket, which currently account for over 80% of the company's revenue.

LRH said in a statement: "The global financial crisis, which started in 2008, and the ensuing global recession severely impacted the tourism and hotel industry in

Thailand as a whole, and LRH's hotels and other tourism-related businesses in Laguna Phuket were not spared.

"The global financial meltdown was exacerbated by the prolonged Thai political turmoil, which deterred tourists who could afford the luxury of travel during the recession from selecting Thailand as their holiday destination.

"These unfortunate events in the last two years revealed the company's vulnerability and confirmed concerns that it has too much exposure in Phuket and Thailand. As a result, the company has decided to accelerate its plans to reduce its investment portfolio in Phuket."

The buyer, DTC, is a Bangkok-based hotel chain with 19 properties worldwide. In addition to its flagship property in Bangkok, the company also operates resorts in Burma, the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

Adjacent to the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket resort are 28 pool villas branded and operated by the chain, but individually owned.

– **Bill Barnett**



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Outrigger Enterprises Group and its affiliated companies are not the developers or promoters of the Lofts at Laguna Village or any other property or product offered by Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd. Outrigger Enterprises Group and its affiliated companies are not affiliates of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.

In brief...

Peter Webber moves to Watermark



ONE of the island's premier culinary figures, **Peter Webber**, has left Les Anges after a number of years establishing the restaurant as a leading establishment.

He has now joined the Watermark Group as Director of Operations. This comes on the heels of an expansion plan which will see new patisserie outlets opened near Laguna Phuket, Boat Lagoon and on the bypass road into the city.

For those who have become addicted to his innovative approach with desserts and pastries, this will come as good news.

Dirty news for Rawai and Patong beaches

THAILAND'S Pollution Control Department recently released the results of a study to rate the quality of 233 beaches throughout the country, and Phuket didn't make a good showing.

Two of the lowest achievers were Rawai and Patong, which showed high levels of bacteria in their waters. Only six beaches obtained top rankings, with four of these in Krabi province.

Phang Nga's Thai Muang was also included in leading honors due to its pristine coastline and quality of water.

Koh Siray Westin Resort opens

THE 261-room Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa has opened in the emerging market of Koh Siray Island located on Phuket's east coast.

With a leading global brand under the prestigious Starwood umbrella, the property has rooms and villas along with posh facilities in its private beach front location. Heading up operations of the resort is General Manager Greg Findlay.

Other luxury brands on Phuket's often overlooked east coast include Novotel, Radisson, and both a Regent and Four Points by Sheraton, set to debut in 2011. Look for more projects in Siray in the near future, as developers showing an increasing interest in the area.

MBK launches condo finance for foreigners

LEADING Thai conglomerate MBK Plc have branched into financing with a new subsidiary MBK Guarantee Ltd. to offer home loans to foreigners.

Only freehold condominiums are eligible for amounts between two-20 million baht for a term between 2-10 years. Interest is set at a Minimum Lending Rate (MLR), plus 2%. There is an option for an end-of-the-term balloon payment of 50% for those who want to minimize monthly installments.

For further information, email supatida@mbk-center.co.th or call 02 620-7126.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

Lucky numbers roll in for Koh Samui



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

COMPETITION keeps things interesting. Second-guessing your competitor is half the battle. But in the Phuket – Samui tourism bout, playing the high-stakes, high-end market seems to be a safe bet for both islands.

Numbers for Koh Samui are in for the first half of 2010, covering January through June, and news is not as grim as some may have expected. Increases in room revenue in hotels throughout the region were up over 800-million baht on the same period in 2009.

Using visitor arrivals as a key market indicator, arrivals at Samui Airport pushed up 19% ,which was reminiscent of the good days of 2008.

With a land area less than 50% of Phuket – or approximately 229 square kilometers – the official population of Koh Samui is only around 50,000. Given that there are 362 registered accommodation establishments with a total of 14,261 rooms, there must have been a number of people out swimming the day the census takers came around.

The top five international source markets used to be comprised of Germany, UK, Australia, Russia and the Middle East, but the fastest growing new ones are India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Eastern Europe. Looking to the foreseeable future, the Asian tourism contagion is showing signs of a changing tourist profile.

With overall occupancy up 5% for the period, a knock-on effect favorably impacted average room rates and the all-important hotel metric RevPAR (revenue per available room).

Early concerns that recovery would come in the form of masses of low-budget accommodation



The Banyan Tree Koh Samui, one of many luxury offerings on the island.

to attract more of the backpacking crowd are alleviating as numbers for luxury hotel bookings are just as high as the middle-and lower-end.

When comparing performance within the tiers of luxury, upscale, midscale and budget/economy room rates were up all up in hotels throughout the region.

A decline in upscale occupancy would indicate demand shifts towards cheaper occupation and would be a strong indicator of oversupply in the segment. This was not the case. Luxury properties topped the growth rate chart and experienced the highest level of growth in average rates.

An interesting statistic showing how Samui is growing into a more sophisticated market is the island's decline in registered tourism establishments by 11%, which accounted for 1,808 rooms exiting the supply side.

Most of these were smaller guesthouses that could not compete with the onslaught of new properties, which seems to be driving the lower-level backpacker crowd off the island and onto

other nearby locations such as Koh Phangan and Koh Tao.

There continues to be a substantial increase in luxury hotels at Samui. In the second half of this year, a 109% increase – or 209 new rooms – will enter into the topside of Samui's offerings.

Branded hotel residences in the property market continue to dominate activity. Notable trading is currently going on for off-plan sales at the Conrad Koh Samui Resort, given an attractive guaranteed return of 7% for five years. Developers at famed chill spot Beach Republic in Lamai have also tapped into a fractional sales model that is seeing high demand.

The past six months have suggested that Koh Samui is returning to a sustainable recovery path, despite external events throughout Thailand that concern many about the future of tourism. There remains potential for forward progress for the remainder of this year and beyond.

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



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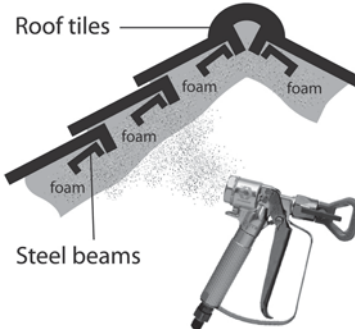
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Taking on stress sitting down

By Alexandra Andersson

AT THE end of a stressful day, it's nice to have somewhere comfortable to unwind.

For a long time, armchairs have proven worthy in this department, and for many, are a favorite choice for lazing.

Quality and comfort are imperative for a good armchair, but in today's market, buyers have options.

Some armchairs massage, some play music and some have built-in heaters.

Extra features don't hurt, and they allow each person to customize their own perfect armchair. Here are three of the top-of-the-range models available in Phuket.

The Fuji Cyber Relax EC-3000 is an impressive chair, imported

LUXURY
living

from Japan with comprehensive body massage features.

The chair will actually conduct a complete body scan so that the head, arm and leg-massaging mechanisms fit to your exact shape and size.

This provides a tailor-made massage experience, which although very pleasant, feels a bit like you're in some sort of restraining device.

The leather material is also not ideal for Phuket's balmy climate, and the remote control for the massage settings is not particularly user friendly.

At 266,000 baht, it is by far the most pricey alternative as well.

Next up is the Singaporean-made OTO Cyber-Plus CP-2500 is a bit less expensive – at 129,000 baht – but has more to offer than the previously mentioned Japanese model.

First, it provides an all-over body massage without devouring you, and there are many different types of massages to choose from, including; kneading, rolling, tapping, vibration, *shiatsu* and air massage, which you can select according to your stress level each day.

It can also be programmed to play music (there is a USB outlet) which can be heard from built-in speakers or attached headphones, and can be synchronized to the massage for when you really want to zone out.

It also has a foot and waist warming feature, as well as a clearer and more simple remote display screen.

Though not made from leather, it is a very comfortable choice, with or without the massage.

A more economical choice is the OTO Cyber Pro CX-2900, which comes in at 82,500 baht. This model is available in four colors: black, white, beige and brown, so it is can be better matched to your home's décor.

It provides similar massage features to the other two, but this chair seemed better able to provide an overall complete body massage, getting into all the nooks and cranny's on the lower back and foot area.

The arm massage feature was

optional and removable, giving the chair a more sleek appearance than the other two. Made by the same manufacturer as the CP-2500, it has some of the same musical and remote benefits.

There are numerous factors to take into account when armchair shopping, but in the end it all depends on personal preference.

Whether your derrière is partial to leather, heating, or a vibrations, there are many options when searching for the perfect armchair, so it is a decision

you may want to sit on for a while.

The specific models mentioned above are available at Central Festival in Phuket.



ARMCHAIR LIFE: The Fuji Cyber Relax EC-3000 (main), OTO Cyber Plus CP 2500 (bottom left) and the OTO Cyber Pro CX-2900 (bottom right) are three of the island's top choices for relaxation.

Photos: Alexandra Andersson and Fujichair



Not a load of rubbish

WASTE management has never been more stylish. These futuristic rocket shaped wonders do not contain aliens, but are in fact designed for something as mundane as unwanted household rubbish.

The "Spaceboy" free-standing waste bin from Häfele, is made of stainless steel and can consume up to 35 litres of rubbish. At 18,000 baht they don't come cheap but the high quality of these bins make them durable outdoors or indoors.

They are available in an array of colors including red, orange, almond and white.



Photo: Nicky Vermeulen

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Painting the garden red

Red Jade, cascades of water and koi carp are some of the wonders up the garden path in Chalong.

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

A READER recently emailed me to say that he had a fine display of red jade vine [*Mucuna bennetii*]. A visit to see them in their Chao Fa habitat confirmed just what a dramatic spectacle they provided.

Red jade is a strong-growing tropical vine, rarely encountered in Phuket. While the color is less

unusual than that of the jade vine [*Strongylodon macrobotrys*] which hangs in bright blue-green clusters that may be a foot long, the red jade makes up for such a lack of singularity by being far more vivid.

Discovered in the jungles of New Guinea just in 1940, it is a creeper of such flamboyance that I am surprised it is not grown here more often.

Certainly our American correspondent had no inhibitions about tackling the New Guinea Creeper. After all, he was used to gardening in South Florida, where the climate is similar to that of Phuket.

Bought at a garden center and planted only two to three years earlier, his twin specimens now dominate a large trellis, and boast thick serpentine vines the size of a man's wrist.

Beneath was a pool full of huge koi carp; at the far side, a substantial waterfall that cascaded into the pool, and provided a jungle-like and humid atmosphere for the vine's roots and foliage, as well as oxygen for the fish.

This shrouded spot was not only illuminated by the iridescent, orange-hued fish down below, but also overhead by the flaming clusters of scarlet jade flowers in full bloom.

Taken individually, these florets resemble pea or bean flowers, but the more than thirty flowers combined presented a symphony of color.

If ever a garden was defined by one signature shrub, then this was it. But the garden also bore testimony to the owner's love of water. After all, Dave had been a US Navy helicopter pilot before relocating to Phuket, all of one week before the tsunami flooded much of Phuket.

The front patio is flanked by a pool teeming with small fish. Thai-style terracotta pots are home to water plants, such as burhead, and yet more fish.

Delicate foliage plants grow around the pebbled paths to provide an interesting range of textures and colors, and a low border hedge is formed by a row



SEEING RED: The red jade vine in full bloom in a garden in Chalong, Phuket. Photo: Patrick Campbell



Above: Orange Koi Carp complement the red jade in the garden. **Left:** Similar to red jade, jade vine is present but elusive in Phuket. Photos: Flickr

of clipped pigeon-berry shrubs.

On the other side of the patio is a range of orchids in hanging pots and baskets. Being the rainy season, few were in bloom, but one could envisage how they would look in full flower.

If the back garden was dominated by the waterfall and its over-arching jade vine, it was also home to a number of large shrubs, which gave things a surprisingly mature feel.

A massive white *mussaenda* was in flower, while *bougainvillea* rose skywards.

But nothing could compare with the red jade.

Talking of jades, the green-blue jade vine is just as uncommon in Phuket. Only one has come to

your correspondent's attention, at a Chalong spa. Sadly, that specimen has recently been cut down. Any sightings by readers would be appreciated.

Like the New Guinea creeper, its extraordinary clusters of flowers will last for several days, but since they tend to blend in with the foliage, they will need to be given plenty of room to be seen to best advantage.

Like its scarlet cousin, it is originally a rain-forest dweller, so it will appreciate moisture at its roots, and dappled shade for preference.

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

Tip of the week

Going potty

ALMOST everyone in Phuket grows plants in pots, especially apartment-dwelling foreigners, or Thais with a concrete front yard. Containers come in many shapes and sizes. The cheapest are unglazed terracotta pots thrown from red clay. Though pleasant in appearance, they are poor at retaining moisture, since the walls are porous.

Glazed, round pots are better at water retention, and somewhat stronger – important when transferring a pot-bound plant to a bigger container. Traditional ones are olive-brown and shiny, with a fluted rim and dragon motif. You can now get inexpensive, matt brown pots with a flat rim, which are aesthetically more pleasing.

High-glaze, ceramic pots in shades of blue and green are eye-catching but pricey; if you prefer a contemporary look, rectangular containers come in attractive shades of grey.

Most are textured cement; lightweight ones are usually plastic masquerading as concrete.


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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

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LAND AT PA KHLOK



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NEW TOWNHOUSE



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

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Brand new 175 sq m two bedroom apartment for sale, with swimming pool, secure under cover parking, air conditioning, very quiet and natural location north end Patong beach, 2 min from beach, 7,500,000 Baht. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



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

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Boat Lagoon, Phuket. Nice, 2 bedrooms. Just renovated, freehold. Price 6.5 million baht or good offer. Tel: 081-788 8280.

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



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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.

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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.

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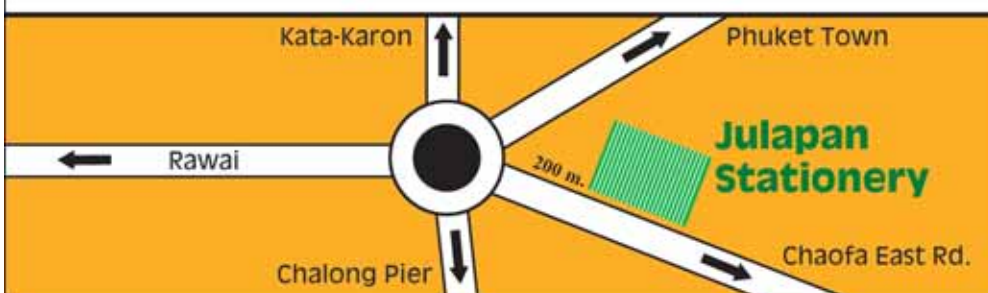
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LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

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► **Pershing 46 (2010)**

- Immaculately maintained by a full time captain since new
- New 2010 model with very little use
- Twin MAN R6 - 800hp diesel shaft drive engines
- Tropical air/con throughout and in the cockpit

600,000 Euro

► **Cal 2-46 (1973)**

\$119,000 USD

► **Whitby 42 (1982)**

BRING OFFERS

99,000 Euro

► **Al Dhaen 3605F (2008)**

REDUCED TO SELL

\$100,000 USD

► **Sunseeker 50**

\$775,000 USD

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

SWAN 42 (1992)

Successful, local racer. Reduced to only US \$ 129,950. Visit: BoatShedPhuket.com

WHARRAM TIKI 26' (2010)

Professional build, as-new condition. 1.295 million baht. See: BoatShedPhuket.com

MAXIM 380 CATAMARAN

Tidy and well equipped. Just reduced to US \$179,950. Visit: BoatShedPhuket.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With 70 offices worldwide and more than 360,000 registered customers. Visit our website at: BoatShedPhuket.com. Call Alan on 084-842 6146. The "No sale, No fee" brokers.

RODRIGUES RHS 70 HYDROFOIL

Up to 60 pax at 30 knots in comfort & safety. US\$120,000 or rent at 250,000 baht per month. See our website at: BoatShedPhuket.com

VISION 49 (1982)

Fast cruiser/racer, comfortable interior. US \$140,000. Visit: BoatShedPhuket.com

SEA RAY 23 OVERNIGHTER

Mercury 250Hp, approx 20 hours since rebuilt. 1.3 million baht. See our website at: BoatShedPhuket.com

8M SAILING CATAMARAN

Open bridge, wood, epoxy, fiberglass composite. 15 HP Yamaha. All 2 years old, anti-fouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped to fishing with 6 rods holder. 2 cabins and storage place. Thai registered with book. Price: 440,000 baht. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Email: stier@net-print.de

BENETEAU 351 OCEANIS (1995)

Well-equipped and in excellent condition. Price: US\$89,950. Please visit our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

33' MOTORSAILER

Neptunian. New paint and varnish. Single-handed bluewater cruiser. Many upgrades. Email or call Marcus for details. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

38 FOOT CATAMARAN

Built in composite, 4 double cabins, under construction. Price: 10,000 Euro. Tel: 087-461 8089.

DUNCANSON 30 SLOOP

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

44' CRUISER/RACER (1980)

Built for Admirals Cup. Spacious interior. Price: US\$69,950. Please visit our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

2 ONE-MAN KAYAKS

In good condition. Paddles included. Price when new: 17,000 baht, will sell for 8,000 baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

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

SEALINE 260

Economical single diesel, end of season. Bargain at only 1.2 million baht. www.boatshedphuket.com

BAYLINER 175 BOWRIDER (2005)

Like new! Now reduced to 595,000 baht! 135 Hp inboard. Tel: 089-932 5175 (English & Thai). Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

(2006) MONTEREY 298 SS

Twin 320Hp, Volvo engines, 50Kts, complete with air berth. Please visit our website at www.boatshedphuket.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

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**Crossword puzzle:**

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 ☐

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To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
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ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

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



Web Programmer (3 positions)

For a fast-paced Internet Business with various websites and online applications, predominately focused in the social space.

We are looking for web developers to staff our new Phuket office.

If you can tick the boxes below please contact us:

- ☐ Able to communicate fluently in English
- ☐ PHP experience + 3 years
- ☐ LAMP experience + 3 years
- ☐ Proficient in HTML, CSS, JS, AJAX
- ☐ Understanding of SEO
- ☐ Knowledge of APIs and Mash-ups

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to ian@dollarrose.com or call **+668-1086-2353**

D GALLERY CO., LTD. is a leading art gallery in Phuket. We are seeking a motivated professional to join us in the position of: Gallery Sales Executive

Gallery Sales Executive

- Thai female age 25-35 years old
- Bachelor's degree with experience in sales
- Strong communication skills with clients
- Strong English language skills essential
- Strong computer skills (MS word, Excel, Outlook)
- Good personality, creative presentation and organizational skills
- Must be prepared to work six days a week
- Friendly working hours, pleasant working environment

Please send CV with recent photo and expected salary to info@dgallery.co.th

D GALLERY CO., LTD.
63/501, Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
T. +66 (0) 76 360867 F. +66 (0) 76 360 868
Email: info@dgallery.co.th
www.dgallery.co.th



SALA TALAY Resort and Spa

Resort located on Ao-Nang Beach in Krabi.

Job Vacancy:

1. Assistant Director Of Sales (base BKK)
2. Sales Manager (base BKK)
3. Sales Manager-Corporate (base BKK)
4. Internet Sales Executive
5. Senior Accounting

Contact:

Human Resource Department
123 Moo 3 | Ao Nang Beach | Muang | KRABI 81000
Tel: (66 75) 810 888 | Fax: (66 75) 810 889
E-mail : hr@salatalay.com or hr-officer@salatalay.com
www.salatalay.com



SALES PROFESSIONALS WANTED !

Join an exciting team of coffee professionals as we expand our sales team in connecting with some of the biggest hotels, cafes and restaurants throughout Phuket and Southern Thailand.

We are a coffee roaster with over 15 years experience serving both international and local clients.

You will have initiative and be a self starter in building a winning network of contacts within the hotel and hospitality industry.

Application Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in related fields
- A proven record of closing sales
- Own vehicle and driver's license

Email your resume to ratchanee.p@mycoffeeworks.com
www.mycoffeeworks.com

EARN 40,000 BAHT MONTHLY

Work permit provided. Want an outgoing, positive person, 20-40 years old. Must speak English. Email: podgetto@hotmail.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 children, 3-7 years old. Located in Chalong. Work hours: Mon-Fri (08.00am-04.00pm). Start immediate. Tel: 080-624 7060. Contact to: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

KITCHEN STAFF WANTED

For new theater/ restaurant opening soon in Kathu.

- Chef de Party 2 positions
- Cooks, hot /cold plate 7 positions
- Stewards 3 positions.

Good rates + health benefits for experienced staff.

Please call Maya on 085-783 8938 or email CV to edenphuket@gmail.com

STAFF NEEDED FOR NEW PUB

Mexican food cook and bartenders needed for soon-to-open pub in Karon. Tel: 082-423 0043. Fax: 076-286661. Email: eam@phuketheritage.com

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

PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Required for Phi Phi island. Please send CV for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT/ BISTRO MANAGER

Experience as manager of a contemporary Thai or European restaurant/cafe of over 3 years required. Must be fluent in English, a native Thai, own and drive a car. Should also be interactive, sociable and service-minded and have a sound knowledge of the food business. Tel: 081-844 5141. Email: narumon@rose.co.th

CHEF FOR LUXURY YACHT

Requirements:

- Thai & European food
- Reasonable English & Thai nationals, 25-40 years
- Position live aboard
- Salary negotiable
- Based in Phuket

For more details, please email to: yachtchef2010@gmail.com

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

2 Pool Maintenance Staff required

Koh Samui

16,000-26,000 THB per month
+ Expenses + moving to Koh Samui allowance

For more information, please call:

English/Thai **083 590 6241**

English/French **082 286 0623**

English **085 795 9393**



MOD - COM POOLS



The Island Pools Group of Companies

Thailand's Most Comprehensive Pool Business
We are urgently seeking to fill the following positions:

COMPANY SECRETARY (1 position)

Qualifications:

- Thai national with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management
- At least 5 years experience in a similar position
- Excellent command of English required, both spoken and written to communicate between MD and Staff
- Computer skills: Internet, e-mail and MS Office
- Good attitude, strong leadership, able to work under pressure, a good team player, highly intelligent and creative qualities are all needed to lead a growing business with a hands-on management style

Responsibilities:

- Handle work permit, visa, company registration and all government functions regarding business operations
- Coordinate and follow up the work in progress of other departments in the organization
- Other job assignments from the MD

We offer a good salary based on experience and the opportunity for career growth.
Please send full resume with recent photo and expected salary via e-mail to:

ann@waterworkwarehouse.net

Tel/Fax: 076-273087 Mobile: 081-958 0743

For more information about us, please visit our website at

http://www.waterworkwarehouse.net/moreinfo.htm



Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has over 10 years experience in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, through our business partnership's headquarter's in Europe.

We are expanding our production department and looking for an active colleague to work in our team as a "Text-Editor". Interested candidates must be a fast learners, self-motivated, creative, and keen to learn new things & IT and also be a team player.

Text & Content Editor

Job Description:

- Proof reading, fact checking and correcting
- Combination of text and figure page layout
- Editing text programs
- Art and design
- Ability to work as part of a team and cooperate with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai or German nationality
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Any vocational, diploma or higher education related field of study
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh) and internet
- High degree of responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shifts with a team or independently
- Experience in text editor would be an advantage

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, social security insurance, tax, food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on candidates quality, skills and experience.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel: (00)66-76-380600 Fax: (00)66-76-380605
Email: **info@vsdma.com**



THE PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort and Spa

island hideaway near phuket

www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 50-minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking an outstanding personality to be the leader of our motivated F&B team, committed to personalized and superior customer service.

HOST CHEF (in charge of kitchen/restaurant)

Covering all aspects of F&B operations, including kitchen and restaurant. Based at the resort on Koh Yao Noi with regular visits to the Phuket office.

- At least 3-5 years experience in 5 or 4 star Hotels in a Executive Chef or Sous Chef assignment
- Leader personality, motivator
- Guest relation skills
- Implementation of innovative kitchen and restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand/Asia an advantage
- Good command of the English language, knowledge of Thai / German is an advantage
- Foreign or Thai national, 35-55 years of age

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate.

Send your latest resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to **gm@theparadise.biz**

The Paradise Koh Yao – Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

24 Moo 4, T. Koh Yao Noi, A. Koh Yao, Phang Nga 82160

Tel: 076-584450 Website: **www.theparadise.biz**

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Experience as sales & marketing manager for high-end product/services of over 3 years required. Must speak excellent English, be a native Thai, own and drive a car. Should also have excellent computer, internet, e-marketing skills. Knowledge of the boating, food and beverage, and service industry would be an advantage. Should be sociable and service-minded. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai). Email: **vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th**

POOL MANAGER-ENGINEER

Urgently require 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. Email: **neung@phuketmarbella.com**

HOUSEKEEPING COUPLE

Wanted for a villa in Boat Lagoon. A lady to do all house-keeping work and a skillful handyman. Good command of Thai and English mandatory. For further details, please email: **ulrichkuhl@gmail.com**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/PA MD

Experience as executive assistant/PA to MD of over 4 years required. Must be fluent in English, a native Thai and excellent in computer, admin, and office/secretarial work. Should also be a problem solver, dynamic, service-minded. Needs to own and drive a car. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: **vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th**

RECEPTIONIST/CASHIER

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

STAFF REQUIRED

Need to strengthen our web developer team. Applicants must have previous experience with 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@latitude1mari.com** For further details, please see our website at **www.latitude1mari.com**

PR MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT NEEDED

For Yacht Project. We are looking for a very good, skilled personal assistant with experience in management, accounting, imports, exports, and good written and spoken English. Tel: 081-926 3286. Email: **miakcg@yahoo.com**

BARISTA WANTED

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

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**

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 in strong communication skills in English, 1 year work experience in the food and beverage industry, friendly and good with people.

Salary 7,500 baht per month, service charge and bonus.

Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email: **sales@ccbloss hotel.com**

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

WASHING MACHINE FOR SALE

LG Fuzzy Logic - 7kg washing machine (top load) for sale. 6 months old. 4,000 baht with plastic cover. Tel: 087-462 6419, 083-650 4760. Email: johnny.daniel@gmail.com

FRIDGE & RECLINER

Panasonic 64 inches high x 27 inches wide x 2.7 inches deep, frost-free freezer still under warranty. Paid 15,000 baht, selling for 10,000 baht. Brand-new Kim Ivory leather recliner from Modern Form at Homeworks. Paid 28,000 baht, selling for 17,000 baht. Call Uhaul from Kata. Tel: 084-441 3625 (English).

HOME THEATRE

Bose acoustic mass 15 for sale + bass charger. Contact: Jram. Tel: 080-067 6700.

SONY PS3 & ACCESSORIES

Comes with second controller and Logitech G25 Steering wheel. Games available include: Guitar Hero 3, Avatar, Transformers 1 & 2, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed & The Complete Saga (Lego), Burnout Paradise City, GT5, Army of Two and Airborne. Contact K. Mike. Tel: 086-951 2455. Email: miketipton@netseven.com

POOL TABLE

Hardly used, as new! Rosewood color, carved legs. Price: 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-073 1180.

DEHUMIDIFIER FOR SALE

Tired of the high humidity? Buy this dehumidifier. Fixed price 2,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-289 5102. Email: buapanjindasree@yahoo.com

SWEDISH CANDY/ SNACKS

Stock clearance and end of season sale. All Scandinavian/Swedish candy and snacks must go. Bargain prices! Licorice, Bilal, Cheez Doodles, Chips etc. Tel: 076-513408, 087-274 6602, 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-513408. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at: www.scan snax.nu

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

LIFE VEST

Life vest, Helly Hansen navigage, swoon-safe, size 7 (54-56) for people over 80kg. Price: 1,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-480 2089 (English). Email: construc tivisor@hotmail.com

ARTICLES FOR SALE

Quality dark wood dining table + 4 chairs, cream leatherette 3-piece suite, coffee table, Thai-style sideboard, desk and chair, bedside tables. Prices negotiable. Tel: 087-887 9070.

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

JIGSAW PUZZLES

One 1,500-piece Waddingtons "One of the Family" by F G Cotman. 88 x 58cm. Price: 350 baht. One 3,000-piece Arrow Puzzles, 'Italian Garden, Garnish Island, Co, Cork, Ireland' 118 x 89cm. Price: 550 baht. Tel: 086-940 2111 (English), 087-270 7698 (English & Thai). Email: tom_woods6@hotmail.com

GARMIN GPSMAP 60CX

Color map navigator, pre-loaded with marine charts. One year young, never used. Price new 25,000 baht, make an offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-077 3307. Email: sudeckh@web.de

HARDWOOD BENCH SEAT

Beautiful hardwood bench seat. Good for inside or outside. Tel: 082-878 0392 (English & Thai). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

CAR SEAT BASKET

Two used car seat baskets. Brand: Cool Kids. Model: Bono. Price: 1,000 baht each. Tel: 085-151 5319 (English & Thai). Email: wilair@yahoo.com

BAGLESS VACUUM CLEANER

Electrolux zac 6,707 warranty till 11/06/2010. New 6,000 baht, now 2,500 baht. Color: red/white. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

STEEL CABINET FOR FAST SALE

Gray steel cabinet for sale. (height 185cm, width 82cm, depth 42cm). Fixed price only 1,200 baht. Has to go before Wednesday! Tel: 089-289 5102 (English & Thai). Email: buapanjindasree@yahoo.com

TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE

High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular rattan sofa, 2 plantation chairs, customised Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket. Must sell by month end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vjmisso@gmail.com

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

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

PATONG BAR SALE 800,000 THB

Fully equipped bar in Sai Nam Yen rd. (Bel Aire Plaza). Everything new. Business with profits even in low season. Including staff. Selling because owner is leaving Phuket. Monthly rent: 18,400 baht. Tel: 080-142 7581. Email: bentmi nutti@gmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM
Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM
Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM
Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM
Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9443460, 082-2765998, 082-23118300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwclub.com

Business Opportunities

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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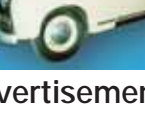


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Phuket star to fight in headlining match

By James Goyder

PHUKET fighter Joe Ray will be headlining Martial Combat 7 in Singapore next week.

Ray, who has been training in Phuket for almost two years, won his first fight at Martial Combat in June with a dramatic knock out after only 14 seconds.

Matchmakers were so impressed by Ray, who trains at Tiger Muay Thai in Chalong, that they have flown in an experienced opponent specifically to face him: UFC veteran Chad Reiner.

A welterweight belt will be on the line.

In three professional fights, Ray has won all and has never needed to go further than the second round.

Reiner is vastly experienced and is a veteran of 35 fights, many of which have gone the distance. He represents a huge step up in opposition for Ray, who is being widely tipped to reach the very top of the sport.

A win against Reiner would



Ray at his first Martial Combat fight. propel Ray into the international spotlight.

Ray is not daunted by the prospect of facing such an experienced opponent: "I'm excited because it's a big fight for me and I like the match up. I think my style of fighting will work well against his," he said.

Interestingly, Reiner also trained at Tiger Muay Thai as recently as last December and made a name for himself by beating two opponents in a single night in Muay Thai bouts at Bangla Stadium in Patong.

Reiner dismisses the notion that Ray will be able to benefit from the inside knowledge the Tiger Muay Thai trainers have of him: "He may have trained at Tiger Muay Thai, and he may think he understands my stand-up, but I have made some different changes that I do not think he will be prepared for," he said.

For all his experience, Reiner is still only 29 and feels that this fight represents an opportunity for either competitor to improve the trajectory of their career.

"People might see me as a stepping stone for Joe Ray, but it's all about perception. If I beat Joe Ray and it helps me get back to the top, he could be my stepping stone," he said.

Martial Combat 7 is scheduled to take place on August 17 at Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore.



Big swings in Florida

PHUKET junior golfer Pariwat Pinsawat, the prodigy who gained international attention after winning the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand tournament in June, finished runner up in the 13-14 year age group at The Optimist International Golf Championship in Florida.

It was the first time Pariwat has competed in a golf event outside Southeast Asia. His four under par score was the second lowest recorded for the entire week in all age groups.

Going into the final round he was tied for the lead with eventual winner Tristen Strydom from Pretoria, South Africa.

The 13-14 year age group has previously been won by the likes of Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

Photo: Optimist Junior Golf



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Title in sight for FC Phuket



WINNING FORM: FC Phuket midfielder Diarra Ali charges forward in the match against HatYai FC. Phuket won the match 2-0. Photo: Apinun Saithong

By James Goyder

THE Division Two (Southern Section) title is within touching distance for FC Phuket after a comfortable 2-0 win against HatYai at Surakul Stadium on August 8.

FC Phuket went into the match brimming with confidence, having put together back-to-back league wins after their surprise loss to Yala on July 18.

FC Phuket started the match strong, but were unable to take an early lead when Kittitach Kraitong whipped in an excellent cross to Nithirot Sukuma, who was unable to convert.

Butrasombat then had a chance to get his name on the scoresheet when the ball fell to him in the six yard box. He attempted to take the ball around the keeper but pushed it too far wide of the goal, allowing the defender to get back and block his eventual shot.

FC Phuket took the lead 25 minutes in through a perfectly executed free kick from Diarra Ali.

The Ivory Coast midfielder has recently been in great goalscoring form – he expertly worked the ball around the wall and into the bottom right hand corner of the goal from 25 yards out.

Current standings: Division Two (Southern Section)

Rank	Team	Points
1	FC Phuket	43
2	Ranong FC	34
3	Trang FC	33
4	Satun Utd FC	31
5	Krabi FC	29
6	Surat	
	Thani FC	29
7	Yala FC	27
8	Pattani FC	25
9	Phattalung FC	25
10	HatYai FC	21
11	Phang Nga FC	21
12	Nakhon Sri	
	Thammarat	21
13	Chumphon FC	18

Source: phuketfcfanclub.com

Defender Pongsak Panicharoen was replaced by striker Adisak Kraisorn at halftime in a move that also saw Diarra Ali drop back into central midfield.

After a promising start to his FC Phuket career, Kraisorn has been out of favor in recent weeks.

He had a good goal-scoring opportunity early in the second half when he received the end of a Diarra Ali free kick, but his header bobbled wide.

Camara took advantage of a prime opportunity 75 minutes in, providing a composed finish to a series of sharp passes to make the score 2-0. He was later named man-of-the-match.

Although the league title is still not an absolute certainty for the Southern Sea Kirin, only a series of highly improbable results would prevent FC Phuket from finishing on top.

While manager Arjan Songsamssub is pleased at the progress being made, he warns that the playoffs will present a very tough test for his fledgling side.

"We have to win one more game. All the teams in the playoffs are very strong, so it will be very hard for us. I believe we can do it and I hope we can do it," he said.

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