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WANTED FOR MURDER

Manhunt for 'killer Brit'

By Atchaa Khamlo

POLICE have stepped up their search for UK national Lee Aldhouse, a fugitive wanted for the stabbing murder of US Marine Dashawn Longfellow in Rawai early on August 14.

"We have coordinated with the British and American embassies and told them what is going on.

"We want the embassies to tell him that he will not be allowed to go home," Chalong Police Superintendent Wichit Intharasorn told the *Gazette*.

"We have also coordinated with the Immigration Department to make sure he doesn't get out of the country. We have had an arrest warrant out for him since 'day one'," he added.

The Chalong police chief said



VICTIM: Dashawn Longfellow

that Aldhouse was expected to still be in Phuket, and that every step had been taken to ensure all ports of exit are being monitored.

"We are blocking all the ways out, everywhere, including the airport," he said.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Col Wichit confirmed that his of-

ficers will be conducting their own investigation without outside help from agencies such as the FBI or Royal Thai Police Department of Special Investigation (DSI).

"There are no special circumstances to this case. It does not involve drugs or any other forms of influence. It's about young men fighting. They are not even 30 years old," said Col Wichit.

The murder, which followed a fight between Thai kickboxing students Longfellow and Aldhouse at the popular Freedom Bar on the Rawai beachfront, has sent shockwaves through the local community, which has seen a spate of Thai boxing training camps open in the area in recent years.

See page 3: 'Girlfriend recalls night of murder' and 'A history of violence'



ON THE RUN: Boxer Lee Aldhouse is wanted for murder. Photo: James Goyder

Rotary Patong launches Pakistan relief fund



Some 3.5 million children are at high risk of disease. Photo: UN

FOUR days after the Rotary Club of Patong Beach launched a drive to aid the 14 million Pakistanis displaced by devastating floods, club treasurer Woody Leonhard said that Rotary has received about 50,000 baht in donations. Much more is expected to follow in the coming days.

"As was the case with the Haiti earthquake relief, we're working with the Canadian shelter box group, newly renamed 'Disaster Aid Canada', to get the most help out on the ground as quickly as we can," said Mr Leonhard.

Rotarians Jim Domville and Pat Michel have volunteered to help fun-

nel money through the Canadian organization to take advantage of the best exchange rates and their ability to send money directly with no banking fees.

"Any money that ends up in that account will go to our charity activities anyway – 100% of all money in that account always goes to our charities – but notifying me by email will ensure that the funds will go directly to the Pakistani Shelter Box drive, taking advantage of Jim and Pat's connections," he added.

On August 16, Unicef reported that as many as 3.5 million children in flood-affected Pakistan may be at risk

of contracting deadly diseases carried through contaminated water and insects.

Yet relief funds have been slow to arrive in force. According to an August 16 Unicef report, "Of the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP)... US\$56 million is initially required for health activities, out of which only \$7 million has been received so far.

"Activities for water, sanitation and hygiene totalled an initial budget of \$110 million, but funding presently available is \$19 million," the report said.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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This Week

Illegal abortions in Phuket

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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 25-34**

Sport



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Research surveys mark coral recovery

RESEARCHERS at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) at Capa Panwa say a return to normal water temperatures appears to be helping local coral reefs recover from the bleaching effect that has done so much damage in the region this year.

Bleaching refers to the whitening of the coral as heat, or other factors, drive symbiotic algae away from its tissue.

PMBC biologist Nippon Phongsuwan said researchers from several universities and organizations have conducted surveys indicating some improvement, but say the recovery is more pronounced in some coral varieties than others.

Coral reefs at Phi Phi Island have now recovered about 50% overall, but the Staghorn coral has yet to show much improvement. I think it will take about three or four years, because the damage was quite extensive, he said.

Local researchers are preparing to conduct a survey of coral in local waters starting off Koh Hei and Koh Aew, islands known for their abundant coral.

The researchers will estimate



Coral in local waters is showing signs of a recovery. Photo: Gazette file

the damage from bleaching and try to assess how much recovery has taken place, he said.

On overall assessment of the impact of coral bleaching in Thailand's Andaman Coast waters would probably be ready by October, Dr Nippon said.

According to the US-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Andaman Ocean bleaching phenomenon is due to a rise normal average temperatures

by as much as four-degrees Celsius. Water temperatures peaked in May, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The WCS described the bleaching as one of the most rapid and severe mass coral deaths in recorded history, noting that many of the dying coral species managed to survive a number of other environmental stresses, including the 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

Violent crime, drug cases soar

FORTY murders in Phuket since the beginning of October have led a 95% year-on-year increase in the number of violent crime cases on the island, according to official police statistics.

Figures released by Phuket Provincial Police for this year show eight cases of premeditated murder in July alone, with arrests in five cases.

Figures for the period from October 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010 show that 40 murders were committed in Phuket, up 33% compared to the same period in fiscal year 2009.

There were 45 murders reported in Phuket in all of 2009.

Police group together murder, muggings, gang muggings, kidnapping and arson in a category for particularly violent crimes.

There was a 60% increase in



Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong (left) with arrested drug suspects earlier this week. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

this category in July 2010 compared to July 2009, and a 95% increase in the first ten months of fiscal 2010 compared to the same period in fiscal 2010.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of drug arrests, with 438 people arrested in 418 cases in July 2010. This represents a 277% increase in cases compared to July 2009.

Once again, the majority of drug cases involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine), with 330 people arrested and 17,155 pills seized.

Forty-one people were also arrested for possession of the purer form of the drug known as *ya Ice* (crystal methamphetamine), with 356 grams seized.

With no end in sight to the battle against the illegal trade in *ya bah*, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong this week said he hoped to buy high-tech drug-detection technology in order to better check vehicles entering the province at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

— Phuket Gazette

Man firebombs guesthouse with Molotov cocktail

POLICE are seeking a foreign tourist who threw a Molotov cocktail into the office of a guesthouse on Nanai Rd in Patong on August 17.

According to the *Siangtai Daily* website, the attack shattered a large window and caused a deafening explosion at the Jaraan Guesthouse on Nanai Soi 7 shortly before 1am.

The incident was reported by 65-year-old Krissana Pimeemai, owner of the establishment.

Ms Krissana said a young foreign man arrived on a motorbike at about 12:30am and threw the incendiary device though the large

glass window at the front of the building, causing a loud explosion and filling the room with smoke.

No injuries were reported.

CCTV footage recorded at the scene shows the man arriving on the motorbike, throwing the bomb and then taking a few moments to watch the results before driving off.

Ms Krissana said the assailant was a former guest who had argued with management and been ordered to check out last week.

The cause of the dispute was not reported.

Police said they expect to make an arrest in the case soon.

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SPECIAL: The Dashawn Longfellow killing

Girlfriend recalls night of murder

By James Goyder

THE night that Dashawn Longfellow died started like a normal night out for the US Marine and his girlfriend, "Ooy".

She told the *Gazette* that he had come on his motorbike to pick her up from work at the Freedom Bar in Rawai at around 1am.

When he arrived, he had a couple of beers while he waited for her to finish work, which is usually around 2am, she said.

At some point, Mr Longfellow went to the restroom where he found the entrance to the toilet blocked by Mr Aldhouse and a fight ensued, Ms Ooy said.

According to witnesses, Mr Longfellow got the best of his opponent in the brawl before it was broken up by bar patrons and staff.

Ms Ooy said that after the fight, the American took her back to his room and left again shortly after to go to a 7-Eleven.

Mr Aldhouse – seeing Mr Longfellow enter and leave the Rawai 7-Eleven – went into the convenience store and obtained two knives and followed his victim home. Police neither confirmed nor denied eyewitness reports that the knives were stolen from the convenience store.

As Mr Longfellow returned



Lee Aldhouse captured on a CCTV camera at the 7-Eleven where he allegedly obtained the knife he later used to stab Dashawn Longfellow.

home and opened the door to his room, Ms Ooy saw the Brit approach her boyfriend from behind.

She said, "At first it didn't look like he [Aldhouse] had anything. We didn't know he had a knife because his hands were in his pockets". She said a fistfight began between the American and the Brit and the latter pulled out a knife and stabbed Mr Longfellow twice in the chest.

Ms Ooy said that her boyfriend rushed inside and shut the door to protect her from the murderous Mr Aldhouse. Ms Ooy called the police and an ambulance, but it

was too late to save him.

Mr Aldhouse, a Muay Thai fighter who has lived in Thailand for several years, was based in Rawai. He was scheduled to fight former world champion and long-term Phuket resident Jomhod Kiatadisak at the grand opening of the Bangla Boxing Stadium last year but pulled out of the fight at the last minute due to injury.

Mr Longfellow, a Purple Heart recipient, had been in Phuket following a combat injury sustained in Afghanistan, friends said.

Ms Ooy said her boyfriend, whom she had been together with for three months, was a friendly, kind, funny guy with many friends.

Brit's disturbing history of violence

By James Goyder

AS MORE and more people step forward to give character descriptions of what kind of man fugitive Lee Aldhouse is, it has become very clear that he had a reputation for violence and reportedly threatened to kill in the past.

Sources said Mr Aldhouse first came to Phuket in 2006 to study Muay Thai.

He told people he was from Birmingham in the UK (though it has now come to light that he is from Solihul, near Birmingham), and had been working as a bouncer in Mallorca, Spain.

Danny Avison was working at Rawai Muay Thai where Mr Aldhouse trained and fought, and took on the ring name "The Pitbull".

Mr Avison remembers him distinctly.

"He came here with an English girl in 2006. He was massive; he was obviously a steroid junkie and said he had been working as a bouncer in Spain.

"In his first fight for Rawai Muay Thai, he knocked the guy down and then dived on him and tried to bite his ear off. You can see it on YouTube.

"He also assaulted the girl that he came with and our trainers were very angry about it and he had to leave the gym."

In the video, at 3:23, Mr Aldhouse lunges toward his opponent with the intention of biting his ear off, as described by Mr Avison who made the video.



Lee 'The Pitbull' Aldhouse (right) tried biting an opponent's ear off in one Muay Thai bout. Photo: YouTube

Another source, who did not want to be named while Mr Aldhouse is still at large, told the *Gazette*, "He is an extremely bad tempered guy, hard to read and touch base with. He changes his mind in a second and is extremely violent.

"One night he was loud and mad drunk on the road outside Laguna [a nightclub in Rawai]. The owner tried to calm him down on his bike. Lee kept screaming: 'Can I just kill one farang, just one?'"

Sources in Rawai told the *Gazette* that Aldhouse, who was living near Laem Promthep, often claimed to be from America and had a history of violence.

At one stage he was banned from the Freedom Bar, where the original fight with Longfellow occurred, for scaring other drinkers, sources said.

Farewell from a friend

DASHAWN was an awesome friend to all. He was a great friend, and a great mentor to me.

I am still in shock that someone couldn't swallow their pride and accept the fact that they couldn't defeat "Deeds" (Dashawn's nickname). I hope they catch this coward and that he suffers for the rest of his life.

My time serving with Dashawn was an honor. He was a great mentor to me, and a badass machine gunner.

I served with Dashawn in Afghanistan. We were close friends outside the marine corps, too.

He got the nickname "Deeds"

from the movie *Mr Deeds* because Adam Sandler's first name in the movie was Longfellow Deeds.

I hope they bring this man in. you don't know how many of us are p'ssed off at this man, and want him brought into justice.

Matt Gronbach
Fort Dodge, Iowa

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Burmese man's body found badly scorched

POLICE on August 11 recovered the body of a Burmese rubber tapper who had been murdered in the hills overlooking Patong Beach.

The upper half of his body had been set alight and his hands were tied behind his back.

Wissanu Itsang, who owns a rubber plantation near where the body was found, reported the gruesome discovery to Kathu Police at 4pm.

The body was found on a rubber plantation about three kilometers up the dirt track that starts at the end of Phisit Gorani Rd Soi 9 and leads into the hills overlooking Patong.

At the scene, the officers found the body, clothed only in blue shorts, face down on the ground with a small camping gas cylinder lying nearby.

Inside the hut where the man reportedly lived, police found a blood-stained bed sheet, and at the cooking area in front of the hut was half-eaten meal on a plate and empty liquor bottles on the ground.

Lt Pathapee Srichai of Kathu



Rescue workers recover the body.

Police said that the scene suggested the man had been drinking with people he knew before he was killed. Burmese laborers living on a nearby rubber plantation said they knew the man was Burmese and aged in his thirties.

Lt Pathapee said police had yet to question the plantation owner where the man worked to establish the identity of the victim or any other information that might lead to finding his killer.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan



ALL ABOARD: Lifesavers ready on the start line for the rescue board race. Photo: Courtesy of Jayne Macdougall

Annual carnival to boost lifesaving skills

THE Phuket Lifeguard Club's third annual carnival, to be held at Loma Park, Patong, on September 11, is targeting youngsters in order to boost surf lifesaving skills on the island.

"This event is important to Phuket for a number of reasons: to challenge our own Phuket lifeguards; to continue to develop lifesaving and lifeguards in Thailand and to promote water safety skills and a community interest in beach and water safety."

A regular returner to Phuket, Ms Macdougall believes water safety on the island is slowly improving.

"We are seeing more positive attempts to rescue swimmers who are in difficulty and other positive

actions. We are seeing better equipped and trained lifeguards on Phuket beaches and we are seeing good co-operation between the authorities and the lifeguard contractors," she said.

"Statistics of rescues and trends are being collected and analyzed and this can only further improve the planning and resource allocation.

"Whilst there are still some areas that need to be developed and improved – notably signage and warnings for swimmers, additional equipment and so on – current developments are a major step in the right direction," Ms Macdougall added.

— Phuket Gazette

Sea Cow family mysteriously perish

THE deaths of a mother dugong and her female offspring found washed ashore on Koh Yao Noi on August 14 have marine researchers puzzled.

The cause of death has yet to be firmly established, but Kongkiat Kittiwattawong, senior specialist in rare ocean species at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) insists that the pair did not die of natural causes.

The dead dugong were discovered in a mangrove swamp near Koh Yao Noi village.

The mother measured 2.7 meters in length; her offspring 1.1 meters.

"Examination revealed no wounds on the mother's carcass suggesting she had been tangled in a drift-net, nor do I believe she was killed off by a long-line bait

hook as we at first speculated," said Mr Kongkiat. He believes death was caused by some kind of fishing equipment: "Precisely what kind, we have yet to establish but one thing is sure – they did not die of natural causes."

The digestive tracts were also examined. "They were normal in every respect, and certainly not sick at the time of death."

The chief conundrum is with regard to the infant.

"The carcass' condition was fresher, indicating that the baby, which was about two years old, died five or six days after the mother, but not from starvation.

"Head wounds resulting from considerable force – one eye socket was crushed – suggest she was either deliberately killed or suffered an accident."



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Villagers helpless as homes razed

By Atchaa Khamlo

RESIDENTS in a makeshift village in the Kalim area of Patong watched helplessly on August 14 as a 20-man team of workers turned up with a backhoe and demolished their homes.

The entire village, which had housed a 70-family community of some 1,000 people, was leveled in less than an hour to make way for a new development.

The roar of the backhoe startled the villagers at 8am on the Saturday, with many not having time to save their personal possessions before the teeth of the excavator bucket began ripping down the structures.

The community was located on a long-disputed section Phra Barami Soi 8. Villager Jakkrit Nutat, 43, told the *Gazette*, "I have owned the land, which covers eight rai two ngan (13,600sqm), since 1992. It was an old mine concession.

"But in 2004, an investor appeared claiming he was the landlord.

"He filed a police report claiming that villagers were squatting



BACKHOE DIPLOMACY: The entire village was destroyed without warning in under an hour. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

on his land, which he then sold to another investor.

"In 2005, the second investor was granted permission by the court to demolish houses and evict people from part of what was deemed his land.

"We observed the court order, but the rest of land part was deemed fine for us to live on."

Most of the villagers are poor people from different provinces who rented the houses and made simple livings in Patong, such as selling food on the street.

"Now they have nowhere to live, and some are sleeping along the side of the road. Many of them are scared and have moved away.

"They don't know what to do

next. All their belongings and equipment they used for their livelihoods has been destroyed," he said.

Many of the villagers were not allowed to even return to the debris of what was once their homes to salvage what personal possessions.

Mr Jakkrit filed a complaint

with Kathu Police on August 15. The next day he and about 50 fellow villagers massed at Provincial Hall at 9am to file a letter requesting help from Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop.

At a meeting on August 18 between villagers and representatives of the "new investor", also attended by Kathu Police Superintendent Arayaphan Puk-buakhao and related officials, the villagers declined an offer of 20,000-baht compensation to each house destroyed.

The villagers say their possessions lost per household, including fridges, televisions, stereos and clothes, cost much more.

"The company has a document claiming to prove the land belongs to them, but the document is not complete," he added.

"The superintendent asked us to list which of our belongings were destroyed and said he would discuss this with the company again [on August 20]," said Mr Jakkrit.

Patong Municipality has since set up a tent where many of the villagers can now sleep and have organized food for them to eat.



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Abortion: Living with a life choice

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

AT LEAST two teenagers a month are brought to Vachira Phuket Hospital for emergency treatment due to complications arising from illegal abortions.

"Some patients are seriously ill, needing CPR before arriving at the hospital because they go into shock from loss of blood or renal failure," says PPHO Director Dr Narinrat Pitchayakamint.

More women in Phuket, and the rest of Thailand, are having illegal abortions, he adds. Ministry of Public Health (MoH) statistics say that the number of mothers under 20 years old registered as giving birth is increasing: from 13.9% of all women who gave birth in Thailand in 2004 to 15.6% in 2008.

Another MoPH survey in 2009 showed that 84.6% of pregnant teenagers became pregnant unexpectedly; many went on to have illegal abortions. The same survey discovered that 29.3% of women who had abortions last year were under 20 years old.

Among these women, many might not be as lucky as "Mook", a 28-year-old office worker who still suffers emotionally from having an illegal abortion 10 years ago.

Today, she counts herself lucky. "I got pregnant when I was 18 years old, during my first year in university. It happened because I refused to take the morning-after pill although my boyfriend at the time, then a fourth-year student, told me to do because the condom broke.

"Both of us didn't dare tell our parents, so when I was about three months pregnant, we agreed to

have an abortion. We both knew we were not ready to be parents. At that time I wasn't worried about my safety... I just thought about my future."

Although the boyfriend remained faithful after the abortion, the couple separated a few years later. Mook today has a new boyfriend, but has yet to marry.

THE HOSPITAL

Patong Hospital Deputy Director Apantree Iamsakul says that she often has to tell young people how dangerous illegal abortions can be.

During her conversations, she explains that abortion is legal in Thailand only if: the pregnancy endangers the mother's physical or mental (including emotional) health; the child is the result of the woman being raped; or it has been confirmed that the unborn child has such physical abnormality that it was not expected to live long after birth.

Many young pregnant woman who don't meet the legal criteria and who choose not to have the child are left only one option: an illegal abortion. The risks involved, however, can be lethal.

THE TRAUMA

Using "less qualified" practitioners can be horrifying. Worst of all are pregnant women who try to abort a fetus on their own, says Dr Apantree.

Some women insert foreign objects into the vagina to cause an irritation inside the womb. This is to induce contractions to force the unborn child out, she explains.

"For example, water, tablets, any foreign objects – even grass – can cause the irritation. Some women buy tablets via the Internet that they insert into the vagina to [chemically] force the cervix open and drive out the fetus."

"Some obstetricians insert one-quarter of a [particular] tablet into the vagina to induce labor in certain circumstances, but some women insert one or two tablets to induce an abortion," Dr Apantree explains.

But this may cause the woman to go into shock from the hemorrhage. In some cases, the womb becomes infected, leading to sepsis (blood infection), renal failure or a systemic organ failure, which means death, says Dr Apantree.

If the woman is lucky enough to survive the trauma, an infected womb might have to be surgically removed, meaning the woman will no longer be able to give birth.

HARD LESSONS

"I have seen many of these cases here at the hospital. Most of them were no more than 12 weeks pregnant, brought here because of hemorrhaging. And, some women do this again and again," she says.

Another common problem is misunderstanding that the morning-after pill may induce an abortion. "If the woman takes the morning-after pill when already pregnant, it very likely won't get rid of the baby – but there is a small chance that it might harm the baby," she adds.

The pill must be taken within 12 hours after intercourse, other-



Unplanned pregnancy can cause great emotional stress, in addition to the physical risk, if abortion is being considered. Photo: Poochit Sansok

wise it is simply not effective, Dr Apantree explains.

A dangerous scenario also common in Phuket is women taking a prescription acne medicine known to increase the risk of birth defects if taken when pregnant. Some women say they were on the drug in the early stages of pregnancy in the hope of convincing their doctor to accept their request for a legal abortion. "We won't agree without confirmation from the doctor who prescribed the medication," Dr Apantree says.

AT RISK

Although based in Patong, the throbbing heart of Phuket's nightlife industry, Dr Apantree says it is not sex workers who

most need to be taught birth control and the perils of illegal abortions. "Sex workers know well how to prevent pregnancy and infection. Their jobs involve sexual activity and they have health checks every month," she says.

Rather, it is students and young people in the workforce who need sex education the most, she says.

Dr Apantree also warns women not to underestimate the emotional toll unwanted pregnancy can take. Before and after an abortion, depression is normal, she says.

Mook agrees. "Before making the decision to do it, I was so stressed. I cried all day. I was the same after I did it. It took such a long time to stop crying.

"Now, 10 years later, the experience still haunts me."

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Red protests gaining force

MORE than 1,000 red shirt protesters gathered at Chatuchak Park in Bangkok on August 15 for the largest "Red Sunday" protest since the weekly demonstrations began, *Khao Sod* reports.

Led by veteran activist Sombat Boon-ngam-anong, the red-clad demonstrators cycled around the park before sitting down for a picnic of red rice.

Protesters separated into groups of 10 for "round-table" discussions about this year's red shirt protests.

They shared their experiences of the protests at the Ratchaprasong shopping district and Kok Wua Intersection, as well as of the forced clearing of the protests on May 19.

The protesters then held a mass group hug before heading home.

The demonstration took place despite the persisting emergency rule in Bangkok, which bans gatherings of more than five people.

The same day, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva signed an order lifting the emergency decree in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Ubon Ratchathani provinces.

AROUND THE nation

Mr Sombat said that the next protest would take place near Tha Pae Gate in Chiang Mai on August 22 and was expected to attract at least 5,000 protesters.

At the time of writing it was not clear whether the Chiang Mai protest would go ahead despite the lifting of emergency rule there.

The Red Sunday gatherings call for the lifting of the emergency decree from all provinces and are demanding the government take responsibility for the 91 civilian deaths during the red shirt protests earlier this year.

The emergency decree is still in place in the capital and the following places: Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Udon Thani, Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen and Samut Prakan provinces.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Leaders deny 'terrorist' charges

LEADERS of the red shirt movement appeared at Bangkok Criminal Court August 16 to plead not guilty to terrorism charges arising from their role in this year's protests in the Thai capital.

The 17 defendants, barefoot and shackled at the ankles, denied charges that they incited violence and threatened the prime minister during the protests that left 91 people dead and at least 1,400 injured.

It was also claimed that the accused assembled and trained military forces and armed them with war weapons in order to commit acts of terrorism.

Among the 17 were core leaders including Veera Musigapong, Natthawut Saikua and Weng Tojirakarn.

Kokaew Pikulthong (pictured), who recently stood as the opposition Pheu Thai Party candidate in the Bangkok Constituency 6 by-election, was also among the defendants. "This is a stupid charge," he said, as soldiers led him into the court, adding, "This is a



political charge."

Two defendants who are also Pheu Thai Party MPs, Jatuporn Prompan and Karun Hosakul, exercised parliamentary immunity and did not attend.

Several other leaders,

including former pop star Arisman Pongruangrong, remain on the run. Recent reports claimed Mr Arisman had been seen singing in an upmarket hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Dolphins survive smuggling gang

POLICE have arrested three men for attempting to smuggle two humpback dolphins in the back of a minivan from Trang province to a buyer in Chonburi, 900 kilometers away.

Manit Manjahuna, 64, along with Somphit Niamkurd, 42, and his son Natthaphong, 19, are believed to be part of a gang supplying dolphins as pets for the very rich in Central Thailand.

Chumphon Highway Police flagged the suspects' minivan down on the night of August 11, according to a report in *Kom Chad Luek*.

The two older men were sitting in front. When the arresting officers directed a flashlight beam into the back, they noticed the van's passenger seats had been pulled out.

While inspecting the men's identity cards, the officers heard a loud banging sound coming from inside the vehicle.

They asked the men to open the back of the van. Inside, they found Mr Natthaphong – and two humpback dolphins lying on a canvas sheet. There was also a tank of seawater and a spray bottle.

Police believe Mr Natthaphong was keeping the dolphins alive by continually spraying them with the water.

The two dolphins, a protected species in Thailand, looked tired and injured. Police believe if they had not received help they would have been dead within a few hours.

Police took all three men in for



questioning. Only Mr Natthaphong agreed to talk.

A man known only as "Ko Khao" hired the three men for 10,000 baht each to deliver the mammals to a man called "Pan", Mr Natthaphong said. They were to meet Pan at a Bang Chak gas station on the Chonburi bypass road.

It was not the first time the suspects had smuggled dolphins to Chonburi, Mr Natthaphong added. They had once delivered two dolphins to a house he described as "enormous", complete with fish tanks and ponds both inside and around the house.

Police said they were unaware of anyone called Ko Khao in Trang. However, they identified one individual who matches his description. The man owns large resorts, restaurants and fish ponds, as well as large fishing boats, in Trang.

When the officers suggested to Mr Natthaphong that this man was "Ko Khao", he reportedly behaved very suspiciously and refused to talk any more.

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C legs wood top
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Origin: Shanxi, China
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Artist: Yin Da,
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Soul of Asia at Surin Plaza remains open as normal

JUST COME AND HAVE A LOOK

YOU CANNOT RESIST THE OFFERS DURING THE LAST DAYS OF
PHUKET'S MOST CREATIVE GALLERY.

Business comes first, then culture later

It is not surprising to see that results from the online poll show that tourists may be “lax” on understanding Thai culture [Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Foreign tourists lax on Thai culture, August 9].

Beginning with their arrival at Phuket International Airport, tourists are greeted by an onslaught of touts, doing nothing short of begging for money.

Once the tourist has made their way through that gauntlet, they are likely to pay an exorbitant transportation fee to their resort which will more than likely have some sort of pseudo-Asian, exotic getaway, free your soul kind of decor.

After checking in, tourists will then haggle with tuk-tuk drivers who will take them to the sights around the island where they will again be over-charged.

All tourists get the chance to see is the business side of Thai society – the tourism business side. The pleasantries of their vacation often revolve around group activities or a resort experience largely in the presence of other travelers and Thai staff responding to their every demand.

In order for tourists in Phuket – or anywhere for that matter – to put more effort into learning about local culture, the local government needs to put more effort into encouraging it.

I think the move toward Phuket Town as a “cultural” tourist destination is a good one. Also, if taxi drivers were taught more about local culture and could share little tidbits with their passengers, we could all learn a little more.

Where bureaucrats fear to tread

Phuket Gazette

A KEY question asked in the pop parable *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson is, “What would I do if I weren’t afraid?” The story deals with the inhabitants of a fictional Maze who one day find quite unaccountably their store of cheese has vanished.

The message of the piece is that change is inevitable; those who embrace it may prosper, those who fear it will be buried by it.

For professionals in the private sector, this message must come as nothing new: free enterprise quickly disposes of those handicapped by outworn techniques.

Some individuals in the bureaucracy are aware they must run as fast as they can to maintain a grip on change, but for the public sector as a whole, the treadmill grinds on at the same numbing pace. Change is barely, at best belatedly, accounted for. This is a lamentable circumstance in the case of this once-idyllic isle of ours.

As noted in this space many times before the registered population of Phuket is 320,000, but by most estimates the actual population is probably more than a million. How many more? Who knows. Change has long outstripped the government’s ability to keep track even of population.

In Phuket, change is precipitated by those unaccounted-for people and their unaccounted-for needs, habits and tastes, which themselves are in constant flux.

It has long been plain that this island’s hillsides are valuable, that they might profitably be covered, like those of the French Riviera, with luxury homes. So now new

regulations controlling hillside development are in place allowing construction on steeper slopes, provided that a delimited amount of green space is provided. What kind of control will be exerted on developers, ensuring they follow the law?

A Chinese company is interested in developing a light-rail system for the island, enhancing access to tourist areas and the airport, which is under expansion to accommodate far greater numbers than the almost six million tourists who already visit annually. But where is the water? The infrastructure? The regulatory bodies necessary to ensure such projects don’t result in overwhelming complication?

The pace of change is accelerating, but thus far, despite some achievements, local government’s track record in keeping up is far from impressive.

The time is ripe to grasp change by the mane and ride: the public sector must dispense with its business-as-usual, let’s-form-another-committee approach and embrace the dynamics of the situation, which calls for thought and action within a reasonable time frame.

Public servants must do what they would do if they weren’t afraid to decide what to do: change is upon us, public and private sectors together. Unless we adapt in time, our cheese must surely vanish.

Now I am armed with knowledge and will be suspicious if I receive such a call. It frightens me to know that someone can steal your money digitally. It sounds like these scammers are professional criminals, perhaps even insiders of the banking industry since they appear to have such detailed knowledge of ATMs and automated phone calling systems. Scary stuff.

I think it’s a disgrace how Mr Laferme’s extreme case just got passed off to different people, and nobody wanted to take responsibility and actually help. It worries me, and definitely puts me off getting an account at Siam Commercial Bank.

Mildred Cunningham

Phuket

Parking peeves

Re: Gazette online, More Phuket Airport taxis approved, August 10

What about parking spaces for paying customers? Visiting tourists get in a taxi or hotel bus and go. We who live here and pay to park at the airport constantly have to fight for a space, while the taxi drivers park anywhere they like, sip tea under the trees and wait for business. I’ve had taxi drivers threaten to damage my car if I try to park in “their” spaces. And now we’re going to have even more of them!

Why not put the taxis outside the airport, then radio them when they have a fare? Or why not just give all the parking over to the taxis as the airport shows us that paying customers mean nothing to them – even after the price increase.

Will anything ever change in favor of Phuket residents? I doubt it.

Curious

Gazette forum

Scam report was a real eye-opener

Thank you very much Phuket Gazette for the in-depth news report on ATM scams in last

week’s paper [Phuket Gazette, Taking scams to the bank, August 14]. I had no idea about this, and would surely have fallen victim had I been unlucky enough to get called by those scammers.

Issues & Answers...

Why has drainage work stopped on ‘Dowroong road’?

Regarding the new nameless road stretching between Dowroong Wittaya School and The Software Park Phuket, the work installing drains has stopped completely and is actually making the access to our office/storeroom difficult.

When will this work continue and why did the work stop?

Anders Palm
Wichit

Anuwat Sriwan, Academic Officer at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, replies:

The work of installing the drains along the road has stopped because the contractor hired to do the project has run into financial difficulty and cannot complete the project.

We will accept tenders for a new contractor to complete the project on September 3.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Once tenders have closed, the committee overseeing the project has 15 days to review all tenders and choose a contractor to finish the project. After this 15 days have passed, the contractor chosen to finish the project has seven days to sign a contract agreeing to complete the project according to all terms specified in the contract. Once this contract has been signed, the new company must finish construction within 120 days of signing the contract.

Free VCDs for promoting Phuket

Where can I buy promotional videos for Phuket and the sur-

rounding areas? My wife and I opened a small Thai restaurant here in Saratoga and we would like to show videos of the natural beauty and activities to enjoy over there while our guests enjoy their delicious food.

Clay Watson and Malee Phairoj
Saratoga Wyoming, USA

An officer at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, replies:

The TAT provides VCD to promote Phuket tourism attractions and some provinces nearby.

The VCDs are available in eight different languages: Thai, English, Russian, German, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Arabic.

If you would like one of these VCDs, please just contact our office at:

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191 Thalang Rd, Muang,
Phuket 83000
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and 076-217138
Fax: 076-213582
Email: tatphuket@tat.or.th
Website: www.tourismthailand.org/phuket

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Powerful tradition

FIRST PERSON

BUILT in 1983 as a home for about seven priests, the temple received wat status in 2003 and today there are 13 monks and one nun living here full-time on the 12-rai grounds.

We have had some women come to be ordained as nuns in short terms of five and seven days. There have also been monks from different temples who have come back to stay here for three-month periods after visiting our temple. They may think this temple is more peaceful and the monks enjoy more respect from local people than others.

We have never had electricity here. When the grounds were first developed, we were connected to the main road by a very small soi, so it was hard to get electricity here. But we didn't really try to get it because we like the natural surroundings, living in the forest.

Later, development came and we were offered electrical power supply, but by that time we were used to living without it, so we decided against it.

There are many benefits in cutting out of our lives unnecessary things and extra conveniences such as stereos and electrical appliances. And we don't have to pay an electric bill; we can keep our budget down in support of government policy.

Locals may think not having electricity is dangerous, but I don't think anything bad will happen.

Candles are used instead of electric lights. We cannot even count how many candles we use in a week or month. People provide them for us.



Abbot **Chamlong Nonthiyo**, 54, is the head of Wat Phitaksamanakit, the only temple in Phuket without electricity. The temple, with jungle behind it, is about 300 meters down Pithak-uthit Rd, off Srisuthat Rd in Rassada. He has been an ordained monk for 24 years and here he explains the benefit of life without electricity.

Some of them are lit every day, but only in necessary areas, such as around the monks' houses and along the walkways. The temple boys light them around 6pm and put them out around 9pm. Many more are lit on Buddhist days for people coming for ceremonies.

Hundreds of local residents come to the temple on Buddhist days for ceremonies.

We do most of our activities in daylight and only a little reading and writing at night. In the past, no-one had electricity and everyone managed to live with candles and oil lamps.

It doesn't really get hot in the summer season, as there are many trees around keeping it cool. Plus, we are used to not having fans or air conditioners.

Because we don't have any electric water pumps, we collect

rainwater in tanks built above the monks' residences and the toilets are located below.

We have 17 concrete tanks and some stainless-steel tanks, plastic tanks and water urns containing rainwater, which is used by the 16 monks and two nuns staying with us now.

The rainwater is not for drinking; fresh bottled drinking water is given to us by local people. In the dry season, local people and Rassada Municipality bring us water.

As long as I am the temple head, we will not use electricity.

People can come to the temple to listen to talks and meditate and they can stay overnight if we have space available.

People are continually coming here to make merit on weekends, holidays and Buddhist days.

— *Compiled by Atchaa Khamlo*

Thailand's web woes continue

Island View

By Nicky Vermeulen

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

RUMORS about one of Thailand's main Internet providers blocking torrent sites have caused reaction from Internet users and abusers alike, bringing to mind the touchy topic of Internet censorship in Thailand.

Media watch group Freedom Against Censorship Thailand said that Thailand recently became the first country in the world to have blocked 100,000 websites. By mid-June the number was 113,000.

While it seems almost impossible to locate a list of any sort to see which sites have been blocked or what criteria there is for blocking them, various comments have been posted in cyberspace that indicate a trend.

While many websites are blocked for lèse majesté, political concerns, gambling and pornography regulations, there are others that lead people to question the motives behind the harsh action: such as the 24 Charlie Chaplin videos that are blocked on YouTube.

It is a bit surprising, considering most of Chaplin's performances took place during the silent-film era, so it's hard to see how Charlie could be "saying" something offensive.

Further criticism arose following the arrest of red shirt supporter Wipas Raksakulthai for "breaching national security by insulting the monarchy" on his Facebook profile, the Department of Special Investigation said.

The social networking site was later blocked during the unrest in Bangkok this year.

Certain international organizations believe that Thai authorities

are over-censoring the Internet. Thailand has been placed on Reporters Without Borders' [RWB] Countries Under Surveillance list.

At the rate it's going, Thailand could soon find itself bumped up by RWB, to the Enemies of the Internet list, which includes countries whose authorities not only censor information, but systematically suppress freedoms of expression and information – the "basic" human rights outlined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While one might agree with respecting a country's laws regarding content sensitivity when the aim is to preserve the values of a nation, it is unreasonable to censor content so much that even Google considers pulling their search engine – as was the case with Google and the "great firewall of China" just a few months ago.

Although Thailand might push the boundaries of what many people might consider acceptable restriction to be, rules here still seem to be a far cry from the tactics allegedly used by authoritarian strongholds, such as Iran, where a blogger reportedly died in custody.

Internet users – or abusers – in Thailand can thank their lucky stars that although their access is limited, at least they aren't subjected to restrictions like those.

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

Nowhere to 'slip' my sea kayaks

As a sailor and a sea-kayaking enthusiast, I can say there are no public and safe places to launch dinghies or small boats in the water either because there are no slipways or locals do not want you to use "their place" unless a local fee is paid.

On the east coast, we have Chalong Pier, the beach near Ao Yon and expensive private marinas – and that's it.

Why does the government not secure at all local villages, beaches and bays, public areas where slipways and parking places are available for those practicing boating, sailing, kayaking and other sea sport activities?

*Whistle-Blower
Phuket*

Prajiad Augsornthamakul, Chief of Provincial Strategy and Development Unit at the Phuket Provincial Governor's Office, replies:

Asking why "the government" doesn't do this is too broad a question to give a specific, direct answer to.

I think even the governor himself may not be able to give a clear answer to this. It's like asking all of Parliament a question while it is in session – and hoping for a simple, single, definitive answer.

But if you can be more specific, such as specifying where more places – new harbors or piers – could be developed, then we could check with each of the local administrations, as it would depend on them whether they have any plans or not.

Puriwat Teerakolphisut, Chief of the Phuket Marine Office, replies:

The Marine Department confirms you can launch small craft at Chalong Bay, with no restrictions on what time you want to launch and without charge.

If you have any difficulties with finding a slipway or safe place to launch, please feel free call me at 081-797 9666.

Where can I recycle plastic bottles?

I have hundreds of six-liter plastic water containers in my backyard. I do not want to throw them in the trash, but would prefer to recycle them.

Is there a place where I can take them that will recycle plastic in Phuket?

*Winter Green
Thalang*

Niti Raktaetrakol, owner of the Wongpanit Recycling Centers in Phuket, replies:

We are open 8am to 5pm Mondays through Saturdays, but closed on Sundays – and we accept all types of plastic bottles made from recyclable plastic.

The main Wongpanit Recycling Center in Phuket is at 75/3 Moo 1, Kathu, Phuket. Tel: 076-203271. The shop is near Anuphas Dents Done on Pra Phuket Kaew Rd.

The Wongpanit Recycling Center in Thalang is on Thepkrasattri Rd in Baan Pon, Thalang. Tel: 076-311224.



An officer at the Regional Environment Office 15 Phuket said:

Plastic containers such as recyclable plastic bottles can be valuable if they are already separated from other trash.

You can sell materials like this

to "trash purchasing shops" everywhere.

But if you do not want to sell them, you can contact the local administration office for your area, which will have trash separation center that can send those containers or recycling for you.

Pondering pension problems

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

AN ACRONYM that has joined the ranks of investment related terminology in recent years is QROPS.

It stands for Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme. This acronym should be familiar to all UK pension fund holders, many of which are spending their golden years in Phuket.

Pensions A-Day caused some radical changes to the rules governing transfers from UK registered pension schemes on April 6, 2006.

From this date, individuals who wished to migrate from the UK or those already living overseas, in places like Phuket, were able to transfer their UK pension funds to an overseas pension scheme, provided it was a QROPS.

There are numerous benefits to be gained in transferring a UK pension to a QROPS.

Such benefits will apply to most pension holders. However, before considering a QROPS transfer a financial adviser who will be able to provide a detailed cost/benefit analysis should be consulted.

Many UK expatriates that are living in Phuket have pensions based on Defined Benefit Schemes (DBS).

With DBS, an individual's retirement will be determined by their earnings and length of service with the company operating the DBS.

Such a scheme often comes with guarantees attached such as a pension income guaranteed for life, where statutory annual increases of up to 5% can apply.

Having said this, unfortunately nothing is ever cut and dry. It is



DEEP IN THOUGHT: Pension issues can be confusing for some, but the new QROPS scheme is a good option for retirees abroad. Photo: Flickr

important to consider how safe the DBS is and whether or not it will be capable of delivering on its promises.

Due to the exorbitant cost, the vast majority of UK companies have ceased offering DBS for new employees.

Existing employees have also seen benefits reduced. The days of generous DBS pensions are largely over.

Clearly, it is important that an individual seeks advice if they have any doubts over the future of their DBS since it may prove advantageous to transfer out to a QROPS if they are about to leave the UK or have already left.

Transferring a pension to a QROPS means that an individual is able to design a succession

plan, ensuring they can secure benefits after death to their spouse and any children.

On top of this, an individual can take control over his or her pension and, QROPS offer more investment options with no limit to the size of funds which can be accumulated.

QROPS schemes are probably the best opportunity UK expatriates have had in a very long time.

Not only do they maximise potential benefits but they also increase flexibility.

Therefore, even if an individual's pension is held in a DBS, a QROPS may still be worth some consideration.

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

UK Pension Funds including Defined Benefit Schemes (DBS)

- Income drawn is subject to UK income tax
- No fund to tax on death, nothing passed on
- You take prearranged income payment
- Limited investment choice

- Typically, 50% spouse pension on death
- Income starts at normal retirement age

- Must buy an annuity by age 77
- Risk of company insolvency and loss of pension
- Funds traditionally held in Sterling (GBP)
- 25% tax-free lump sum at retirement age
- No flexibility if terminally ill

QROPS

- Income drawn is UK tax free offshore
- Fund passes to family/estate free of Inheritance Tax
- more flexibility on drawdown of funds
- Unlimited investment choice, even after retirement

- 100% of fund value passes to dependents on death
- Income can start at age 55

- Never obligated to buy an annuity
- Investment protected by Isle of Man/Guernsey laws
- Funds/assets can be held in different currencies
- 25% tax-free lump sum when you retire, from age 55
- Can drawdown 100% if terminally ill

AirAsia deals blow the mind

AIRAsia sold a whopping 500,000 tickets within 24 hours in a recent promotional campaign.

This was thanks to a strategy where they quoted fares starting at a rate of 10 baht per ticket.

The "Mind Blowing Fare" campaign ran from August 10-18 and

was applicable for flights during the period April 1 to August 31, 2011.

Domestic routes covered in the campaign included Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Krabi, Phuket, Haad Yai and Ubon Ratchathani.

International routes were also

included, mostly to destinations within Asean countries such as Singapore, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh.

AirAsia also offered flights starting at 10 baht to Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

The campaign was initiated to secure heavy traffic for Air Asia ahead of Thai Air and Tiger Airways launching their new low-cost carrier airline in the beginning of next year.

— The Nation

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Baht in full stride

With the baht at a two-year high, and EU and US economies hurting, many tourists spending power is slowing pace in Thailand.

By Anand Singh

LAST week the Thai baht appreciated to its highest value since May 2008. The baht reached its 26-month high at 31.93 baht per US dollar on August 9.

This was preceded by the Ministry of Commerce upgrading Thailand's export growth target for this year by more than 20%.

Most currencies in the East Asian region strengthened during the week on the back of optimism that the region's growth rate will increase capital inflow into economies like Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, *Bloomberg* reports.

The Thai baht, which at the start of this year was trading at around 33 baht per US dollar, has continuously appreciated against all currencies since January.

The US dollar fell below 32 baht for the first time in years on August 9.

The euro, which in June saw its lowest value against the baht (less than 39 baht per euro) had continuously appreciated due to easing concerns about the Greek sovereign debt crisis.

On August 9, the euro traded at around 41 baht, still lower than its value towards the end of July.

According to Phornthep Jubhandh, an economist at the Siam Commercial bank, the increased capital inflow to the region was due to the US Federal Bank's decision to hold the US interest rate to between 0 to 0.25%.

It is also expected that the Bank of Thailand will increase its policy rate by 25 base points, thus sending the baht into an upward trend in anticipation of the rate hike.

Continued appreciation of the baht may start to hurt competitiveness in Thailand's export sectors, The Ministry of Commerce warned.

Phuket's tourism industry relies heavily on the competitiveness of the baht.

In the past, Phuket has proved to be a popular tourist destination for European visitors with strong spending power.

But since the financial crisis, many major western currencies like the euro, the US dollar and the pound sterling have seen significant depreciation against



MARCHING ON: A tourist walks past a currency exchange van in Bangkok. The baht continues to rise as many currencies from the west decline, tilting the exchange rate in Thailand's favour. Photos: AFP and Wikimedia

most other currencies.

In the first half of this year, the sovereign debt crisis in Greece helped to further exacerbate the weakening of the euro.

Despite the continuously strengthening baht tourist arrivals in Thailand in the first half of this year still increased by 13.7% from the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Altogether there were 7.5 million tourist arrivals to the kingdom. Some 2.27 million were from the UK and Europe.

Although no arrivals data is available on Phuket alone, and considering the first half of this year was plagued by political

unrest, the number of tourist arrivals still managed to increase from the same period last year.

Khun Mathee Thanmanatrakul, former president of the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter, said that the value of the currency is only a secondary concern.

The strengthening baht will not have too much of a negative effect on the tourism industry.

In the past, the pound sterling and the euro have weakened against the baht.

We didn't see any significant cancellations because of this. More important factors, like the local political climate, have been improving in the past few months and should help greatly

in the recovery of tourist numbers," he said.

From tourism statistics published by the TAT, it is clear that the European region is still a big player in Phuket's tourism market.

The baht is poised to keep strengthening as foreign investment continues to flow into the Kingdom.

According to *The Nation*, Bandid Nijathaworn, the deputy governor of the Bank of Thailand said the central bank would be closely monitoring the inflow of funds to ensure that the foreign exchange rate is not so volatile that it will affect foreign trade and other business activities.

Jones Lang LaSalle bulks up

JONES Lang LaSalle expanded its facilities management portfolio in the Asia Pacific region by over 1.8 million square-meters in the first half of this year.

The company, which specializes in managing real estate facilities, has a large presence in the Asia Pacific region. Among other projects, the company manage 16 luxury resort condominium and villa projects in Phuket.

The company won its biggest ever corporate contract in the Asia Pacific region, when Telstra, Australia's leading Telecommunications Company awarded Jones Lang LaSalle with a long term contract to manage their corporate facilities spread across 14,000 sites in Australia.

The deal added another 929,000sqm of space to the company's portfolio.

In Thailand, Jones Lang LaSalle's Property and Asset Management branch manages over

3.6 million sqm of property on behalf of owners and investors in the country, making it the largest international property services firm in the Kingdom.

According to Winai Jaiton, marketer for Jones Lang LaSalle Thailand, the high profile devel-

opments in Phuket that the company manages include: The Cape, Absolute Nakalay Beach Resort, Absolute Bangla Suites, The Palm Beach Club, The Kamala Beach Estate and Blue Canyon Homes One.

— Anand Singh



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Salt shakes up the big screen

Film

By Scott Phillips

Salt

Director: Phillip Noyce
Starring: Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber and Daniel Olbrychski
Genre: Action/Thriller
Gazette Rating: 5/5

IT WAS only a matter of time before a movie like *Salt* hit theaters. After the success of so many espionage heroes, *a la* Jason Bourne and James Bond, placing a female in the leading role of a high-stakes spy thriller was every bit as certain as Evelyn Salt's ability to avoid incarceration.

In the wrong hands, the attempt to make such a movie could easily take a nosedive as a typical over-the-top action movie.

But director Phillip Noyce's perfect pacing and execution of action scenes, combined with the casting of Angelina Jolie as the kick-ass lead, earn *Salt* the right to stand amongst the best in the genre.

The film opens with Salt (Jolie) as a helpless captive being tortured in a North Korean prison. A colleague and her husband come to her rescue so she can resume her office job of working for the CIA.

Fast forward a couple of years to a routine interrogation of a Russian captive at CIA headquarters. The captive tells Salt – as her superiors listen through one-way glass – that she is a Russian spy, and she is going to assassinate the Russian president at a high-profile funeral the following day.

A Russian spy is going to kill the Russian president? This, of course, needs clarifying, but Salt



NOT SO SWEET: Catch Angelina Jolie as she takes on the role of agent Evelyn Salt in her latest action-packed performance, out in cinemas now.

is forced on the run before any answers can be given.

She claims to evade the CIA in order to warn her husband, who she was due to meet for an anniversary dinner.

As she escapes CIA, one thing becomes certain: Salt has some serious ability, arguably a bit more than a wife concerned about missing her dinner date.

It doesn't take long before Salt is the quintessential spy-on-the-run. She makes her way through major cities around the world as CIA agents track her from secret rooms with high-tech computers. If only the men in the field could apprehend Salt as well as their computers can track her via satellite.

Salt is so well-trained, she can steer a car via the back seat by stunning the driver with a taser gun and shocking him so that his spasms push the accelerator as needed. You don't get that kind of training at the academy.

Just where do you get that kind of training? Those are the kinds of unknowns that keep the film entertaining.

Some films easily go overboard with plot twists, giving a sense of absurdity to their stories – *Salt* veers close to this realm, but it is so fast-paced that there is never any time to stop and complain about it. The body count Salt racks up could impress the most seasoned of war criminals.

Bodies are like food for Salt. Some people need to eat in order to keep going; Salt needs to maim or kill. She doesn't target many women – cleverly – because something about watching Angelina Jolie beat the pulp out of scores of belligerent men with big guns is just so...fun.

It's so much fun that even as we constantly question who Salt is working for – if anyone – we can't help but hope she keeps doing it.

What else is on...

Toy Story 3

Director: Lee Unkrich
Starring: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Don Rickles
Genre: Family/Animation
Gazette Rating: 4.5/5

Tom Hanks and Tim Allen reprise their voice roles in the third installment of the series that launched computer-animated cinema. With their owner, Andy, all grown up and heading off to college, Woody, Buzz and the rest of the toy gang are thrown into a day-care center, where abuse from tots forces them to plan their escape. Probably the best in the trilogy, the film is near perfect and will be enjoyed equally by parents and kids.



Step Up 3-D

Director: Jon Chu
Starring: Rick Malambri, Adam G. Sevani, Sharni Vinson, Alyson Stoner
Genre: Dance/Musical/Romance
Gazette Rating: 3/5

The third *Step Up* brings together another round of modern-day hip-hop dance sessions with a loose plot to tie it all in. New York City street dancers Natalie (Vinson) and Luke (Malambri) form a team with NYU students to compete against the world's best dancers. It's not *West Side Story*, but the dance scenes are expertly choreographed and filmed. Dance buffs will love this flick.



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Discover tastes of Italy in Nai Harn

Unraveling the mystery behind one of the island's best kept secrets. An Italian restaurant where Italians go to eat...

On the Menu

by Sam Wilko

NAI Harn is a bit of a mess nowadays.

The local council has torn up the roadside and is re-laying the drainage system – slap-bang in the middle of the monsoon season (better known to real estate agents as “summer”) so it looks more like a mini Battle of the Somme than a holiday destination.

Adding to the muddled confusion is a constant trickle of learner drivers that crawl through the center of the village (at rush hour, of course) heading down to do a few laps of the lake before inching, stalling and shuddering back, leaving long lines of frustrated yet strangely Zen-like drivers in their wake.

As Thailand has not yet implemented an ‘L’-for-learner signage system and allows mirror-finished car windows, your guess is as good as mine as to what exactly is going on in that meandering Yaris stuttering past Da Vinci’s at a sprightly 15kmph. It could, for all we know, be radio controlled with a vodka-fuelled orgy going on inside its locked doors. I’ve seen weirder scenarios in Thailand.

Almost directly on Nai Harn Beach’s northern end sits one of the most disarming restaurants in the area, the tiny seven-table Pulcinella.

Run by Lorenzo Matis from Bologna, it’s a tight operation that few

people – apart from guests at neighboring hotels and regulars to the beach itself know about. Cool music, recorded for the restaurant by an appreciative Swedish ex-diner, tumbles and spills out onto the terrace and as far as people-watching venues goes, it’s right up there with the best.

Lorenzo cooks, bakes, and conjures up some of the most definitive Italian concoctions in the southern part of Phuket with more than 20 types of pizza and as many pasta dishes inspired, as he says, by his grandmother’s recipes.

After a delicious bruschetta Napoli (140 baht) the seafood spaghetti (280 baht) earns the ultimate accolade from my dining partner, known for her dismissive attitude towards dishes of, shall we say, “compromised quality” by simply refusing to eat them.

It was all I could do to get a

taste from her... which is tangy, salty, herb-infused and a perfect complement to the beach-side setting.

My Margarita pizza (180 baht) is just great: the successful art of producing what some culinary Philistines dismiss as a glorified cheese sandwich is justified in Lorenzo’s execution – elevating a basic dish to something way above its station.

Echoing our views are fellow diners, a French couple staying at a nearby resort: “We’ve come here every day” they tell us; “We just love the food”. This, all washed down by the house wine – a

hearty Italian merlot priced at 400 baht for a half liter – along with the sea breezes and a constant come and go of entertaining hot-potato-in-the-mouth-machine-gun-speaking Italians bantering with Lorenzo make this one of my favorite unpretentious Italian diners in Nai Harn.

You can choose carefully considered opulence in Da Vinci or constant quality at M&M’s, but Pulcinella could be argued to have the edge when it comes to location.

Simplicity, freshness and good service are the hallmarks of the

best restaurants around, and this one ticks all the boxes (especially because the chef serves all the

dishes) – although it’d be interesting to see Lorenzo handling an order of 20 take aways, seven tables wanting his seafood spaghetti, and a further three groups glowering

outside, demanding seating. Sometimes success can be challenging.

Good luck, Lorenzo. You deserve it.

Pulcinella is located close to Nai Harn Beach (northern end), contact T: 076-388397, or 0813673534

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Ken Abday

KEN Abday is an international consultant with his company, Lifestyle Properties. His focus is land acquisition – finding valuable pieces of real estate and offering them to developers.

It's often a complicated process, he says, as a large piece of land can have many owners who Ken must convince to work together so he can package an attractive offer to a prospective buyer or lessee.

"We look for properties not on the market that will be of interest to a major client. Lifestyle Properties coordinated the acquisition and sale of 70 rai of land with 530 meters of beach front on Coconut Island, which then became what is now 'The Village'.

"This transaction required getting seven or eight family members to agree to sell the property, and to agree on a price, which can be a challenge."

Ken arrived in Phuket in 1992 from Calgary, Alberta, to rest from his busy life running his own companies and projects. He has always been entrepreneurial, believing that there is opportunity just waiting to be discovered.

He was born in a small town in Central Canada. His father worked for an industrial company that sent the family to Melbourne, Australia, when Ken was a boy.

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

When they returned to Canada, they settled in Calgary. After graduating from school, Ken became a sheet metal mechanic and opened his own business. At the same time, he began buying old houses, making renovations, and selling them off for substantial profit.

"I was always good with my hands and with math. Fortunately, I was able to use these to build a number of successful businesses."

Those businesses included building the largest factory in Western Canada for recycling lead acid car batteries and precious metals. At the same time, he set up the health and safety regulations for that industry that are still in place.

He also bought an industrial-sized truck to haul components to the region's oil pipelines. Eventually, he formed his own trucking company which he operated for eight years.

With his math skills, Ken also worked as a purchasing agent for construction companies on big projects, including dams.

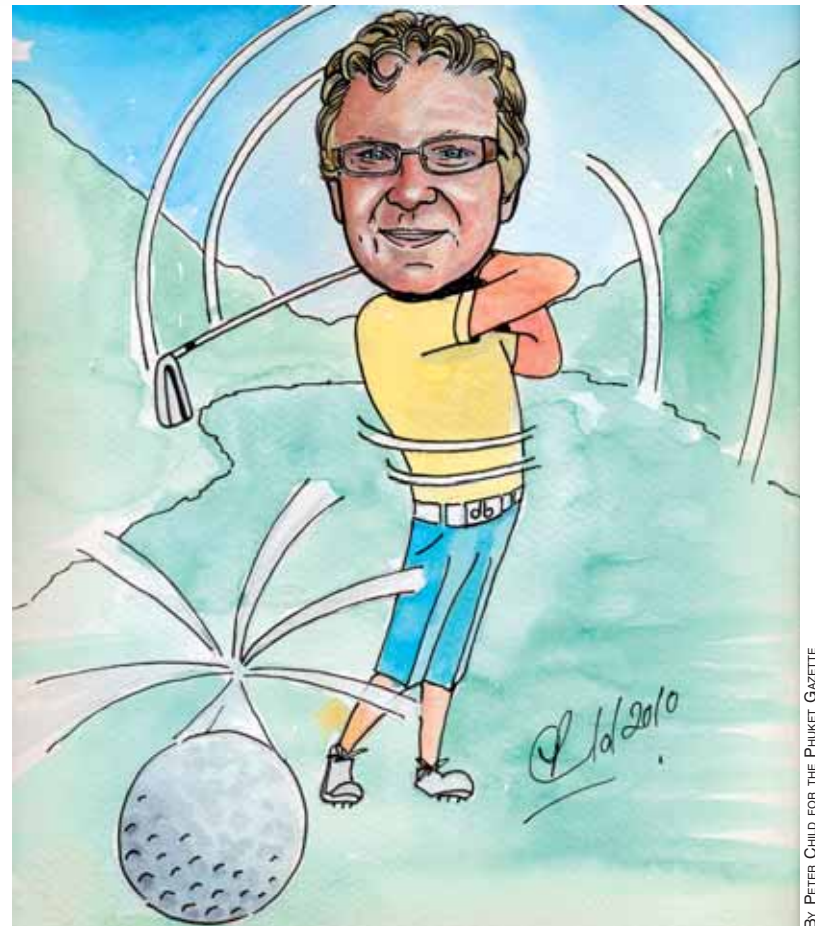
"I've always had a lot of projects going. I enjoyed mechanics and at one time had seven cars, two trucks, two snowmobiles and three dirt bikes that I kept in good running order."

But by the early 1990s, he was ready to see the world. After his initial visit to Phuket in 1992, he spent four years traveling back and forth between the island and his businesses in Calgary.

When on Phuket, he stayed at the Boat Lagoon and enjoyed his time sailing and crewing for yachts bound for Langkawi. When he was invited to work as Sales and Marketing Director of the Lighthouse Villas at the Boat Lagoon, he got his start in the island's developing real estate industry.

Ken's decision to move to Southeast Asia was settled when he met his future wife, well known local artist Khun Map. They spent their first years together when Ken accepted a job as Country Manager in Malaysia for the world's largest supplier of blue crabs. They lived in Sabah, Sarawak, the Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia until they settled back in Phuket to raise their family in 2002.

Over the past eight years, Ken has been busy developing his Lifestyle Properties. He has also been active in promoting Khun Map's career as a painter and is becoming a bit of a legend in the island's golfing community where he has taken more than his share of trophies.



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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Class of her own

A five-year-old Phuket girl is making a big impression in Thailand's art scene.



ART ATTACK: Part of Holly's exhibition at the Art and Culture Hall, Bangkok.

By Alexandra Andersson

FIVE-year-old Holly Maitland Smith has achieved what many artists can only dream of.

She has become a household name in Thailand's art community, having produced hundreds of quirky, impressionistic paintings exhibited throughout Thailand.

All this, and Holly is just a kindergarten student at Kajonkiet-suksa in Phuket.

A lot of the money raised from sales of her paintings is donated to Phuket charities, with her most extensive exhibition – over 200 pieces – adorning the walls of Bangkok's Phuket Hospital, much to the enjoyment of the patients and medical staff.

Holly donates money and a portion of her artwork to The Soi Dog Foundation, Sunshine Village and The Phuket International Women's Club, among others.

Holly's mother, Rose, said that personal success is not the main goal for Holly.

"We are not concerned with prices, if someone likes a picture, they can make an offer," she said.

"Mostly, I want Holly to be able to look back on her life and see what she did to help others."

Rose also said she hopes her daughter's success will motivate other children and parents to realize their own potential.

Holly's work has been displayed at 12 exhibitions throughout Thailand: one in Haad Yai, three in Bangkok and the rest in Phuket.

Her solo exhibition at the Art and Culture Center in Bangkok entitled "Every Child is an Artist" attracted national media coverage, and also grabbed the

attention of Thailand's art community, including painter Ravit Terdwong and other famous Thai artists.

Recognizing Holly's potential, Hoff Art Gallery in Bangkok has added the young Phuket painter to their artist list, exhibiting her work on a regular basis.

Her paintings have been described as fun, colorful, imaginative and free, and people are attracted to the lack of inhibitions in her paintings. This aspect of her work is something that only a child's unspoiled nature could achieve.

Rose said that age affects creativity. The older we get, the harder it is for imagination to block out analytical thoughts. A child's mind, according to Rose, isn't restrained by conventional adult thinking and limitations.

Case in point, Holly's favorite color is "rainbow".

Her art teacher, Josh Roxas told the *Gazette*: "Holly paints what is in her mind."

Animals, flowers and unidentifiable creatures are mixed-in with striking colors applied in different ways, for an intriguing end result.

Holly uses all manner of tools and techniques – hands, feet, paint-splashing, etching, rolling and printing – to produce her captivating works.

Born in Phuket, her Thai and British parents Rose and Graham first gave Holly a paintbrush and paints at the tender age of two.

Inspired by Holly's success, younger daughter Bella and mother Rose have both recently taken up painting.

As well as giving Holly art supplies, including canvases and

acrylic paints, Rose and Graham take their daughters to art galleries where Holly can be inspired by the work of artists like Van Gogh and Jackson Pollock.

For Holly's next project, she is working with her teacher Josh on a collection to raise money for a dialysis machine for Princess Sirirthon Hospital.

If you are interested in Holly's work, then visit her exhibitions on display at Central Festival and Phuket Bangkok Hospital, or see www.hollymaitlandsmith.com



Examples of Holly's work and (below) the artist with her art teacher Josh Roxas. Photos: Rose Maitland Smith



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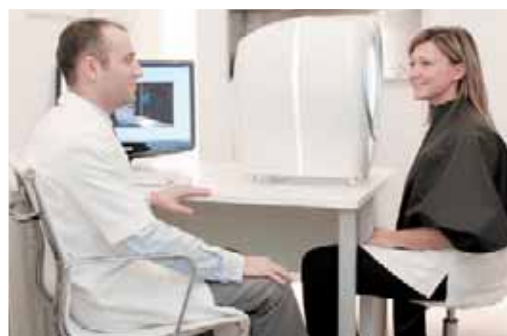
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Roughing it down south



By Lesley Chittayanon

FEW places in the world boast landscape as diverse as the Andaman coast. South of bustling Phuket, in Trang province, life moves at a slower pace.

As many coastal areas in southern Thailand have been engulfed by a wave of commercial development, travelers seeking adventure a little more low-key, have to plough deeper into rural areas for true adventure travel.

In the northwest of Trang province, the small coastal community of Bo Hin is fast becoming known as a destination abundant in natural riches and as a sought after location for farmstay holidays.

At the Bo Hin Farmstay – a series of rickety shacks on the water – tourists will find a holiday experience with a difference.

The farmstay is run by a group of 19 local boatmen, fishermen, weavers and cooks.

Having pledged their skills, equipment and time, they offer visitors a captivating experience in the Bo Hin area.

When the farmstay opened for business four years ago, its purpose was two-fold, explained the warm and welcoming owner “Mr Bonjoan”: “I wanted to develop a project that would bring prosperity to the community, and

at the same time raise awareness about protecting our local environment”.

Mr Bonjoan said the local community pulled together to make the farmstay a reality.

“A group of us got together and made a list of what we could offer, both in skills and equipment. After adding it up we realized we could provide tourists with an opportunity to experience local farming life, as well as our culture,” he said.

Today, the stilted-wooden farmstay consists of three main rooms connected by a passageway, which also serves as a meeting point, restaurant, and pier.

In each guestroom there are private bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, plus a communal lounge area with TV, sofa and books. Accommodation is clean, airy and cool.

Visitors are invited to join locals as they complete their daily tasks. Early risers can learn how to tap rubber and watch the various stages of preparing the rubber for manufacturing.

There is also the chance to join local fishermen as they head out to the Gulf of Sikao. Guests can cast nets in the Andaman Sea, and their catch of the day will be cooked and served upon their return.

Back on dry land, the village



SOUTHERN SIGHTS: Mr Bonjoan (top) takes visitors on a boat tour off Bo Hin, Trang province. The Bo Hin Farmstay (left and above). Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

women exchange news and chat while making handcrafted goods from pandanus leaves. Joining in this activity provides the chance to enjoy some banter with locals while trying your hand at weaving.

A longtail boat trip with Mr Bonjoan, or one of his crew, is the best way to fully appreciate the natural beauty of the coastline. Boat trips take you through dense mangrove forests before heading for the coast and navigating around groups of towering limestone karsts.

You will pass by rows of stalactites jutting from overhangs on the rocks, while below, lapping water spills into a dark cave as a white-bellied sea eagles skim the surface, talons clenched, ready to swoop on unsuspecting prey.

Mr Bonjoan is keen to share his knowledge of the local area with passengers and points out the various islands, beaches, and

caves where fishermen take shelter from turbulent monsoon storms. He is also involved in programs to preserve local marine life, a matter close to his heart.

The waters in the area are home to a population of dugongs, or sea cows, an almost-extinct marine mammal, largely dependent on sea grass.

Recent surveys show the number of dugongs in the area has dropped in the past year. In a bid to help, Mr Bonjoan has started a new sea grass planting scheme to create a more abundant food source and save the species from extinction.

Bo Hin Farmstay is an example of how tourism can help preserve local nature, customs and traditions. Instead of adapting their ways to accommodate visitors, locals invite guests to share in their everyday life and learn about the environment.

It's quite an eye-opener.

Bo Hin travel tips

BO HIN Farmstay is located just over 312 kilometers south from Phuket, in the Si Kao region of Trang close to the Krabi border. Driving is the best option and will take three hours from Phuket. If you do take the bus (180 baht) then you will have the tedious journey of going all the way to Trang and then having to take a 20 minute minibus journey (40 baht) back towards Krabi to Si Kao, a total of five hours from Phuket.

Rooms in Bo Hin Farmstay are 400 baht per night and meals – Thai food only – are extremely good value. Trips and tours are also cheap and competitive with other trips in the region.

Tips are not expected, but slipping your longtail boat driver an extra note or two will go a long way to help farmstay staff.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

August 29. Scrambles Golf Tournament

The Rotary Club of Patong presents the 2010 Patong Beach Fun & Charity Golf Tournament at Laguna Phuket Golf Club (LPGC). 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 and includes dinner. 600 baht per person for dinner only; children under seven years free. For more information contact OB Wetzell 081-892 9207 E: ob@sustainablereturn.com W: rotarypatong.org

September 3. Curry Fridays

Every second Friday is "Curry Friday" night, where you get the chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 399 baht. Draught Beer by the glass for just 50 baht. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm-11:30pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For other information contact Mr Seemant Raju. T: 081-629 5063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W: karonseasand.com. The next Curry Friday will be held on September 17.

September 5. Phuket Yacht Club Back to School Catch-Up

All welcome to attend the "Back to School" social and open day. Enjoy the beach buffet, catch-up with friends and make some new ones at the Phuket Yacht Club in Ao Yon at the south end of the island. Kids can play on the beach, paddle a kayak, or go for a dinghy ride. From 10:30am-4pm. For further information contact Donna Stephens. T: 086-1200752 E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W: phuketyachtclub.info

September 5. Amateur Golf Open Tournament

The third round of the tournament



Lebanese cuisine with Chef Suleiman Abu Tarieh – August 24-28

The Evason Phuket is inviting Phuket locals to sample the creations of their guest chef. Chef Suleiman 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 located inside the Evason. For more information contact Alain Ruffier. T: 076-381010 E: eamfbphuket@sixsenses.com W: sixsenses.com

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 will 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

September 16. Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

This month's lunch will be held at The Holiday Inn, Patong. All are welcome. Members: 450 baht; Guests: 600 baht. Prior registration is essential as this is always a popular event. From 10:30am-2pm at The Holiday Inn hotel in Patong. For further information contact Carole. T: 085-7821332, 076-271727 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

September 19. Phuket Yacht Club Wet and Wild Race Day

Wet and Wild Race Day and Family Day. Come along to the Phuket Yacht Club for a fun day of swimming, food and good company. RSVP for catering if you intend to come. If you are interested in racing tasars or dinghies and would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Andrew at 081-894 1530 or email andrew@leemarine.net From

9am- 4pm in Ao Yon Bay. For further information contact Donna Stephens. T: 086-1200752 E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W: phuketyachtclub.info

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. Over 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 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*.

Chalong – August 29

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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Beauty is skin deep



STAR STATUS: Actress Hathaya Wongkajang (above) shared some of her beauty tips at a Secret of Beauty day at Central Festival recently.

LAUNCH: Anne Semonin Professional Spa Products launched a new product line with a product demo (left) at the Indigo Pearl Phuket on August 11.



Patong Sea Pearl grand opening

The Sea Pearl Hotel in Patong recently held its grand opening with a lavish party and a special blessing ceremony by Buddhist monks. From left are Sea Pearl President and CEO Sumit Soontornnont with his family members, Managing Director Sitikorn and Vice Presidents Mullika and Krongjit.

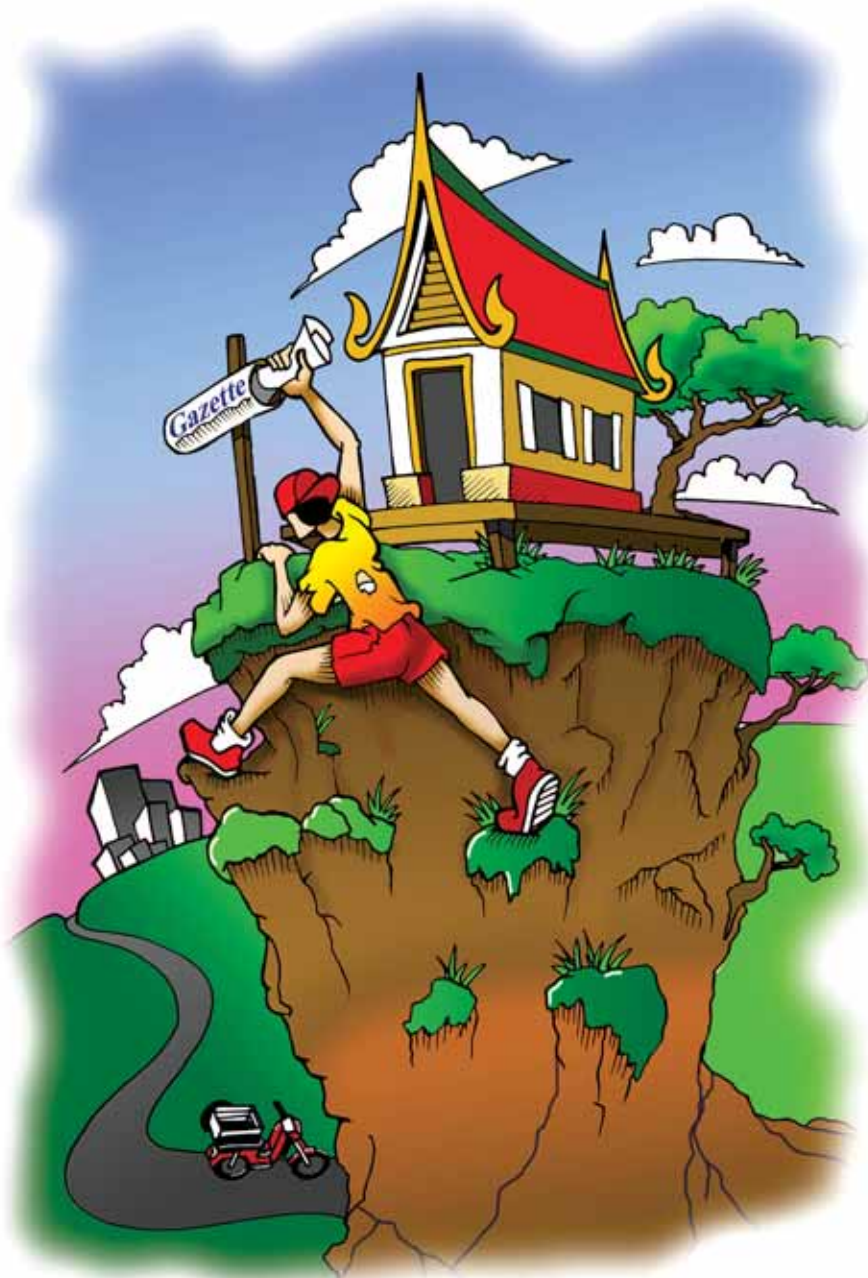
Cutting it



MAD BREAD: Zucchini bread is the latest, and strangest offering at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.



MEGA SANDWICH: Woody Leonhard, Owner Add and their baby at the grand opening of Photos: Chris Husted



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in Chalong



of the Sandwich Shoppes, with his wife Khun of their new shoppe in Villa Market, Chalong.



BIG HIT: Staff and children sampled a few free treats at the grand opening.



**YOUR
Phuket**



Khun Add and baby Andy.



Seductive Saturday

ALL SMILES: House DJ John Jones (left) and his brass band rocked at Seduction nightclub's latest Hed Kandi party on August 14. Photos: Angel Eyes Image



by Benz Chaengwattana

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WORD DETECTIVE

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

Theme: Phuket wildlife

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | P | M | I | S | X | N | H | R | K | H | S | Y | B | S |
| Y | J | D | O | N | R | S | F | S | B | L | P | U | B | E |
| Y | L | G | S | N | I | E | O | R | E | F | T | J | Y | S |
| T | G | R | S | F | K | K | D | R | O | T | X | K | V | I |
| U | S | A | L | M | C | E | R | I | E | G | L | M | C | R |
| R | N | S | Q | E | U | I | Y | R | P | H | S | K | U | O |
| T | O | S | G | M | U | C | F | S | Q | S | T | A | C | L |
| L | B | H | Q | Q | Q | L | S | A | D | A | C | I | C | W |
| E | B | O | S | P | I | J | Z | R | A | T | S | I | U | O |
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| F | G | P | S | B | N | B | S | N | A | K | E | S | O | S |
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| E | D | S | T | A | K | D | L | H | Z | M | O | K | N | A |
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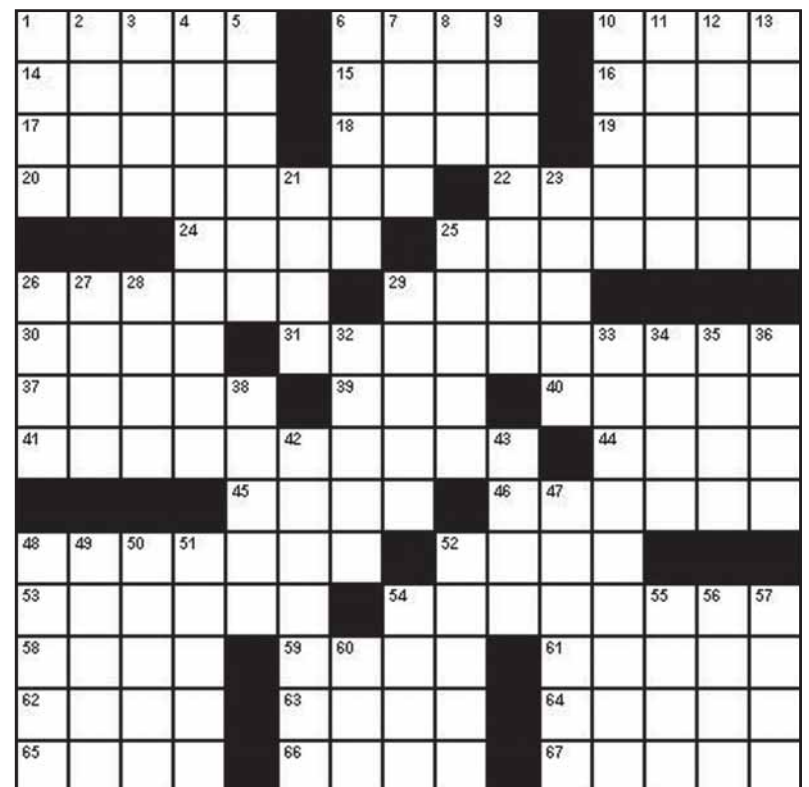
Cats, dogs, lizards, geckos, frogs, butterflies, flies, cockroaches, ants, turtles, fish, rats, rabbits, birds, cicadas, grasshoppers, snakes, spiders, gibbons, squirrels, slow lorises.

Across

1. Predatory fish
6. Zwieback
10. Basics
14. Turkish palace
15. Bread spread
16. Cover
17. Implied
18. Cry
19. —shanter (Scottish cap)
20. Half-pike
22. German emperor
24. Crux
25. Specter
26. Oblique
29. Wanting
30. Highest point
31. At right angles to the vertical
37. Equipped
39. Slender metal fastener
40. — lift?
41. Stands for
44. Gift tag word
45. Fellow
46. Get back for
48. Accidents
52. Antiquing agent
53. Deeply personal
54. Rudimentary
58. Pace
59. — breve
61. Growing in snow
62. Della's creator
63. Evens the score
64. In the least
65. Spoils
66. Draw with acid
67. Queues

Down

1. Grounded fleet
2. Pile
3. With the bow, in music
4. Person who induces rainfall
5. Young cat
6. Automaton
7. — Bator, Mongolia
8. Attach by stitches



9. A collective farm
10. Join the cast of
11. Brag
12. Brief appearance
13. Tempest
21. Swear words
23. Brother of Moses
25. Sharp end
26. On — with
27. Shrivelled, without moisture
28. Genie's home
29. Computer command
32. Goes into business

33. Wife of Akhenaton
34. Sea swallow
35. Work like —
36. Gammy
38. Impressionist Edgar
42. Divided, anatomically
43. Starch used in puddings
47. Occurring in spring
48. Skinflint
49. Opening
50. Refine metal
51. Aspirations
52. Disconcert
54. Novelist Waugh
55. Lendl of tennis
56. Dell
57. Building wings
60. Blotto

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 29

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans may be easily side-tracked this week. You should be firm about what you need to accomplish before the end of this month or September will begin in a frenzy. Excess sympathy for a water sign friend could lead to opening a can of worms. Those with a birthday in the week ahead should find finances less unpredictable in the coming year. The number five can be lucky this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The stars suggest that certain Librans have been lazy about attending to bureaucratic issues. Tuesday and Wednesday are auspicious days for tedious discussions and signing legal documents. A Scorpio friend's negative behavior should be shrugged off this weekend. Those who are undecided about becoming romantically involved with someone find the answer they've been seeking.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Where business is concerned, Scorpions shouldn't read too much into sweeping statements during the last month of August. Concentrate on what you know

to be facts and success will take care of itself. Your love life could be affected by idle gossip this weekend. Another water sign is jealous of your success in attracting someone they had their eye on.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Cracks that have appeared in a business relationship now need more than papering over. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius whose suspicions are confirmed this week, are advised to take action. This weekend, your patience is tested by an air sign friend's words spoken in the heat of the moment. Tuesday is an auspicious day to communicate how you feel.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A work colleague's constant criticisms get on your nerves. Try reacting with charm instead of giving this person the reaction they are aiming for. Those who are self-employed should avoid over-cooking ideas. Although your love life is fairly non-eventful until the end of this month, September is set to be a more romantic time. A casual encounter this week with an air sign could lead to more than simply passing the time of day.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians will mostly be in good spirits this week. The stars predict that you will soon have more power where finances are concerned and you should end the month with a healthier bank balance than expected. In the world of romance, those in a settled relationship find a satisfactory compromise to a burning issue this weekend. Singletons enjoy attention from someone they never thought would capture their interest.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans may resent having to keep their noses to the grindstone while others are on vacation. If your situation is caused because you are self-employed, an earth sign has an interesting proposition this week. The stars suggest that collaboration with this person could be the solution you've been seeking. Making financial agreements should be delayed until September.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Delicate intervention could be required when a disagreement between friends threatens to involve you too. In the area of business, there are positive predictions. Those born under the sign of Aries who have been hoping to see light at the end of the tunnel where a work issue is concerned will be cheered by events this week. Your luck in the realm of romance improves when an air sign recovers from a broken relationship.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans should continue taking each day as it comes until August ends. The stars forecast that others will still be hard to pin down this week. Putting plans into action will go more smoothly in September and there are signs that you will soon be able to move into a higher gear. A financial error could occur midweek – keep all documents at hand. Romance is a source of surprise this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): The stars advise that busy Geminis should focus more on exercise and nutrition to avoid running out of steam before the end of this month. An earth sign health con-

scious friend will be happy to offer support. Those who have been torn in two over a love-related question can see more clearly this week. Your chances of romance with Scorpio are becoming stronger.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Events are forecast to move more quickly this week, which should leave Cancerians free to commence September with more energy. In the world of business, another water sign proves that they can be trusted, but cooperation from an air sign can't be counted on. Where love is concerned, there are signs that opposites attract to stir up a whirlwind romance.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos are advised to base their business plans on concrete facts. The stars indicate that precious time could be wasted following up on fiction. The lesson you take on board from this situation could transform your thinking and should lead to a more practical approach. Your romantic outlook is rosy, although an ex-flame has a surprise up their sleeve. Your luckiest days, when it comes to finances, are predicted to be Wednesday and Thursday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Park life living in Phuket Town



HILLSIDE HIDEAWAY: Construction on Park Hill residential complex is set for completion by year's end. Photo and graphic: Park Hill

By Nicky Vermeulen

A NEW luxury residential estate is being developed in town. Phuket Park Hill, a gated community on Thepkasattri Rd, has been designed to cater to professional Thais and expat buyers. It will feature 66 units across 28 rai of land, including houses as well as several office blocks.

Construction of the 700-million baht project began in 2007 and is due for completion by the end of this year, after a brief hiatus in October last year due to a dip in the economy.

Phase one of the construction includes nine one-story, eight two-story and eight three-story homes.

The phase is at this stage over 50% complete. The multi-purpose

complex is not the first development in Phuket for owner Manop Manasom, who is originally from Chonburi. His other projects are well-known amongst Phuket residents, and include his first development – Katathani Hotel on Kata Noi Rd – and Runnapa Supermarket in Ha Yak as well as Chalong Villa Resort and Spa.

The Phuket Park Hill houses

are being built by engineer and architect Pong Vipanu Wongse and are sized between 51 and 300 square-meters. They range from single-story houses with two bedrooms and bathrooms, to two and three-story houses with three bedrooms and bathrooms.

Buyer who are interested in the two-story homes have the added option of a private swimming pool.

Prices start at four million baht for the single-story units and go up to 13 million baht for the three-story units. Complex facilities are set to include a clubhouse, fitness center, restaurant, public garden and communal swimming pool.

For more information contact T: 076 219 368, W: PhuketParkHill.com or E: info@PhuketParkHill.com.



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For more information, please contact: Laguna Property Centre, Canal Village,
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Where will you retire?

DURING these rainy days of “no season” I have turned to reading. It’s either that or a day drinking given the current mood in Phuket’s property market.

Robert Putman’s 1995 article *Bowling Alone*, published in the *Journal of Democracy*, makes for an interesting read, and also makes you wonder about Phuket’s sociology. Putman addressed the downward spiral of social capital in the US and the disengagement of people from their conformist existence. He used the example of a decline in bowling league memberships, in contrast to an increase in individuals who were taking up the sport. To shun groups and go it alone seemed to be Putman’s underlying message. But does this idea bare fruit for retirees on Phuket? Let’s discuss.

For a number of years, a lot of ink has been spilled (arguably more conjecture than actual market research) on Phuket’s ability to attract retirees and other niche markets of investors who are in need of assisted living facilities and retirement homes.

While assisted living facilities are lacking, we are blessed with two international hospitals which are, without a doubt, a key demand for foreigners looking to relocate to Phuket.

In comparison to Bali, Phuket’s medical services are superior.

There’s more to be thankful for.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

While internet services are still not perfect, and the traffic-clogged roads and infrastructure groan under an increasing population, our international schools, marinas, golf courses, hotels and shopping choices are still shining stars.

For those keen on developing assisted living communities, the challenges remain great given the diverse nationalities on Phuket.

A little bit of this, a little bit of that; Brits, Aussies, Americans, Kiwis, Japanese, French, Italians, Scandinavians, Koreans, South African – the list goes on forever.

For the most part, we can take America out of the equation. While there are a number of us here, there are a number of factors that keep American retirees away.

Door-to-door travel time, the number of people dependent on US healthcare organizations, and for many, a sense of xenophobia with regard to Thai medical services, all chip away at the numbers wishing to retire here.

Although there is a strong Scandinavian and German contingent living on Phuket, generally speaking, these nationalities have high-standard retirement homes in their native lands and the combination of re-



There is a state-run foundation for the elderly in Pa Khlok, offering assisted living for old people.

liable and affordable healthcare and close-knit families, are reasons not to retire here.

Phuket for the elderly is hard work, especially for foreigners. Community and friends are an important part of the equation to consider when choosing a retirement location. Bowling alone, it seems, is not the fun option.

Some find it easier than others. For those who retire or move to places like Rawai, there seems to be a strong sense of community where people can find like-minded neighbors.

And there is some variety on Phuket.

Looking at the melting pot south of Central Festival there remains a strong attraction for families, with good amenities and social networking opportunities.

In many ways residents have created their own second family in the south of the island.

Simply put, there are factions of Phuket retirees who have a ball here.

If Putman was indeed right with his shunning of groups ideology in the US, he might be surprised by the social demographics in Phuket.

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

In brief...

Who’s better: Bali or Phuket?

FIRST-half results for this year’s tourist arrivals are rolling in from across Asia. Reports from Indonesia has Bali up 12% over the same period last year.

With total arrivals at about 1.15 million so far this year, high season projections by year’s end are expected to top 2.5 million.

Phuket has logged in 1.74 million over the same period, but for a time looked to go well over the three million mark.

It’s interesting to see some

trends arise in both markets with the previously strong Korean tourist market dropping numbers in both Bali and Phuket.

While Phuket has seen a decline in the all important UK crowd, reports from Bali suggest an increase.

China continues to grab headlines the world over as it’s now become the third highest provider of tourists for the Island of the God’s (Bali).

Kata Noi calling the rich and famous

MALAYSIA group Impiana have opened a luxury ocean view boutique resort in Kata Noi on the island’s popular west coast.

The Impiana Private Villas with 11 units comprised of four pool villas and seven upscale suites is set to tap into a growing “small

and expensive” growth market. Heading up the resort operations is Villa Manager Jeanette Kelley.

A recent article in the *Business Times* placed the project cost at 250 million baht. Impiana operate another resort in Patong, one in Samui and three in Malaysia.

Underground ‘alternative’ hotels face bans

NO MATTER where you travel in the world, a vibrant property boom and real estate owners anxious to create revenue, are certainties of finding an underground supply of alternative hotel accommodation.

Now the “gray market” has come into the radar of municipal authorities which has seen Maui, Paris and now New York City implement new legislation outlaw-

ing residences from offering short term hotel-type accommodation.

Often cited as having poor safety equipment and procedures, evading tax and licensing and in many cases pumping up property speculation, the sector is feeling the pinch from authorities.

For Phuket, expect the Government in Thailand to start looking more closely into the villa and condo rental segment.

Indian tourists flocking to Phuket

THERE’S been a spike in Indian tourists coming to Phuket.

The Tourist Authority of Thailand reports, the number of Indian tourists coming to Phuket are up 100%

on last year’s first quarter.

Expect the Thai Tiger budget upstart airline to add to the growth given expectations over direct flights.

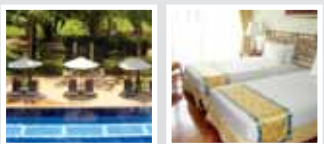
Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

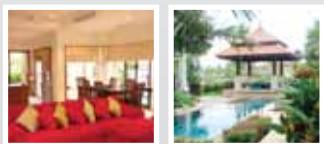
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 8 M



- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- fully furnished • freehold
- golf course view

2 Laguna Village Townhomes THB 21.3 M



- 2-storey 4 beds 3.5 baths
- partly furnished
- lagoon view • leasehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 24.5 M



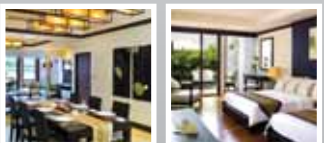
- 2-storey 4 beds Townhome
- fully furnished • private pool
- golf course view

4 Laguna Village Residence III THB 27.5 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
- maid quarter
- private pool • lagoon view

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 33 M



- 3-storey 2 beds • rooftop pool
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Contemporary living in Nai Yang



HEY, BIG SPENDER: This 26-meter infinity pool, and the house that goes with it, costs a cool 125 million baht.

By Alexandra Andersson

SPENDING money on a luxury home is easy on Phuket. A short drive from Nai Yang Beach is a lavish seven-bedroom villa with a cool 125 million baht price tag.

Set in 13.3 rai of land, the modern one-story villa has recently gone on the market.

The seven sizeable bedrooms surround the villa's open-plan central living space, which includes a dining area, kitchen, and

lounge. Three of the villa's walls are made-up of floor-to-ceiling glass windows, doubling as sliding doors, which open out onto the 26-meter infinity pool in the back yard.

At the rear of the dining area, separated by a breakfast bar, is the kitchen – decked out with modern appliances, four sinks, a large griddle and stainless steel fridges and freezers.

There is an indoor water feature with fountains and Koi fish

LUXURY
living

separating the dining and living area where there is a full-size snooker table, a flat-screen TV and sound system as well as leather sofas and chairs.

The property flaunts an eclectic assortment of striking artwork



OPEN-PLAN: The minimalist and contemporary interior. Photos: Phillips Property

and sculptures. Pop art pieces and copies of ancient artifacts adorn the walls, adding a touch of style to this minimalist property.

In the back yard, a wooden decking area leads you to the sheltered barbeque sala.

With enough room for 15 people, the barbeque area – with a six-burner stainless steel barbeque – overlooks a large private lake. Quite stunning.

Bedrooms have walk-in dressing areas and en-suite bathrooms

as you would expect in a luxury villa with this price tag.

There is also a maids room and another 700-square-meter room with floor to ceiling windows on three sides. This room has previously been used as a business office, but could easily be converted into a children's playroom or fitness studio.

For more information, contact Phillip's Luxury Real Estate at www.phillip-property.com.



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Plenty of local talent to pick

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

WHETHER you label it a “plant nursery” or a “garden center”, every Phuket gardener will have a favorite venue for buying shrubs.

A few observations. Ideally, of course, you may not even need to buy new stuff. If your garden is mature and well-stocked, you can propagate most shrubs from cuttings or slips, especially in monsoon conditions. And you can save seed for a new flowering of annuals. Although it is a slow business, you may even decide to grow vegetables or small fruiting trees from seeds, stones or drupes. For example, in my garden are two avocado trees, now three meters tall, which began life as discarded stones from supermarket fruit, a couple of small *sataws* propagated from ripe seeds, and a crop of winged beans which simply re-seed year after year.

It is also a good idea to come to an arrangement with gardening friends whereby you visit each other's plots, armed with secateurs, and exchange cuttings. If this is not an option, then remember that many plants grow wild in Phuket. They are either escapees from gardens, or indigenous to the island. While I am not an advocate of the wholesale uprooting of unusual plants from their natural habitat, it does no harm to take cuttings, seeds or even the

occasional seedling where there is no likelihood of damaging the local environment. In this way, the following plants have been acquired: butterfly peas [*clitoria ternatea*], a jacaranda [*sii trang*] and flame tree [*delonix regia*], two varieties of gourd, purple and white vincas [periwinkles], milkweeds, and the climbing lily [*gloriosa superba*]. The last named came from a waste plot about to be bulldozed.

If you *do* need to purchase plants at a nursery, readers will already know that the south of the island has many such outlets. Mostly, they front main roads, such as Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West, especially in the Chalong area. Kathu is also well stocked with garden centers, some of which specialize in decorative outdoor ware such as ceramic pots and statuary. Incidentally, I would welcome suggestions from readers about your favorite plant venues.

It is a good idea to arrive armed with the Thai names of the plants you want to purchase, or even better, an illustrated book, since Thai patrons will probably not know the English or botanical equivalents. That is not to say they are not knowledgeable: most will offer sound advice about the best ways to look after your purchase.

The closer to tourist areas, the more expensive the plants are likely to be. One of the better nurseries is a long way from tourist traps, not far from the gibbon



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: A stall owner at this year's plant market, held at Sapan Hin in July, arranges some of her best-sellers. There is an abundance of flower venues to choose from in Phuket. Photos: Gazette file

center on the east side of the island. And some places will not offer discounts, even if you buy in bulk. These are best avoided. The plant nurseries that sell primarily to the hotel trade often give you the most competitive prices, since they are used to offering wholesale rates to Thai entrepreneurs. The charming lady who operates one such business on Chao Fa West about one kilometer beyond the Big Buddha turning, is always prepared to reduce her already reasonable prices. Finally, some nurserymen/women take better care of their plants than others. It is not difficult to see when their charges are being neglected: die-back, leaf discoloration, pot-bound roots, or evidence of fungal disease, are all tell-tale signs.

One other place is well worth considering – the plant market in Sapan Hin. In mid July, many nurserymen and women from as far away as Nakhon Sri Thammarat, rent a stall there: the result is a range of plants not replicated elsewhere on the island. Tented sections display the work of expert growers who specialize

variously in potted adenium cultivars, in insectivorous plants such as pitcher plants, in fruiting trees, in shade lovers such as aglaonemas and ferns, or unusual heliconia hybrids.

And there is much more. Happily, the prices are competitive.

There is even one stall that sells nothing above 15 baht.

One to put in your diary for next year.

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

Tip of the week

Going potty, number two

THERE are a few guidelines for growing plants in containers.

Their roots will be more constricted than those of garden shrubs, so they will need good quality soil, and a monthly feed with a balanced fertilizer.

Top soil alone tends to compact with constant watering, so it is better mixed with compost or coconut fiber.

Some gardeners put river sand in the mix. Cover the drainage holes with shards of pot, and remember to place a

saucer under the container.

This will both help water retention, and reduce staining of the sand-wash or tiles underneath.

Choose large rather than small pots as root systems grow rapidly and once pot-bound, a plant will not increase much in size.

Keep the soil barely moist, but do not over-water.

Best flowering shrubs for pots are euphorbias and adeniums.


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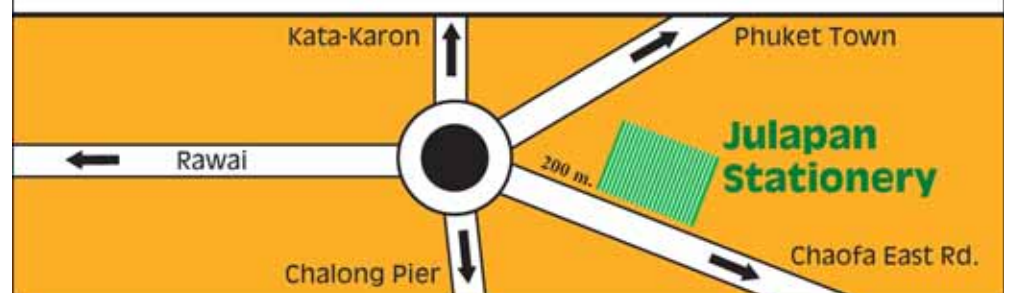
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SEADOO JETBOAT 215HP FAST

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

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. Contact for more details at email: stier@net-print.de

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

SWAN 42 (1992)

Successful, local racer. Reduced to only US \$ 129,950. Please see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

VISION 49 (1982)

Fast cruiser/racer, comfortable interior. US \$140,000. Please see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.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

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 FOR SALE

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

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Word detective secret word: Monkey

Crossword puzzle answers:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | S | H | A | R | K | 6 | R | U | S | K | 10 | A | B | C | 13 | S |
| 14 | S | E | R | A | I | 15 | O | L | E | O | 16 | C | O | A | T | |
| 17 | T | A | C | I | T | 18 | B | A | W | L | 19 | T | A | M | O | |
| 20 | S | P | O | N | T | 21 | O | O | N | 22 | K | A | I | S | E | R |
| 24 | M | E | A | T | 25 | P | H | A | N | T | O | M | | | | |
| 26 | A | S | L | A | N | 27 | P | O | O | R | | | | | | |
| 30 | P | E | A | K | 31 | H | O | R | I | Z | O | N | T | A | L | |
| 37 | A | R | M | E | D | 38 | P | I | N | 39 | N | E | E | D | A | |
| 41 | R | E | P | R | E | 42 | S | E | N | T | 43 | S | | | | |
| 45 | G | E | N | T | 46 | A | V | E | N | G | E | | | | | |
| 48 | M | I | S | H | A | P | S | 52 | A | G | E | R | | | | |
| 53 | I | N | M | O | S | T | 54 | A | B | O | R | T | 55 | I | V | E |
| 58 | S | T | E | P | 59 | A | L | L | A | 61 | N | I | V | A | L | |
| 62 | E | R | L | E | 63 | T | I | E | S | 64 | A | T | A | L | L | |
| 65 | R | O | T | S | 66 | E | T | C | H | 67 | L | I | N | E | S | |

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

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

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To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
Do not Fax!



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

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**



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

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

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@boatlagoon-yachting.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. Email: neung@phuketmarbella.com

RECEPTIONIST/ CASHIER

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

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

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@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

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. Email: ulrichkuhl@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Guesthouse in Patong needs a receptionist, waitress and cook. Must speak English. Contact Jip. Tel: 076-343019. Email: info@casajip.com

RECEPTIONIST GSA

* Guest relations
* Restaurant hostess
Send CV to: gm@karondiff.com
For further details, please see our website at www.karondiff.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

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

RESTAURANT STAFF

Captains, supervisor, cooks, waitress, runners & stewards. Wanted for two chefs restaurant. For further details, please contact work@twochefs-phuket.com

SALES POSITION

and office customer service position. Available with well established food company. Must speak fluent English. Contact George. Tel: 082-790 5143.

TELESALES

Self-motivated, native English speakers with excellent communication required for a Telemarketing position. Must be comfortable and confident on the phone. Experience in the service industry or telesales is an advantage. Salary: Basic + commission. Email: olivr.r@ppi-intl.com

PARASAILING

Phuket parasailing company looking for foreign parasailing guide. Tel: 087-385 7666. Please send your information to joy-dive@hotmail.com

SALES AND MARKETING REP

Phuket Fish Boat Co. Ltd fully TAT licensed and insured luxury 45 ft sports yacht urgently requires local rep to find new business, mainly hotel tour desks for Sport Fishing and Sight seeing. Salary: 18,000 baht a month and commission. Must have own transportation. Please send resume to martin@phuketfishboat.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketfishboat.com

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!



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 outstanding personalities to join our motivated 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

We also consider candidates being at present an Executive Sous Chef who wants to make the next step up to Executive/Host Chef.

• Assistant Spa Manager/ess

• Reservation Supervisor

• Bar Supervisor

• Purchasing Supervisor

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

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

EARN 40,000 BAHT MONTHLY

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

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



SALA TALAY Resort and Spa

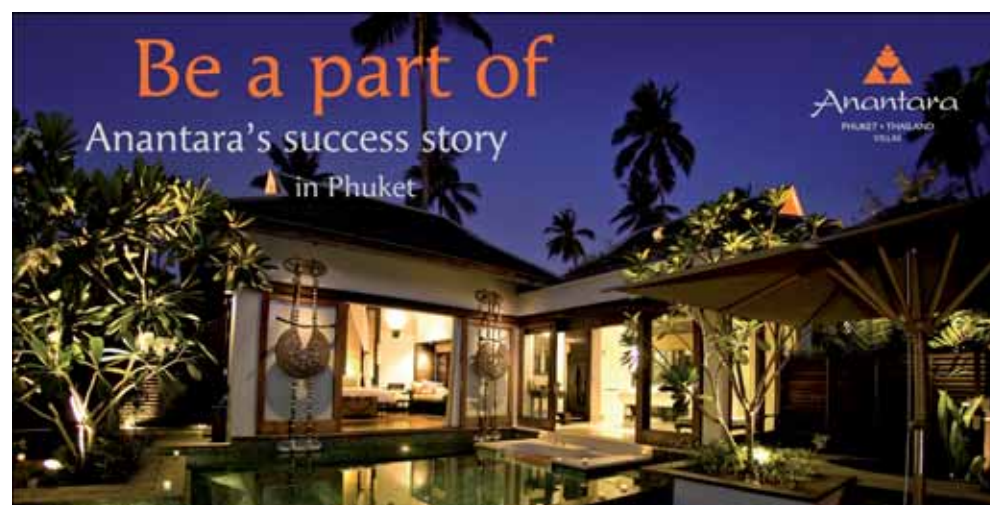
Resort located on Ao-Nang Beach in Krabi.

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



Be a part of Anantara's success story in Phuket



Anantara Phuket Villas redefines a magnificent five star island lifestyle. Nestled in Mai Kao Beach along Phuket's quiet northern coastline, 83 luxurious Pool Villas cluster around expansive lotus lagoons to provide guests with a breathtaking private sanctuary.

Tell us your story...

- Do you want to be the best in your field?
- Do you enjoy delivering a higher standard of guest service?
- Are you passionate about your career?
- Are you a positive team player?
- Would you like a 5 day work week?
- Would you like free transport to and from Phuket town?
- Would you like international career guidance & coaching?



If the answers are YES!

Then please submit your CV with a covering letter stating the position you are applying for to recruit_phuket@anantara.com or

Contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Phuket Villas

Phone + 66 (0) 76-336100-9 Ext.552-553 | Fax + 66 (0)-76336166

Villa Operations

Senior Villa Host
Villa Host
Bellman
Driver
Discovery Host

Kitchen

Executive Sous Chef
Sous Chef
Pastry Chef
Chef de Partie Butcher
Chef de Partie Bakery

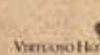
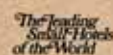
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Director of Sales & Marketing
Human Resources
Training Manager
Food & Beverage
Assistant F&B Manager
F&B Attendant

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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@waterworkswarehouse.net

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

For more information about us, please visit our website at

<http://www.waterworkswarehouse.net/moreinfo.htm>

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
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- Own vehicle and driver's license

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

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10,000 readers every day!**

Articles For Sale

SOFA/CHAIR GREAT DEAL

Good condition blue sofa for sale at 990 baht. Tel: 086-787 3234 (English & Thai). For pictures please email Ped at: ped2516@yahoo.co.th

JACUZZI FOR SALE

Sapphire Jacuzzi SUNSET BEACH (Opal). 3 seats with total of 40 jets & 2 speed blower dimensions: 2000x1,600x850mm. Dry weight: 175kg. Operating capacity: 750 litres. Retail price: 421,000 baht. SPECIAL PRICE: 295,000 baht. Tel: 076-273577, 081-9785901 (English), 081-895 7288 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-273579. Email: moose@waterworkwarehouse.net

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

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

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

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

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

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.

POOL TABLE

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

HARDWOOD BENCH SEAT

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

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RING

Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house power point, but can be hard wired also. 10 months old. Price when new: 5,500 baht. Will sell for 3,200 baht. Tel: 085-275 3720. Email: russcottent@hotmail.com

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

CAR SEAT BASKET

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

MEDIA PLAYER PINNACLE 250HD

Pinnacle ShowCenter 250HD media player. Play from your PC or USB to your TV. This digital media player lets you enjoy PC-based media files on your TV. Price: 4,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 0084. Email: ian@fereday.biz

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.

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

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

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

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@phuketiwc.com

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: 066-9440340, Swe, 082-2765996 Nor

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

SALES AND MARKETING REP

Phuket Fish Boat Co. Ltd fully TAT licensed and insured luxury 45 ft sports yacht urgently requires local rep to find new business, mainly hotel tour desks for Sport Fishing and Sight seeing. Salary: 18,000 baht a month and commission. Must have own transportation. Send resume to martin@phuket fishboat.com

INTERESTED IN PURCHASING

part or possibly all of a travel agency with IATA license? Please reply to jdonc@hotmail.com

SALON FOR SALE

Nanai road, fully equipped. For sale: 179,000 baht. For rent: 9,000 baht per month. No interchange. Tel: 086-828 7505.

GUESTHOUSE, RESTAURANT



Guesthouse, restaurant and lounge for sale in Patong. A brand new guesthouse with 8 rooms, a fully equipped kitchen and restaurant, bar and lounge. There is also a second floor with a separate bar catering to private parties. The 3rd floor is designed as a dance studio. All floors can be reached by stairs or with an elevator. This is probably one of the best business opportunities you will find in Patong. The building is located on Pang Meung Sai Ko Rd., the new road behind Jungceylon, not far from Patong hospital. Price: Negotiable. Tel: 087-898 4338 (Khun Ooy). Email: supaphon99@yahoo.com Website: www.latinphuket.com

PRIME LOCATION

Cafe/restaurant for sale in Surin. Price 1.4 million baht o.n.o. Please contact Mark as above for more details. Tel: 083-390 8549 (English & Thai). Email: marklightfoot@hotmail.com

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Scramble over to Laguna for some charity golf fun



'FORE' CHARITY: Scramble golf event organizers (from left) Stan Bailey, David Arell, George McCall, Best Wanamakok (yellow) and O.B. Wetzell.

GOLFERS get your clubs ready for the Scrambles charity golf tournament on August 29 at Laguna Phuket, followed by a charity ball.

Both events are organized by The Rotary Club of Patong Beach and will raise money for disadvantaged Phuket children.

First tee-off times will be at 11:30am from the first and 10th tees.

The golf format is a Texas (four-player) scramble, and many of the island's top golfers

are expected to provide stiff competition in the field.

For low-handicap golfers, there will be a prize for the best gross score before handicap adjustment.

Entry fees are 3,500 baht per golfer – 2,500 for LPGC members – and includes green fees, caddy and entry to the charity ball.

Non-golfing guests can pay 600 baht per person to attend the ball.

Registration forms are available at all Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, LPGC, or by email from ob@sus tainablereturn.com.



GAME ON: The Adult Futsal League and Veterans Football League will start in September. Photo: James Goyder

Futsal coming home

By James Goyder

SEASON five of the Adult Futsal League (AFL) kicks off September 2, four days before the start of the new Veterans Football League (VFL).

All matches will be held on the artificial soccer pitch at PIA.

Entry into the AFL is open to anyone while the VFL is exclusively for players aged 40 and over.

The AFL will consist of 40 minute matches under FUTSAL rules between two teams of five.

Rolling substitutes are permitted throughout the match and teams are allowed one time out per half.

The rules for the VFL will be

the same except that teams will consist of six players.

Last time Phuket Morning Star won the AFL, and Island Boys finished second. The league is expected to be even more competitive this time around, with a couple of new teams having expressed an interest in joining up.

Martin Hill, the league's organizer, is particularly excited about the introduction of the vets league:

"There are a lot of older players who are still keen to play football in Phuket and the VFL will give them an opportunity to do so without having to worry about facing teams who are half their age," he said.

The new season will start off with the "Night of Champions" awards dinner on August 21 at Skippers restaurant in the Royal Phuket Marina.

A presentation will be made to the winning team and the top goal scorer from last season's AFL.

Registration forms will also be handed out for new teams or players to fill out for the coming season.

There will also be a buffet and drinks promotion. Tickets will be available on the door for 500 baht per person.

For more information contact Martin Hill on T: 085-3310295 or E: football@phuketinternationalacademy.com



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Upcoming Events

- Adults Futsal League (Season 5), 700 Baht/team/game every Thursday, starting September 2nd
- Vets Futsal League (Season 1), 600 Baht/team/game every Monday, starting September 6th



FC Phuket taste glory

By Stephen Fein

FC PHUKET clinched the AIS Regional League Division 2 South title with a 2-1 win at Ranong FC on August 14.

Ranong FC went into the match with 34 points, fighting to keep their second place standing and a chance for the promotional play-off spot that goes with it, but like many second-place teams before them, they were no match for FC Phuket.

Phuket midfielder Camara Ahmed drew first blood 33 minutes into the first half with an outstanding shot from 40 yards out into the top right corner over the outstretched arm of Ranong FC keeper Nattaphon Krobyoo.

In the second half, FC Phuket's Thawin Bootsombat stretched the lead to 2-0 with a brilliant solo effort at 65 minutes.

Ranong FC struck back just a

minute later on a nice goal by Burmese player Lagel, but the "Andaman Sharks" were never able to get the equalizer; FC Phuket picked up another three points to clinch the title with an unassailable ten-point lead going into the final week of play.

They celebrated the historic win with two bus-loads of FC Phuket supporters who made the trip north for the away match.

FC Phuket's next game is an away match against Nakhon Sri Thammarat FC on August 22.

The next home game is on September 8, with kickoff at 6pm.

Security at the matches is now being overseen by Tourist Police volunteers, who are prohibiting glass bottles in Surakul Stadium.

Beer is still permitted, but it must be in cans.

Entrance fees are 50 baht for adults, 20 baht for children.

Current standings: Division Two (Southern Section)

| Rank | Team | Points |
|------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | FC Phuket | 46 |
| 2 | Trang FC | 36 |
| 3 | Ranong FC | 34 |
| 4 | Krabi FC | 32 |
| 5 | Surat | |
| | Thani FC | 32 |
| 6 | Satun FC | 31 |
| 7 | Pattani FC | 28 |
| 8 | Yala FC | 27 |
| 9 | Phattalung FC | 25 |
| 10 | Phang Nga FC | 24 |
| 11 | HatYai FC | 21 |
| 12 | Nakhon Sri | |
| | Thammarat FC | 21 |
| 13 | Chumphon FC | 18 |

Source: phuketfcfanclub.com



STRIKE FORCE: The Southern Sea Kirin go into the final week of league play with 14 wins, three losses and four draws. Photo: Apinun Saithong

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