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'Kidnap rapist' freed from jail

SPECIAL REPORT

THE man who confessed to kidnapping, imprisoning, repeatedly raping and robbing at least six Nepali women in Phuket has been released from prison and had most of the charges against him dropped, the *Phuket Gazette* has learned.

After his arrest on April 1, Phakpoom Maneerat, 30, confessed to police that he impersonated a police officer to abduct the women – all employed in the tourist oriented retail sales industry in Patong – and took them to locations in Krabi and Nakhon Sri Thammarat where they were confined and repeatedly raped over a period of days.

He restated his confession before the media at a press conference at Patong Police Station on April 3.

Also at the station was one of the confessed rapist's victims, a 25-year-old woman who told police she was walking with friends on March 28 along a road behind Jungceylon shopping complex when a Toyota Vigo pickup cut them off.

Phakpoom emerged from the vehicle and asked the group to



Phakpoom kept his head down at the press conference in April.

produce identification papers, the young woman said.

When she was unable to do so, he ordered her into the vehicle and took her to an unspecified location in Krabi, where she was held in captivity and raped repeatedly until she was returned to Patong by the accused on April 1.

At the press conference, Phakpoom admitted that in every case he identified himself as an of-

ficer of the law to abduct, rape and rob his victims.

Nonetheless, the only charge remaining against him is that of impersonating a police officer, a representative of the Attorney General told the *Gazette*.

He was released from Phuket Prison on June 24 based on a request from the Phuket Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

See pages 4-5 for full story



Tuptim still in the fight

BABY Tuptim's family has given about 300,000 baht of remaining funds from the "Save Tuptim" fundraiser to The Rama Hospital Foundation, which will administer a trust fund to pay for Tuptim's medical bills.

Pictured above with Tuptim and the cheque are (from left) Will Elliot, manager of Tiger Muay Thai; Grainne Farrell of Phuket-based medical tourism company, Lotus Medical; Tuptim's father, Rattanachai "Kru Nai" Jadngooluem; and her mother, Nit Jadngooluem.

When she was three months old, Tuptim was diagnosed with a terminal liver condition known as biliary obstruction.

To keep her baby alive, her mother, Nit, donated part of her liver during a marathon 18-hour surgery, performed by Bangkok-based specialist Dr Sumate Teeraratkul.

Though her lifesaving operation is behind her, Tuptim and her family still face the financial burden of monthly visits to hospital in Bangkok and the expensive immunosuppressant drugs she will have to take for years.

Their fight is not over and thus the fundraiser will continue accepting contributions, which can be directed to The Ramathibodi Foundation.

Brit fraud fugitive faces Phuket reprisal

A BRITISH expat wanted by an international division of the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) for "numerous fraud offenses" was arrested in a Phuket sting operation on Tuesday.

Paul Ridden, 58, was fooled into meeting a friend in front of Chalong Police Station, where the keys to his car were confiscated, Tourist Police volunteer Jum Ali Khan said.

Sussex Police in the UK made a public appeal for help finding Mr Ridden after he jumped bail in April. The sting operation was carried out by Chalong Police after they received complaints that Mr Ridden had

cheated another expat out of 75,000 baht.

Mr Ridden confirmed with the *Phuket Gazette* that he had been contacted by the British Embassy in Bangkok but declined to comment on why he was wanted by UK authorities.

Following his arrest, people began arriving at Chalong Police Station to file complaints against Mr Ridden, all relating to cheating or deceit of the plaintiffs. Police also noticed that his visa had expired on May 16 and he was due in court to face overstay charges on Thursday. He also faces additional charges of working without a work permit.

As the *Gazette* was going to print, Police Col Boonlert Onklang said that 10 people had filed complaints.

One woman said that Mr Ridden borrowed her motorbike and then rented it out to tourists.

He also hired cars from local rental operators, then rented them out to tourists, "like subletting," one man said.

Another man said he rented a car from Mr Ridden and was still waiting for his deposit to be returned. "That was two weeks ago," he said.

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Lest We Forget



For a look at how today's youth learn about how the attacks on September 11, 2001 shaped the world, see our report on page 18.

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Business



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Tri Tim, try!



Beating diabetes on the road to the Phuket triathlon. **Page 23**

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UNITED THEY FALL: Bangkok United in town for Thai League showdown. **Page 43**

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Lifeguards step up surf safety campaign

By Chutharat Plerin

THE unveiling of plans for a new lifeguard "education center" at Nai Harn Beach last Friday also saw the announcement of new surf warning signs for tourists and a training program to educate more locals about the dangers of swimming in the sea.

New signs will be posted on Phuket beaches this year in five languages – Thai, English, Japanese, German and Russian – said Phuket Lifeguard Center President Prathaiyuth Chuayuan.

He also explained that the training conducted at the center, to be given by trained lifeguards, will be offered to everyone.

"The center will teach lifesaving skills to anyone – children, adults and tourists – through Thai and English programs.

"Most reported rescues involve Thai swimmers, and most of them were teenagers who sneaked away from their parents to go to the beach. So we will be using the Thai program most," he said.

Nai Harn was chosen as the location for the center as it already has trained lifeguards who can help, and the lifeguards stationed there have good support from the local community, Mr Prathaiyuth said.



Lifeguards simulate performing CPR on a volunteer 'drowning victim'.

In Phuket on a two-day visit, Simon Farbenbloom, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy to Thailand, was impressed by the move to open the center.

"It is my great pleasure to visit this area, which in the not-too-distant future will be transformed into the Phuket Lifesaving Education Center – the first of its kind in Phuket," he said.

Mr Prathaiyuth explained to the visiting diplomat that the project was now waiting only for authorization from Paiboon Upatising, president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, be-

fore construction could begin.

"Construction will take two months," he added.

"Six to seven surf lifesavers from Australia will arrive to train at the Karon Sea Rescue Center between September 13 and 17, the last day of which will be a skill test carnival," Mr Prathaiyuth added.

The carnival, last year held on Patong Beach, proved popular in raising awareness of surf lifesaving skills and in developing a healthy respect for the strong rip tides that plague specific locations along Phuket beaches.

Drugs campaign targets kids

ABOUT 300 students joined a four-day "anti-drugs camp" as part of a new campaign by Phuket City Police targeting youngsters.

The children, from schools throughout Phuket Town, gathered at Srinagarindra, The Princess Mother School Phuket in Saphan Hin for the camp.

"Drug addiction is still a big problem in Phuket, and the problems caused by drugs have been continually increasing," said Phuket City Police Superintendent Chote Chidchai.

"The age group of the people who become involved with drugs is 15-25, and 70 per cent of them are new drug users," he added.

The most common drugs used in Phuket were amphetamines,



Students assume the 'arrest position', with their hands held behind their heads, on first day of the drug camp.

ecstasy, crystal methamphetamine, marijuana and inhalants, among other types, he said.

"We are aware of the issues and understand that drug prevention among young people is very important," Col Chote added.

Fast action nabs murder suspects

POLICE took just hours to track down and arrest three teenagers wanted for the strangling murder of a resort worker last week.

At least two more suspects remain at large.

Police presented two of the suspects to the press at Phuket City Police Station last Friday.

The suspects were identified as Charin "Mutt" Chokekue and Kittiphum "Phum" Jutangka, both 18 and both from Phuket.

The third suspect arrested, a 17-year-old male, was not presented to the press.

All three teenagers have confessed to conspiring to kill the victim, 35-year-old hotel worker Yusop Wattanarot, said police.



Murder suspects Kittiphum 'Phum' Jutangka (left) and Charin 'Mutt' Chokekue.

Two other suspects, identified as Panuwat "Boy" Klindee and Jirasak "Poe" Siri Wong, are still at large.

"Boy" was described by police

as a *gik* (casual sex partner) of the victim, who reportedly enjoyed the company of young men and boys, police said.

Police said Poe was not at the scene when the four other members of the gang strangled Mr Yusop, stuffed his body under a bed, and drove off with his possessions, according to the other suspects.

The killing followed an altercation that began after the victim continually tried to fondle the private parts of Mutt, police quoted the suspects as saying.

Police are still searching for Boy, who appears to have played a key role in planning the killing.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH

Aussie envoy IDs tuk-tuks, jet-skis as tourists' top complaints

SIMON Farbenbloom, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy to Thailand, related some more bad news to Governor Tri Augakradacha last week when he announced tuk-tuk drivers' conduct and jet-ski scams as the top complaints to the embassy by Australian tourists in Phuket.

"Some people complain and others say that it is just the way things are and everyone knows this. You have to be careful," Mr Farbenbloom said.

Mr Farbenbloom placed faith in the Australian honorary consul in Phuket, Larry Cunningham, to help resolve the issues. "He has good ideas on how to solve the issues that come out," he added.

Cabinet culls ICEC plans

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

AIRPORTS of Thailand (AoT) officials are confident that the Phuket Airport expansion project will not meet the same fate as the doomed Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) plan, which was recently scuttled by the new government.

The two projects drew the bulk of Phuket's funding under phase two of the previous government's *Thai Khem Khaeng* fiscal stimulus package for 2012, but the Environmental Impact Evaluation Bureau's damning assessment of the planned 2.6-billion-baht convention center has stopped the project dead in its tracks.

However, Airports of Thailand Executive Vice President Chaturongkapon Sodmanee said the 5.7 billion baht needed for the Phuket Airport expansion project was very unlikely to meet a similar fate



A computer image of what the convention center would have looked like.

at the hands of the new Cabinet.

"The Government will not cancel the budget. If everything goes in order, the expansion will be finished by 2014," said Mr Chaturongkapon, the vice president for AoT construction projects.

Updating progress on the expansion plans, Mr Chaturongkapon said the committee was seeking to name a management team for the project.

The project committee had already approved its version of the

project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, which will be forwarded to Cabinet "soon" with a request for final approval, he said.

Following the news, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha was quoted as saying he would request a review of the convention center project EIA, which listed threats to traditional sea turtle nesting sites among the many negative environmental impacts the project would cause under its current design.

The project's design, as approved by its committee in March, featured a roof to the main entrance pavilion in the shape of a sea turtle shell.

If the EIA cannot pass in its current form or with revisions, the Government should redirect the scheduled funding for it to another development project for Phuket, Governor Tri said.



Paul Ridden detained at Chalong Police Station.

Brit faces fraud fiasco

From page 1

Yet Mr Ridden claimed that he himself was a victim of deceit.

"I was just trying to run a business in Thailand. What happened was that the guy I came to work with said he would get me a work permit, so I gave him 65,000 baht. That was three months ago," he said.

Mr Ridden said that he was working with a local firm that installs CCTV systems.

"I was like a sub-agent. I was getting the job and they were fitting it. Their manager told me that he could get a work permit for me if I worked for them for a year, so I gave him the money. But the boss never knew about it," he said.

"The paperwork that was signed - which I still have - was all forged by the manager. And they know about it. That's how it all started," he said.

Mr Ridden said that the 75,000 baht involved in the original Phuket complaint was saved in a bank account.

"The money was for getting the man a visa, but he found a cheaper way and decided to do it himself. But to get the visa [the man wanted], he needed to have money in a bank account, and that's

where it is. I will give it all back," he said.

Mr Ridden's operations were reportedly not limited to car and motorbike rentals. He is also said to have collected property rental deposits.

One woman who telephoned the *Gazette* on Wednesday morning said that through her friends alone she knew of up to 250,000 baht in property rental deposits owed to clients by Mr Ridden, whose rental agency "Hire Me Rentals" is based in Saiyuan Road, Rawai.

VINCENT CHYE
Interior Design & Furnishings



Taxi mob beats tour driver

KAMALA Police have been issued summons documents to bring in two drivers for questioning over the beating of a tour driver outside an upscale resort last Sunday.

"I will give them a week to come and see me. If it's more than a week, a second summons will be issued. If they still don't come, I will apply for arrest warrants," said Lt Col Anek Mongkol.

The two men wanted for questioning are Thanawut Poksakul, 25, and Sitthikorn Boonsri, 28.

They are accused of being among the gang of six taxi drivers encamped outside the Cape Sienna resort in Kamala who attacked local tour driver Preecha Choowong with an iron bar before causing a reported 50,000 baht in damage to his car.

His tourist passengers were inside the vehicle at the time of the attack.

Mr Preecha, 38, a driver for the Kok Chang Safari elephant camp in Kata Noi, arrived at the resort

**'With respect to this
attack, we can mediate
between the
two parties.'**

— Lt Col Anek Mongkol,
Duty Officer
Kamala Police Station

at about 12:30pm to pick up Australian tourists Glenn Dawson and his wife.

About six drivers outside the resort set upon Mr Preecha while he was still seated in his car.

One of the attackers hit him on the head with an iron bar. Also, the car's windscreen and a side mirror were smashed.

"Considering the state [Preecha] was in when he arrived to file the complaint, we told him to go to Patong Hospital for treatment first, then come back and file his complaint," said Lt Col Anek.

Kamala Police will not take any action to avoid further conflict between local taxi drivers and tour

drivers picking up tourist clients from the resort, said Lt Col Anek.

"With respect to this attack, we can mediate between the two parties. The penalty for assault is one month in jail and a 1,000-baht fine," he added.

The attack came just days after the Austrian Ambassador to Thailand laid bare a caution for Phuket authorities to start taking serious steps to resolve the continual, brutal antics of lawless drivers on the island.

If renegade drivers could not be controlled, European embassies might be forced to issue a travel advisory warning tourists not to use tuk-tuks in Phuket, Ambassador Johannes Peterlik said.

That warning followed the beating of a German man, who only days earlier had regained consciousness from a coma, and the recent beating of two Dutch tourists, who both received hospital treatment, in Patong.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Senate probes alleged police protection racket

A SENATE subcommittee on police graft and corruption is investigating allegations of an alleged police-protection racket targeting tailor shops in Phuket's Kata-Karon area.

Subcommittee chairman Pol Gen Jongrak Juthanon said the investigation follows complaints made by people in Kata-Karon that retail businesses that employ ethnic Nepalis are forced to hand over 2,000 baht per person for the police to "look the other way".

Ethnic Nepalis make up the bulk of the so-called "tailor touts" in popular resort areas like Patong and Kata-Karon. Although some of the Nepalis have work permits allowing them to work in some trades, sales work is restricted to Thai nationals under labor law.

"We have collected about 80 per cent of the required information from both the accusers and the accused, and we will probably wrap up the investigation in about two weeks.

"Then we will present our findings to the Senate in order for the



Maj Gen Jongrak Juthanon
Photo: Peerapan Wimonrangkrat

government to find a solution," Gen Jongrak said.

The alleged protection racket is the only complaint of its type that his panel has received from Phuket, but it is one that has generated a large number of complaints by people claiming losses, he added.

One of those filing a complaint was Karon Tambon Chief Winai Chidchiew.

The call for justice at the national level was needed because previous efforts to stop people

from collecting bribes from business owners who hire ethnic Nepalis had failed, Mr Winai said.

One of the tailors who gave testimony said he was required to pay 2,000 baht a month per employee to a "bag man" for police protection, but that he had no way of knowing if the money was ever actually delivered to the police.

Either way, the collection of protection fees is improper, he said.

Operators are waiting to see how the installation of Gen Piewpan Damapong as the new national police chief will affect them.

The naming of a new national police chief in Thailand is traditionally followed by a number of high-profile police "crackdowns", which then fade away, allowing decades-old systems to resume business as usual.

Phuket Immigration Police Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak told the *Gazette* last week that his office had not been contacted by the investigation team and that he had no comment on the matter.

Confessed

Officials are 'unaware' of the confessed kidnapper and rapist's whereabouts after he was set free in June when prosecutors dropped all but the most minor of charges against him.



Phakpoom in police custody on April 3.

A LAWYER of one of the alleged victims told the *Phuket Gazette*: "I checked with the prosecutor in July and realized that they weren't going to pursue charges against Phakpoom Maneerat."

"I have been involved in this case all along and we put everything together to be sent to the prosecutor," the lawyer said.

"Phakpoom is now only going to be charged with identifying himself as a police officer – which he is not. This is a very 'light' charge," he said.

"I've been told one reason the charges have been dropped against the rapist is because the victim had some chances to escape, but did not. For example, she could have escaped from the car or she could have escaped from the room [in Krabi] when he went out for food," he said.

"When she gave testimony to the police, she didn't have a lawyer with her and didn't really know how to handle the situation. She only had a translator with her at the time who didn't have much legal knowledge," he said.

"She didn't clearly tell the police that she was raped in the car as well. She didn't escape from the car as she was afraid of the

man. She didn't have any money and believed that [Phakpoom] was a real police officer," he added.

Phuket Prosecutor Manop Nuchuay told the *Gazette* that according to evidence in the case, the woman agreed to leave with Phakpoom and that she never attempted to flee.

An official letter explaining the case against Phakpoom was sent from the prosecutor's office to Phuket governor Tri Augkaradacha, Mr Manop said.

An administrative officer at the Phuket Prosecutor's Office said that after the letter was agreed to by Gov Tri, the case was sent to the Attorney General for consideration.

"The case with the Attorney General now states that some of the original charges against the de-

fendant will not be pursued, while others will," Mr Manop said.

However, an officer at the Office of the Attorney General in Bangkok told the *Gazette* their files show Phakpoom is to be prosecuted only for impersonating a police officer.

According to the officer's statements, there appear to be procedural inconsistencies regarding

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rapist not facing charges



Five of the alleged six kidnap, rape and robbery victims that initially came forward with complaints against Phakpoom.

Phakpoom's case.

"If a provincial governor agrees to the prosecution's case, it will not be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office. If the governor disagrees with the prosecutor's case, then it would be sent to Bangkok for consideration.

"According to the information, it looks as though the Governor agrees with the prosecutor in not prosecuting the alleged rapes, because only this one case [of impersonating a police officer] has come to us," she said.

"The case is now being considered by our division head, after which time it will be forwarded to higher-ranking officers, so we're not sure when a resolution will be reached. If the victim does not agree with the outcome, she can hire a lawyer on her own and file a civil case against Mr Phak-poom," she concluded.

When asked how charges against Phakpoom could have been dropped, given that he made a full confession to police and media, Phuket

Prosecutor Manop said that, in fact, the suspect had not signed a confession.

However, a Police officer who investigated Phakpoom's case at Kathu Police Station confirmed to the *Gazette* last week, on condition of anonymity, that the suspect did sign a full confession shortly after his arrest.

While confusion surrounds the issue of how a confessed kidnaper and rapist can be set free due to "lack of evidence", one factor in the case not moving forward is apparent: fear.

"It seems that members of the Thai-Nepalese club and the young woman's relatives are not pushing the case forward," the 25-year-old victim's lawyer said.

"One of the victims' relatives is afraid that the man [Phakpoom]

might have people harm his family if they pursue the case. The victim would like to fully pursue the case, but others who strongly supported her at first have backed off," he said.

One of the young woman's relatives told the *Gazette*, "We haven't done anything with the case since we were informed that the prosecutor isn't pursuing the charges. I can't push this by myself and the victim doesn't have any money – she doesn't have the power."

"The other victims seem as though they don't want to see the case through because some of them have husbands – they don't want to ruin their reputations. So just one, the 25-year-old, has come forward, but now the prosecutor will not do anything about it," he said.

Thai-Nepalese Club president Phanuphong Limbuprasertkul said that in the Hindu belief system, common among Nepalese, if a woman is raped no man will marry her. Therefore, if she is raped, she will keep it a secret.

This hasn't stopped reports of similar cases

from reaching Mr Phanuphong.

"We have about one case a month of 'fake police' raping Nepali women – and this is much less often than before. Some of these cases are reported to the police," he said.

"Young Nepali women are always being deceived when they are new to Thailand. They don't know much about the country.

"We are trying to protect them by warning young women to not walk alone, especially at night, as some of them finish work quite late at night," Mr Phanuphong said.

The Thai-Nepalese Club has about 3,000 members including children and adults. About half of them are females, 10 per cent of which are young women.

At the time of going to press, the Phuket Governor's Office was unavailable to comment.



Thai-Nepalese Club President Phanuphong Limbuprasertkul



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Fishermen win fight to use public beach

By Yodsak Jarana

LOCAL fishermen at Palai Beach, near Chalong, have won the right to use a section of the beach for landing and repairing their longtail boats.

Led by Jirapat Phum, about 20 local fisherman arrived at the beach on Tuesday to meet Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut and officers from other relevant organizations in order to inspect the site.

"A lawyer representing a businessman told us to get off the land, a stretch of 300 meters along Palai Beach where we fix our boats," Mr Jirapat explained.

The section of beach used by the fisherman, who together represent a fleet of about 100 boats, was intentionally left unobstructed by the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) when it built a sea wall along the Palai waterfront, he added.

"The lawyer and some men told us that we and other local villagers would be forcibly removed as the businessman had a title deed for the land, but the land in question is a mangrove forest – it belongs to the public," he said.



Fishermen at Phuket's Palai Beach, near Chalong, discuss their rights to use the beach. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

After the inspection visit, the land was declared a mangrove forest and the fishermen were given official permission to use the beach for their boats.

Chalong *OrBorTor* Vice President Opas Chobdee and Mr Phuripat said they would both issue a formal letter confirming the fishermen's right to use the beach.

However, both were clear in stipulating that the fishermen were not to encroach onto any private land in the area or build any structures on the beach.

The villagers, happy with the outcome, agreed to abide by the conditions and announced that they would not stage a protest, as they had originally intended to do.



Officials inspect a post confirming the site is a mangrove forest.

'Wedding crasher' makes mess of own marriage

A LAMPANG man became so violently drunk at his own wedding reception that his guests fled and the 16-year-old bride's family spirited her home because they feared for her safety.

Instead of spending his wedding night in honeymoon bliss with his new wife, newlywed Atthaphon Chantawong, 24, spent the night in a police cell.

Everything was going swimmingly at the party at Mr Atthaphon's house in the village of Tonyang in Pichai subdistrict – until the booze started to flow.

After the traditional Thai wedding ceremony and Mr Atthaphon had officially become a married man, the young groom went from table to table thanking guests for attending.

At every table he had a drink, and before long he became very drunk.

Eventually Mr Atthaphon pulled off his shirt "to show off his tattoos" and started challeng-



ing guests to fight. Many of them fled the party and the bride's family whisked her home for her own safety, while his relatives called police.

When the police arrived, they found guests leaving hurriedly. Inside, they found tables and chairs scattered on the floor, with a bare-chested Mr Atthaphon shouting loudly amid the chaos.

They arrested him, leaving him to sober up in a police cell.

The young groom was later released as no one had filed charges against him.



Mr Hjort and Ms Waleeporn at Phuket City Police Station.

Estate manager fires warning shots to silence building noise

A PHUKET estate manager this week terrified a team of Thai workers when he fired warning shots over their heads in an effort to get them to stop making noise.

Swede Mike Hjort, who is the construction team's foreman, and Songkhla native Waleeporn Chinpised, both 41, appeared at Phuket City Police Station last Friday to file a complaint against Seree Duangsuwan.

The couple told Duty Officer Jetsuda Saensuree that Mr Seree fired a series of gunshots over their heads as they and their team of workers were doing contract construction work on a home in The View villa estate near the Khao Khad Viewpoint in Wichit.

After an exchange of words, Mr Seree allegedly fired two volleys of five rounds each as staff were working on the roof.

Mr Hjort, who has been living in Phuket for 22 years, said, "We are afraid to work on the project now as he is still walking around with a gun like a crazy man."

Two of his workers have already said they were too afraid to return to the site, he added.

Ms Waleeporn said the team tried to minimize disturbance to neighbors by doing the noisy work in the afternoon.

"We have another repair job scheduled in another house nearby, but we chose to cancel it," she added.

Police accepted the complaint and said they would call in Mr Seree for questioning, she said.

Abandoned baby found playing in back of pickup

POLICE have launched an investigation to discover the parents of a baby boy found slightly bruised but otherwise healthy in the flat-bed of a pickup truck last week.

Phuket City Police and members of the Ruamjai Rescue Foundation responded to a call at 8am from Wichit Moo 3 village headman Udom Nokseekaew reporting he had found a baby boy about 7 to 8 months old.

He found the baby playing in the back of a pickup truck on Kwang Road late the night before.

"He was naked and playing in the back of a pick-up. He had bruises, some scratches and mosquito and insect bites over most of his body," he added.



A Rescue volunteer with the baby.

Mr Udom said that the baby boy had a fair-skinned, East Asian appearance.

Phuket City Police said that the baby was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to be checked while they begin an investigation to find his parents.

– Yodsak Jarana

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Edging towards Thaksin pardon

DEPUTY Prime Minister Chalermsak Yoobamrung has said an amnesty for former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is "rightfully the mandate of the King", prompting speculation that the government will seek a royal pardon for the fugitive Dubai-based billionaire.

The issue of securing an amnesty for Mr Thaksin remains highly controversial, with the self-exiled former prime minister loved and reviled in Thailand in equal measure.

Mr Thaksin was sentenced to two years in jail in 2008 following a conviction for abuse of power related to a land purchase by his ex-wife Khunying Pojaman na Pombejra. He has been living in exile ever since.

Responding to reporters' questions on whether it was necessary for convicted people to serve a penalty before receiving a royal pardon, Mr Chalermsak said: "That is only one of the possible procedures. I don't want to ex-

AROUND THE nation

plain, otherwise it would be an issue."

Mr Chalermsak told reporters not to ask Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra about the issue, saying she had entrusted handling of the matter entirely to him to take care of.

"We are not supposed to talk about it. The issue lies within the mandate of the King," he said.

In August 2009 the red shirts submitted a 3.6-million-signature petition to the palace asking for a pardon for Mr Thaksin.

After checks were made, 2 million of the signatures were verified as genuine.

Last week the Corrections Department forwarded the petition to Justice Minister Pracha Promnok

for a final review.

After Mr Chalermsak's interview, his assistant gave copies of a document to reporters.

Signed by Mr Chalermsak, it said the law did not specify the kind of cases for which His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej could or could not give a royal pardon, how long a penalty the convict must serve before seeking a royal pardon, or the prohibitions on a fugitive seeking a royal pardon.

Meanwhile, former prime minister and opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva demanded that the Pheu Thai Party adhere to legal precedents in dealing with Mr Thaksin's case.

"The Pheu Thai Party has often raised the issue of double standards during its campaigning, therefore it should not rely on double standards to rescue Thaksin," he said.

"I hope Pheu Thai will treat Thaksin like any other fugitive," he said.



ON THE MOVE: Opponents alleged Pheu Thai involvement in gaining approval for Thaksin to visit Japan last month (above). Photo: AFP

First Lese Majeste arrest for new gov't

POLICE have arrested a Thai man for insulting the monarchy on a Facebook page in Thailand's first Lese Majeste case since the Yingluck Shinawatra government took power.

Meanwhile, a Thai-born US citizen is suing an internet service provider (ISP) for allegedly revealing his identity to the Thai authorities after he made anonymous comments on a website criticizing the monarchy.

In the first case, Surapak Puchaisaeng, a 40-year-old computer programmer, faces up to 15 years in prison for alleged defamatory comments he made on Facebook.

Mr Surapak was also charged under the Computer Crimes Act.

In the second case, US citizen Anthony Chai is suing Canadian ISP Netfirms.com for allegedly identifying him to the Thai authorities. The ISP hosted a website on which Mr Chai made his comments anonymously.

Mr Chai, who runs a computer shop in California, said agents pulled him aside and interrogated him for three days after he arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok. He claimed he was forced to write a letter praising and apologizing to His Majesty the King for his comments.

Mr Chai also claimed that Pol Col Yanaphon Youngyuen, the director of the Department of Special Investigation's bureau of high-tech crimes, met him twice



A Bangkok protester holds an anti-Lese Majeste sign in May. Photo: AFP

in the US and made threats against his family.

Mr Chai told AFP that he hoped to draw attention to the "despicable" law on Lese Majeste and to test Thai authorities' contention that their rules apply around the world and not only inside the Kingdom.

Last month Deputy Prime Minister Chalermsak Yoobamrung said the government would set up a "war room" to suppress insults to the monarchy on the internet.

Protection of the monarchy is enforced through Article 112 of the Thai penal code, which mandates a jail sentence of three to 15 years for anyone who "defames, insults or threatens the King, Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent". Lese Majeste convictions have soared in recent years, while Thailand also blocked or suspended 75,000 websites from 2007 to 2010.

Prisoner dies in 800-man rumble

AT LEAST one prisoner was killed in a riot at Pattani Central Prison on Monday that involved as many as 800 of the facility's 1,200 inmates.

The riot was believed to have been started by Muslim inmates angry at preferential treatment given to Buddhist prisoners.

They claimed the Buddhists were given special privileges such as being allowed to eat in their rooms and act as assistants to guards.

More than 40 inmates reportedly attacked five Buddhists who fled to the roof of the facility. Three of them fell off and were seriously injured before at least one was beaten to death by the



Prison authorities were forced to compromise. Photo: The Nation

rioters, reports said.

The riot lasted more than an hour, with prisoners fighting each other with sticks and fists, Pattani

deputy governor Luekkiat Phothiphan said.

The prisoners called off their riot after prison authorities agreed to make concessions, including that Muslim inmates would replace Buddhists as guards' assistants.

"We have listened to their complaints and will take them into consideration," Mr Luekkiat told DPA, after persuading the prisoners to end the fight.

Pattani Central Prison is the main facility for holding convicts from the three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, where a Muslim insurgency has raged, killing around 4,400 people over the past eight years.

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Tuk-tuk tariff: hidden costs of collusion

DESPITE a great deal of press coverage and international diplomatic pressure, altercations between foreign tourists and tuk-tuk drivers appear to be increasing, both in frequency and intensity. In one of the latest attacks, an outnumbered and drunken German tourist was beaten into a coma by his assailants, who remain at large.

Given this trend, it is probably only a matter of time before outright murder occurs, but it is already safe to say that the existing situation has indirectly claimed many lives and left others with crippling injuries.

After all, it is the exorbitant tuk-tuk fares starting at a minimum of 200 baht that force tourists to rent motorcycles at just 150 baht per day. What else could account for – according to Hospital Director Phumin Silaphan – Patong Hospital alone having 400 patients a day, of which 100 are foreigners and most of whom are treated for injuries sustained in traffic accidents?

At the recent quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls with the Phuket Governor and other local leaders, the tactics used by the various transportation syndicates once again became the most heated topic of discussion.

As pointed out – repeatedly – by German Honorary Consul Dirk Naumann, the root cause of the problem is the pricing structure.

That tuk-tuk and taxi drivers collude in their areas of influence is no longer a matter of debate, nor is their overall negative impact on the island's tourism industry. According to one definition, there are three key indicators that suggest when collusion is taking place:

1. Uniform prices: In Kata-Karon, syndicate leaders actually view the proposed posting of fixed "pricing guidelines" (read: self-set minimum fares) as a "step forward".

2. Penalties for price discounting: Ask the operator of the short-lived Patong-Karon *songthaew* service, who was pulled from his vehicle and beaten within days of commencing operation over a decade ago, leaving tourists there without a reasonable public transport option since.

3. Information exchange: Checker games and whiskey drinking aren't all that goes on in those little salas found in front of every major resort.

Aware that the provincial governor is powerless to effect change, there has been talk recently among some frustrated tourism industry figures about "taking matters into their own hands".

As there is hardly a major resort on the island outside Phuket Town that isn't effectively being held hostage, we can only plead with the police and other local authorities to once and for all take action on this very serious issue – before it escalates to a dangerous new level.

– The Editor

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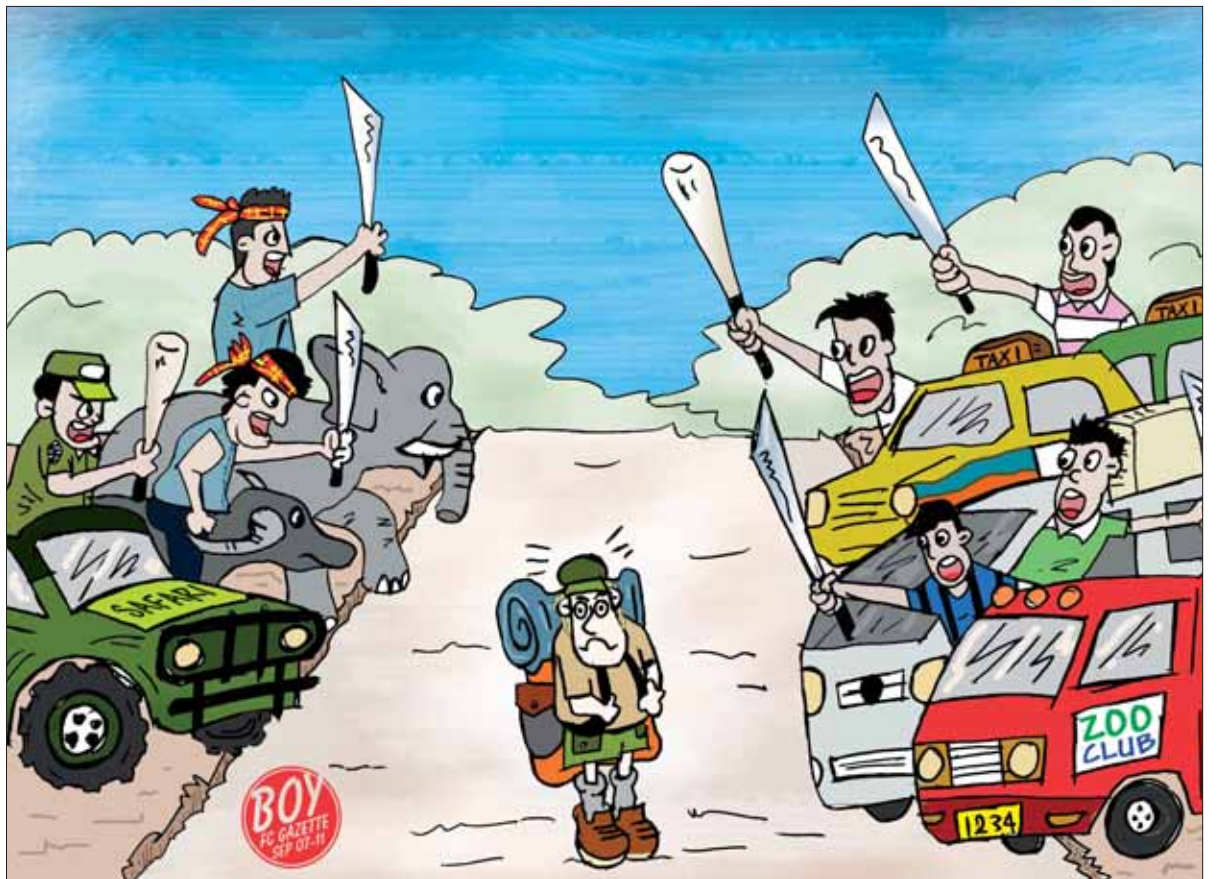
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Showdown in 'Wild Wichit'

Re: Gazette online, Gunfire silences Phuket construction clamor, says Swede, September 2

A man fires a number of shots and the police will 'call him in for questioning' – gotta love it.

Waving a gun around and firing shots without an immediate response. I hope Mr Hjort's work permit is in order as this could bring a world of hurt down on him from the Phuket bullies with connections.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

I asked him why he didn't report it. He said, this would mean his workers would lose their jobs and he would lose his English speaking staff.

He sees the 2,000 baht as a sort of "fee" to semi-legalize his staff! Sounds like win-win to me.

Mac
Gazette forum

first arrived here and nothing is ever done about the big problems.

clickblade
Gazette forum

Good work, but it needs a deadline

Re: Gazette online, Envoy warns of EU advisory against tourists using Phuket tuk-tuks, September 2

This is actually a very significant step in forcing the immobilized hands of the Thai authorities into doing something about the problem.

The consuls could take things further by setting a date for when the blanket EU warning about tuk-tuks comes into force.

Only then will the authorities sit up and take notice.

Mr Man
Gazette forum

What goes around may not come around

Re: Gazette online, Aldhouse extradition to Phuket looks inevitable: British press, September 4

This guy deserves all he gets if guilty, but his lawyers will appeal all the way to the High Court.

If that fails, he will go to the European court of Human Rights. They will not allow a European citizen be sent to endure the sub-human conditions of Thai prisons. His Lawyers just have to highlight any one of the regular horror stories we hear about Thai prisons.

chrisT
Gazette forum

No more second chances, Phuket

The latest episode of taxi thug violence is the last straw for me. I was a frequent visitor to the beautiful island of Phuket but now I know for certain that I will never return.

In Pattaya, I can travel anywhere in the city of 10 baht. Why is it not the same in Phuket?

If local government does not have the courage to tackle this problem then they must be prepared to say goodbye to tourists.

Danny Mulligan
Pattaya

But can you walk the walk?

Re: Gazette online, Police boost patrols past Phuket gold shops, September 3

No disrespect to the Thai people, but they do spend a lot of time sitting around and discussing issues. But, when it comes to actually doing things... well, we know about that.

I have lived here for eight years and love Phuket but I have heard the same old arguments since I

Power of the press

I read about the Australian Ambassador speaking out against Phuket's transportation systems in the *Phuket Gazette*. It worries me that you are afraid to write against the behavior of these tuk-tuk and taxi drivers. You must take into consideration that they are destroying Phuket's name.

I propose that meters are installed in all taxis and tuk-tuks. I have written to the *Gazette* before describing how tourists are happy with Bangkok's system, where all taxis have meters that start at 35 baht.

If you propose and support this change in the transportation system, you will see the benefits to tourism and Europeans will appreciate it and start coming to Phuket again.

Sandeman
email

Good deeds for all Phuket people

FIRST PERSON

AS AN island with a lot of hills, Phuket has over the years seen many people develop way of life based around working in the hills for a living.

This has resulted in the biggest issue the Phuket Land Office faces today: issuing Chanote titles.

Many people have lived on land that they call their own, but without any form of land title deed – not even *Sor Kor 1*.

Without a *Sor Kor 1*, according to the law they cannot be issued a *Nor Sor 3* title or a Chanote.

Another issue for these people is demarcation of Forest Department land. I am not accusing the officers, but some land that the Forest Department has declared national forest reserve overlaps land that people can prove they were already working on long before the government declared it forest land.

I know issuing Chanote titles takes a lot of time and money, but Chanote titles must be verified by a process that includes many different authorities.

About 100 to 150 people per day come to our office about this. We can handle it, but certification of Chanote titles is our biggest problem – and this is not just a problem in Phuket, it is a nationwide problem.

One thing I would like to make



Phuchit Piddum, 51, took up the challenging post of Phuket Provincial Land Office director on July 19. The Songkhla native holds a master's degree in political science from Ramkhamhaeng University and bachelor degrees in law and business management. Here he talks about the problems with the big push to upgrade Phuket

land titles to Chanote status, the most secure form of land ownership in the Kingdom.



More than 100 people a day arrive at the Land Office to apply for Chanotes.

very clear is that we do not issue Chanote titles only to rich people, as many people have complained.

Under the law, issuance of a Chanote requires verification that the land qualifies, not the people who apply.

If the plot of land is verified in accordance with the law, we will issue a Chanote.

This is entirely different from *SorPorKor* land, which the gov-

ernment allows people to use to make a living, but which remains state property. Please do not confuse the two.

In confirming *SorPorKor* land rights, we verify that the people have the right to use the land.

With issuance of Chanote titles, we verify that the land qualifies for Chanote status.

It doesn't matter how rich or poor the applicant happens to be.

Spare the rod, fire the teacher

Island View

By Hugh Williams

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

"good morning, Mick". Or just say "hello" and shake his hand.

Attention is really what he is looking for and a kind touch usually gets you lots of mileage.

You move him to the front of the class and away from his buddies. Throughout the class, you solicit answers from him. When he is working on his exercises, you help him first. This is when you find out the kid is a little slow, and always has been, but the system keeps passing him and pushing him through. Sorry, that's another story.

For the next few weeks, you should continue with positive reinforcement, and you find by the end of the term he has moved from the bottom of the class to the middle – a huge improvement. He is happy, you are happy, and now you can spend more of your time with the other 29 students in the class.

There are times when positive reinforcement doesn't work, which calls for reinforcements. Bring in another teacher, or the director, to help you persuade him to change his behavior.

Nothing works 100 per cent of the time, because children are all different. However, hitting children is just not necessary when we have so many other ways to correct bad behavior.

A RECENT article in the *Phuket Gazette* on corporal punishment spurred me to provide my two cents (*Phuket Gazette, Hard-hitting school realities, August 20*).

I wholeheartedly agree with the Thai law against corporal punishment in schools. There are books on the subject, but I will attempt just an outline here.

It's more expedient for teachers to just hit a kid but this usually only brings temporary results. Positive reinforcement combined with effective parenting is far more effective.

First, what kind of behavior are we trying to remedy?

Let's suppose a student named Mick is disruptive, disrespectful, and in some cases violent towards other children.

I am using a boy's name as it is a boy 99 per cent of the time.

So you hit the child and he is fine for the rest of the day.

The next day he returns to school and resumes his bad behavior. You hit him again, this time harder.

This is not how it should be done. You take it step-by-step.

First, you take the kid aside, or better, outside of the room, and tell him what he has done wrong and what he should have done instead. Unfortunately, this step only works with some of the kids some of the time.

So, we move to the next step and start using focused, positive reinforcement. The following day when you come into the class and see the little troublemaker, you put your hand on his shoulder and say

Issues & Answers...

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

Who's who among heroines?

I am a regular tourist, visiting Phuket many times in a year. I love it here.

On the way from the airport to Phuket Town, I always pass by the monument of the two heroines located in the center of the roundabout.

As far as I know the monument was built to honor and recall the bravery of Phuket's two sister-heroines.

Earlier this year, I attended the "Heroines' Festival".

I might not have understood the whole the story nor the dialogue in the historical pageant, but I was quite impressed by the production.

It was fun seeing Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha take part in the show too.

Anyway, I am just curious about the two women represented by statues in the monument: Which one of them is the older sister and which is the younger one?

My friends told me that dur-

ing the war, the two of them dressed like men to fight with enemies.

But none of my Thai friends seem to know which is which.

I noticed that – if I'm facing the statues – the woman on the left has her hand on the right wrist of the woman on the right.

Maybe the left one is the younger sister who wanted to support her big sister?

Paula
Sendai, Japan

Koraticha Wattanapan, secretary of the Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn Foundation, replies:

The statue of Thao Thepkasattri [also known as Than Puying Jan], the older of the two sisters, is the one placing her left hand onto the right wrist of Thao Srisoonthorn [also known as Khun Mook].

It is said that Khun Mook had an impulsive nature and that her older sister was trying to prevent

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her from acting impulsively.

On the ground level, in front of the monument, there is a sign with the name of each woman written below the corresponding statue.

The monument was built by the Phuket Provincial Office over 50 years ago.

In 1959 HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej visited Phuket to chair the dedication ceremony of the Heroines' Monument.

The monument is now under the care of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

For more information regarding Phuket's heroines, the foundation provides a variety of information on phuketdata.net.



The Heroines' Monument on Thepkasattri Road.

Cost of living on the up

THE cost of living in Phuket and the rest of Thailand continues to skyrocket. This comes as no surprise as most of the rises can be directly or indirectly attributed to surging energy and petrol prices.

Darawan Rodmongkol, Assistant Account Manager in Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority told the *Phuket Gazette* that the rising cost of energy is the main reason why electricity bills have been on the up.

She explained that the tariff structures that led to the price increases discussed earlier this year were approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERO) on July 13.

"These [new] tariffs have taken effect since July and will continue through 2015. The ERO will have to review this tariff rate structure again in 2013," she said. She explained that the tariffs are meant to compensate for the continuing rise of energy costs.

Rises in other amenities, however, are not as easily linked to oil price trends.

"Water prices can not be determined in the same manner as chicken and pork," said Pichai Watcharangsi, Assistant Manager of Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority (PPWA).

Though the price of oil and petrol directly affects electricity and food prices, Mr Pichai explained that the price of water is increasing in Phuket due to several factors, mostly related to the island's limited supply of raw water sources in addition to rising base and processing costs.

"Expanding infrastructure in Thailand is one factor leading to increased prices throughout the country, not just Phuket," he said.

"Moreover, raw water sources in Phuket are not sufficient to meet increasing demand," he added.

He explained that the PPWA gets its water supply from two sources. Most of it's supplied directly from the Royal Irrigation Department (a state-run enterprise), while the remainder is bought from a private company.

That company, he explained, treats their water – by way of reverse osmosis – in-house and sets its own selling price, currently at about 45 baht per cubic meter. This is compared with the average rate charged nationwide of about 22 baht.

"Actually, we make no profit and all of

the PPWA revenue collected in Phuket is sent to Bangkok monthly," he said. "Bangkok [PPWA] determines the price we can charge consumers, which doesn't cover all the expenses in Phuket," he added.

Mr Pichai explained that Phuket's Water Works is in the process of separating its waterworks management from central (Bangkok) management, citing the need to be more autonomous in balancing its books.

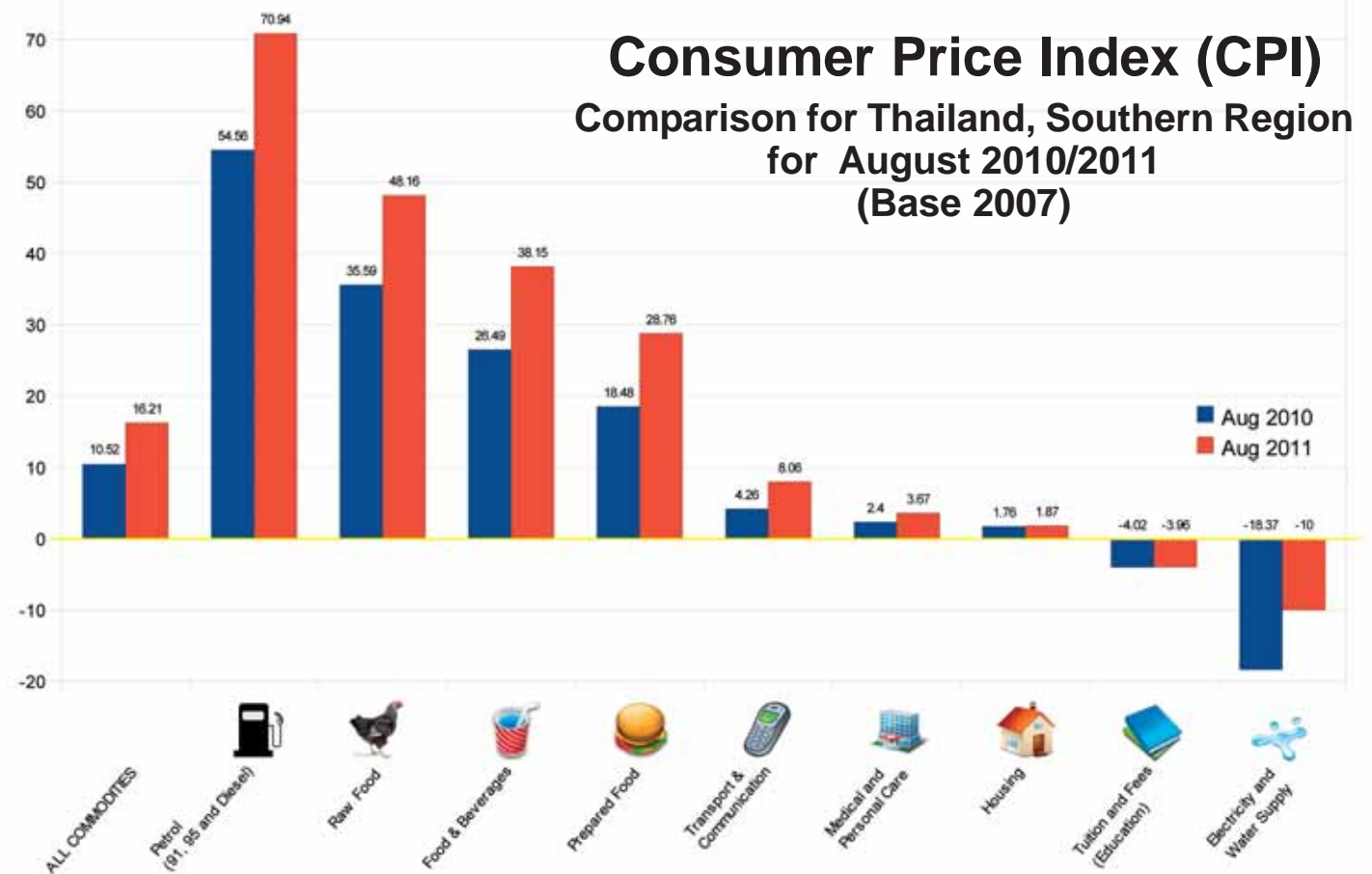
He added that Koh Samui is also in the process of localizing its management.

Consumer Prices

	Phuket	Bangkok
Jasmin Rice (Malbonkrong brand)	179.5	194
Eggs*	40.8	40.2
Pork**	80.5	75
Chicken***	64	62.5
Soy Bean Oil	53.75	53.75
Palm Oil	41.5	41.5
Diesel	28.03	26.99
Benzine 91	36.41	35.07
Gasohol 91	33.38	32.34
Gasohol 95	36.41	35.07

*Class three eggs per dozen as of Sep 6
 **Whole pig per kg as of Sep 6 (price for Bangkok is fixed for central region)
 ***Whole Chicken per kg as of Aug 31
 Source = Department of Internal Trade

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Comparison for Thailand, Southern Region for August 2010/2011 (Base 2007)



Unions slam wage hike wimp-out

THE Pheu Thai government's revised policy on raising the minimum wage to 300 baht per day continues to draw fire from critics, with trade union representatives arguing that the watered-down version will leave low-wage earners defenseless against rising inflation rates.

According to reports last week by *Manager Online*, trade union leaders have expressed displeasure with the government for backtracking on its campaign promise.

Manas Kosol, chairman of the National Congress of Thai Labor (NCTL), said he disagreed with the government's adjusted strategy, pointing out that it had campaigned on a promise to raise the minimum wage in every province simultaneously.

Mr Manas urged the government to stick to its campaign pledges, saying that commodity prices were rising ahead of wages and raising the cost of living for laborers.

The NCTL, along with the Thai

Labor Solidarity Committee (TLSC), were engaged in dialogue with Labor Minister Padermchai Sasomsap. The groups are urging the government to reconsider and raise minimum wages simultaneously nationwide.

Saying that rising inflation called for urgent action, Mr Manas said the groups were pushing to have the wage rises expedited to October instead of January.

Wilaiwan Saetia, vice president of the TLSC, also expressed she displeasure.

"When Pheu Thai took power it changed its words. It promised the people in its campaign that it would change minimum wages to 300 baht across the country on January 14, 2011," she said.

Nakhon Sutthiprawat, chairman of the Congress of Independent Labor of Thailand (CILT), concurred.

Wage increases in selected pilot provinces [Phuket and Greater Bangkok] were unlikely to help laborers since they already tended

to earn about 300 baht per day. Provinces left out of the pilot scheme were likely to be unsatisfied and even face increased problems as a result of the policy, he said.

Critics have suggested the policy could result in labor shortages in provinces surrounding the pilot areas as workers migrate in pursuit of higher wages.

Following initial criticism from SME representatives, as reported in the *Phuket Gazette* in July, the newly-elected Pheu Thai government compromised on its initial promise to raise minimum wages in every province across Thailand simultaneously.

Instead, it announced it would initially raise wages in Phuket, Bangkok and five provinces surrounding the capital: Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom and Nonthaburi.

The minimum wage currently varies by province, ranging from 159 baht in Phayao to 221 baht in Phuket.

It is 215 baht per day in the Bangkok metropolitan area.

– *Manager Online* with additional reporting by *Phuket Gazette*

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2. Chaleo Yoovidhya
US\$5bn



3. C. Sirivadhanabhakdi
US\$4.8bn

4. Chirathivat family, US\$4.3bn
5. Krit Ratanarak and family, US\$2.5bn
6. Alope Lohia, US\$2.1bn
7. Chamnong Bhirombhakdi, US\$2bn
8. Vichai Maleenont, US\$1.5bn
9. Isara Vongkusolkiet and family, US\$1.4bn
10. Praneetsilpa Vacharaphol and family, US\$1.05bn

INFLATION PROOF: The 40 richest Thais have a collective net worth of US\$45 billion, an increase of 25 per cent over last year. Photos: The Nation.

DESPITE soaring inflation and the rising cost of living, businesses in Thailand are flourishing – at least for the country's wealthiest.

Forbes Asia's 2011 Thailand's 40 Richest list was recently released and its revelations will come to no surprise for wealth experts and Marxism enthusiasts alike.

Based on share prices and exchange rates as of August 9, three-quarters of the 40 wealthiest Thais' fortunes increased since last year, while their combined net worth rose 25 per cent to US\$ 45 billion (about 1.3 trillion baht).

Following Pheu Thai's victory in the July 3 elections, the Stock Exchange of Thailand main index rose to levels not seen in 15 years, up 21.7 per cent so far this year.

In the same period, the baht rose 6.1 per cent against the US dollar.

This year, a minimum of US\$ 195 million was needed to make the list compared to US\$ 140mn last year.

For the second year in a row, the list was topped by the head of agribusiness conglomerate Charoen Pokphand Group (CP Group), Dhanin Chearavanont, 72, retaining his spot as Thailand's wealthiest with a net worth at US\$ 7.4bn.

The second-richest is 79-year-old Chaleo Yoovidhya who has a net worth of US\$ 5 billion – up from US\$ 4.2bn last year. Chaleo is best known for cofounding the famous energy-drink brand, Red Bull with Austrian marketeer, Dietrich Mateschitz.

The third-richest man in Thailand, Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, 67, amassed a fortune worth US\$ 4.8bn, mostly from selling Chang beer and Mekhong whisky through the Thai Beverage company, Thailand's largest brewery and distillery group.

Thailand's top gainer was Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth (17th), whose net worth skyrocketed 138% thanks to the profitability of his privately held Bangkok Airways, in addition to the dramatic rise in the share price of hospital group Bangkok Dusit Medical Services. Prasert founded the health service provider with fellow physician Pongsak Viddayakorn (28th) whose net worth jumped by 121%, making him the second-biggest gainer this year.

This year's list featured two new names: Prachai Leophairatana (29th) and Pete Bodharanik (34th),

Prachai Leophairatana, who was once known as Thailand's biggest defaulter following \$ 3.8 billion in bad loans for his defunct Thai Petrochemical Industries group, reinvented his fortune. Prachai's cement company, TPI Polene achieved a three-year high last month seeing his net worth rise to US\$ 300mn.

Pete Bodharanik, CEO of Jasmine International, a company started by his father, Adisai, who was former Commerce Minister under Thaksin, saw his stock quintuple over a 15-month period after the company won an infrastructure bid – in collaboration with Advanced Info Service (AIS) – to launch a nationwide Wi-Fi service. Bodharanik's calculated net worth is US\$ 245mn.

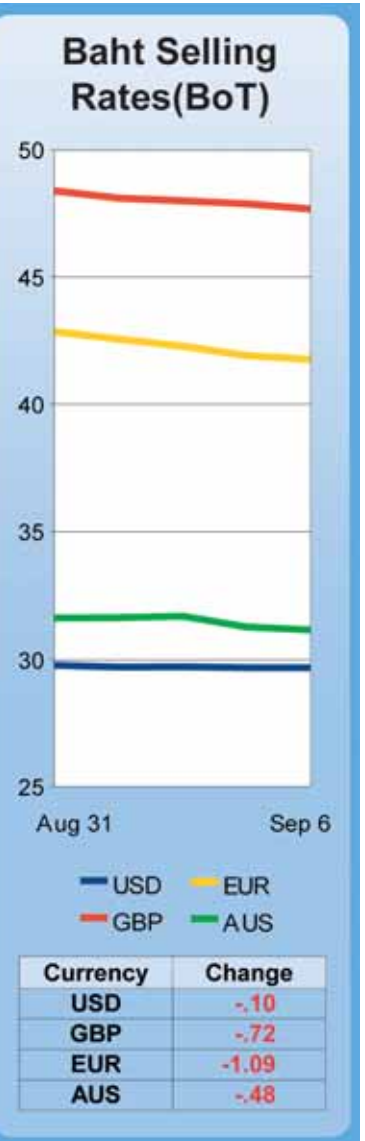
Notable Millionaires

Oldest and Richest: Vichai Maleenont (8th), Cofounder of media conglomerate BEC World, is 93 years old and worth \$ 1.5 billion baht.

Youngest and Richest: Nishita Shah Federbush (27th), 31, is worth \$ US340mn and is the director and shareholder of Precious Shipping,

a dry bulk shipper founded by her father. She's also director of jet operator, Mjets, and owner of Amari Atrium Bangkok Hotel.

Richest Farang: William E. Heinecke, 62, is the only foreign-born Thai on the list (15th). Heinecke migrated to Thailand as a teenager in the 60s and opened the first Pizza Hut franchise in Asia as well as a handful of other fast-food franchises before starting his own, The Pizza Company. He denounced his American citizenship in the early 90s to become a Thai citizen and owns thousands of restaurants and hotels under his corporation, Minor International.



Election boosts Thaksin

PRIME MINISTER Yingluck's older brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, was listed as the 19th wealthiest on Forbes Asia's 2011 Thailand's 40 Richest.

The former premier moved up four spots from last year's list thanks to a sharp increase in his family's stock value during the month following the Pheu Thai Party's election victory on July 3 of this year.

Calculated by combining all of his family's assets, the Forbes' report attributed the 53 per cent increase in the Shinawatras' fortune – currently valued at US\$ 600 million (about 18 billion baht) – to a stock split and a doubling of the share price of his family's real-estate development firm, SC Asset.

Notably, Thaksin, who advised younger sister, Yingluck, on her election campaign, has US\$ 2 billion in assets frozen by Thai authorities following the family's 2006 sale of Shin Corp, the telecom group he founded.

After his younger sister Yingluck became prime minister, the Finance Ministry acknowledged

it would not appeal a tax ruling that released US\$ 40mn in frozen assets owned by Thaksin's children. For now, Forbes has not counted this sum in Thaksin's valuation.

Following the 2006 coup d'état, he went into exile, but is expected, by many, to return to Thailand soon. It is unclear whether or not he will be able to claim the US\$ 2bn in frozen assets.



Thaksin Shinawatra, Forbes 19th.
Photo: DoD, Helene C. Stikkel



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Finding your 'True' internet speed



Does this speedtest.net result prove True is faster than the speed of light? Maybe not.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I'VE received email from all over the world as a result of the 'Bang for the Baht' chart that Khun Roger and I put together for the August 27 Live Wire in the *Phuket Gazette*. You can see the column at bit.ly/npKS9M

The emails I received fall into three broad categories.

Some people expect to be in Phuket shortly – either moving here or taking an extended holiday – and they desperately want to know if they'll be able to get good Internet connections here.

Some people live in Phuket and they're fed up with their current Internet Service Provider (ISP). They want to know if they can get a better, faster, more reliable line – that's cheaper, if possible.

The third group calls into question the whole method of measuring and reporting

on internet speeds, often citing other speed tests that show their line is blazing fast. Let me address their questions first.

All of the ISPs in Phuket want you to trust the speeds measured by either (1) speedtest.net or (2) any site that uses technology from a company called OOKLA. There's a reason why.

Reader DB wrote to me: "I was consistently getting low speeds on my True 6 Mb line. I called True and had their engineer come to my house to check. As he couldn't explain the discrepancy between what they use as their reference (speedtest.net) and the internet speed test you use on PhuketInternetSpeed.com, he referred me to their Bangkok support center. In the end their support looked at both and their advice was: "Please check on speedtest.net only, as our connection speeds appear to be normal on that one."

DB sent me the screen shot you see on this page to illustrate the following point:

while the PhuketInternetSpeed.com test showed downloads from Los Angeles at about 1.6 or 1.7 Mbps, the True-favored speedtest.net shows 7.5 Mbps from LA – four or five times as fast.

There's a reason why True likes Speedtest.net: it is cached by all of the ISPs in Phuket. The speeds reported are not international speeds – they're domestic. Even if the speedtest.net site says it's testing to Los Angeles, in fact it's pulling data from Bangkok.

Let me show you how I know that the speed reported is domestic. In the screen shot here, the Ping Time to Los Angeles comes in at 26 ms. Ping Time is the time for a single, small packet of information to travel from a computer in Phuket to a computer in Los Angeles and back.

The distance from Phuket to Los Angeles is approximately 8,300 miles. A round trip is 16,600 miles. Divide by 26 milliseconds and the packet must have traveled at 2,300,000,000 miles per hour. The speed of light is 186,000,000 miles per hour.

So either (1) True is caching the speedtest.net site, or (2) True engineers have found a way to make an electrical signal travel 12 times faster than the speed of light. Somehow, I find the second option a bit hard to swallow.

I wrote about caching in the June 3 Live Wire, which you can read at is.gd/xEQg6R. There's nothing wrong with caching. It isn't cheating. It's a way for ISPs to give you good international service, without paying for bigger data pipes. However, it distorts internet speed reports.

That's why PhuketInternetSpeed.com uses the DSLReports speed test. As I explain in that Live Wire article, DSLReports can't be cached.

Be careful when comparing internet speeds. Make sure you choose the right site: choose one that doesn't support caching if

you want valid test results.

Next week I'll show you how to zero in on an ISP that will work for you.

If you haven't reported your speeds on PhuketInternetSpeed.com, drop by and sign up! It's free, it only takes a few seconds, and the results help everybody figure out what's working and what's not worth the bother.

Remember, all of the data – more than 21,000 reported sightings – is immediately available to anybody who wants to download, look at, or fiddle with the results.

Also remember that the ISPs are watching the reports. We need your help.

To keep up with the latest Phuket internet news, drop by one of the Sunday morning Computer Clinics, follow Woody on Google+ (send mail to Woody@KhunWoody.com if you need an invitation), or on Twitter: @PhuketPC.

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Just log on to facebook.com/AWPRMarketing on Friday morning between 10:00 and 11:00 Phuket time, and post away.

Every week features guest experts, including Google+ /Twitter fan Woody Leonhard and Amish Mehta, MD of Halogen Technology Consulting. Sponsored by AWPR Marketing, Halogen Technology Consulting and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Playing it safe with an uncertain stock market

WITH the recent volatility in stock markets, many are wondering if there is any real long-term value in investing in the stock market. As always, first you need to consider your time frame.

Let's assume one has a significant amount of time to leave money invested for now. At present we have made no real gains from the highs seen around the turn of the

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

century. So after about a decade of flatness in the overall markets, is there value in them now?

I still look at value in the market the same as if I was buying a coffee shop. The P/E (Price to Earnings

ratio in plain English) is how many years' profit is needed to cover the cost of buying the business, or in this case the market as a whole. I think that this ratio should be in single digits before one can really say that the market is a 'value buy'.

Long term cycles are usually about 20 years where valuations start in this range and go up to ridiculous levels, and then spend another 20 years coming back down to reality. Sometimes the cycle is much less so this is just a ballpark figure, but as P/E ratios peaked around 2000 or so, we are about a decade into the process of them coming back down.

In my opinion, we are most likely not at the start of another long term bull cycle where we will see overall appreciation in the market over something like a 20 year time frame. This doesn't mean that there are not investment opportunities in the market, rather that the best strategy is most likely not that of finding a good mix of companies based on relative valuation. If a company is trading at 25 years' worth of earnings, the fact that its peers are trading at 30



Will we see the start of a bull or bear market? Photo: Jenny Downing

years' earnings does not make the first company a value buy. It is simply slightly less of a rip off.

A better approach is to have a balanced portfolio, with some equity exposure, alongside some other asset classes which do well when the stock market goes down (for example, CTAs). The ends of the cycles are the hardest places to get it right, so having part of a portfolio geared towards a doom and gloom scenario, while having part of it ready to catch the next unexpected rise in the market, is the safest way forward.

The good news is that while the stock market may not represent real value in textbook valuation

terms, we are moving in that direction and getting closer to a time when it will be. Surviving tough times, such as we have just been through, leaves one with enough of a capital base to grow from when the next easy market comes along. We may have to go through some more pain to get there, such as one more crash (fingers crossed that it won't be needed), but I think I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

David Mayes MBA provides wealth management services to expats throughout the world and specializes in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at E:david.m@faramond.com



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UNIFORM CRAZE: Everyone in Thailand seems to be sporting flashy uniforms, from beautiful boutique staff (left), to young boys in military training (middle), to banking personnel (left).

Uniforms: fashion or fitting in?

By Abby McMillin

IT's not unusual to see people in starched uniforms all over Thailand – on the job, after work and during the weekend.

For reasons of safety and convenience, certain professions or groups in every culture call for a uniform, whether it be police officers, fireman and school children.

But in Thailand, it's taken a step further, requiring professionals such as teachers, bank tellers and university students to all don specific uniforms. Not only are more professionals here obligated to wear them, uniforms seem to be widely accepted and even embraced.

For some people, the thought of wearing a uniform everyday can seem like a restriction or something that's being forced upon them. But for many people in Thailand, growing up in a culture where there has always been a standardized dress code it doesn't seem like that big of a deal.

Many people who have moved to Thailand have also taken a liking to the uniforms, confessing that it makes their lives easier in the morning and also makes them feel more immersed in the Thai culture.

"I can't ever remember a time when there weren't uniforms," says Narong Pok Hailstone, a lo-

cal English teacher who has lived in Phuket for five years after growing up in Seattle. "I don't have to worry about what to wear and people like the tradition of it."

It's undeniable that Thailand is known for its uniforms but the reasons behind why they are worn may not fall in line with the obvious visual homogeneity.

One reason that all schools, universities and an overwhelming amount of offices require a uniform is for consistency and order. Uniformity can be pleasing on the eye and an easy choice for any superior.

But one reason that doesn't lie on the surface is the issue of sta-

tus. Wearing a uniform throughout your day-to-day life says to people, I'm successful, I'm educated, I've earned this.

It may be one reason people in Thailand don't always seem eager to change out of their work clothes when the day is finished.

It's not uncommon to look at a person living here and instantly be able to estimate their status in society.

The consistency of a uniform also seems to go against the national slogan of *mai pen rai*

(never mind) which suggests that the country is laid back and just goes with the flow. As many people living on the island can attest to, that motto can be music to your ears or throw a wrench into well thought out plans.

Perhaps the regularity of the uniforms combats the chaos just enough to give Thailand the harmony it needs.

It could also serve as an aid to the language barrier that is ever prevalent. For example, uniforms help identify workers from customers, or students from teachers.

Thai culture is renowned for its commitment and loyalty to the country, so nationalism is another reason to wear uniforms after hours.

It's not surprising that students from a young age sport scout uniforms once a week and that many government positions wear uniforms that have a military feel.

University students proudly wear pins and buttons to show off

their devotion to their school. The strict attire unites the culture and also sends a message of allegiance to any visitor walking through town.

The importance of unity has been evident recently as the country pays respects to the late HRH

Princess Bejaratana by wearing black and white to work.

In contrast, seeing the bright, tropical uniforms that dot our little island throughout much of the year serves as a reminder of the vibrant charm

and unison of the culture.

Whatever reason they choose to wear a uniform, one thing is for sure: uniforms of every cut and color give Thailand a uniqueness that isn't found elsewhere.



Policemen in tight uniforms.

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The death of a newspaper

Books

By James Eckardt

Pete Hamill is an Irish, New York newspaper columnist, heir to the tradition of the great Jimmy Breslin. Hamill doesn't have Breslin's writing chops, but he has done his stalwart duty as a columnist and editor of both the *Daily News* and *the Post*. He was singled out by President Richard Nixon for his 'irrational ravings', which Hamill cheekily used as a title for a collection of his columns. His most recent success was *A Drinking Life*, a memoir about the joys and pitfalls of journalistic boozing. Sober now, he is prolific, having published 10 novels.

His latest is *Tabloid City*, (Little Brown & Company, New York, 2011, 278pp), the tale of the last day of the New York World, the city's last afternoon tabloid. The main character enters at two minutes past midnight:

"Here comes Briscoe, seventy-one years old, five foot eleven, 182 pounds. He turns a corner into the city room of the last afternoon newspaper in New York. He is the editor in chief...He moves swiftly, from long habit, as if eluding ambush by reporters and editors who might approach him for raises, days off, or loans. Or these days, for news about buyouts and layoffs."

The founder of the paper, the high-powered socialite Elizabeth Elwood, is dead and her feckless son has eyes only for the



Tabloid City

Author Pete Hamill

Publisher Little Brown & Company, New York

Published 2011

Pages 278

Genre Crime Story

Rating 4/5

Internet. In the quiet of the midnight hour, Sam Briscoe contemplates the growing graveyard of newspapers.

"Briscoe didn't know if anybody really cared, except the people who made newspapers, the people he loved more than any other. In his mind's eye he sees the three young techies working on the World web site in their small uptown office. Culling stories from the newspaper, from the AP and Reuters. Lots of raving blog messages from readers. This just in. Breaking news. Nobody in the city room bothered to read the site. Not even Briscoe. But one man certainly did. The man they all called the F.P., the F*cking Publisher."

From the city room, the plot widens hour by hour over the whole city: a legless Iraq War vet-



THE BIG APPLE: The hero of this story about tabloids and reporters, is New York City. Photo: wwarby

eran, a socialite political activist, an embittered blogger, a dying artist in the Chelsea Hotel, a runaway financier, a Mexican hotel maid, a black American Muslim convert who wants to become a terrorist bomber and his police detective father who is determined to track him down.

The hero of this novel is New York City: the upscale and downscale neighborhoods of Chelsea, Greenwich Village, the Upper East Side, Park Slope, Sunset Park, the Meatpacking District, and South Street Seaport. Briscoe and veteran crime reporter Helen Loomis are bitter about the present New York and nostalgic for the boisterous, hard-drinking, cynical, romantic, swaggering tab-

loid heroes of 1950s.

But the tabloid tradition lives on in a young reporter named Bobby Fonseca and coffee shop waitress Victoria Collins who dreams of becoming a reporter. They find themselves on the track of a double murder – guaranteed "wood" or front page headline material.

Plotlines and characters converge on a crowded fundraiser for the homeless at Aladdin's Lamp, a new club in the trendy Meatpacking District. Bobby Fonseca is still on the case:

"His back to the bar. He sips a beer. Thinking: Still here. Woozy ...Tall women made taller by high spiked heels. Women with impossible breasts. Women giggling, bursting into tequila laughter. The

guys all in heat. Some of them sweating. Others talking into female ears. Fonseca thinks: I can almost reach out and grab the lies out of the air."

This passage points out a major flaw in the novel. The relentless staccato style of the interior monologues of all the characters. High society ladies and wannabe street terrorists all think the same. Everything in short bursts. Very short. Which can become boring. Very boring.

Nevertheless, this is an exhilarating novel. Pete Hamill knows his newspapers and his New York. And like the recent death of the *News of the World*, the death of the fictional New York World is a cause for mourning.

Movie releases in Thailand

For show times, go to www.phuketgazette.net/movies/



Don't Be Afraid of the Dark

Release Date September 8

Director Troy Nixey

Genre American Horror

Starring Bailee Madison, Katie Holmes, Guy Pearce

A remake of the 1973 flick of the same name about goblins in a mansion's basement.

Zoo Keeper

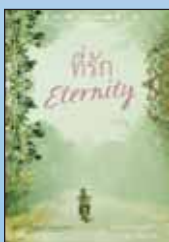
Release Date September 8

Director Frank Coraci

Genre American Comedy

Starring Kevin James, Rosario Dawson, Leslie Bibb, Steffiana De La Cruz, Donnie Wahlberg

A lonely broken-heart zookeeper plots with his zoo animal friends to win his love back.



Ti Rak (Eternity)

Release Date September 8

Director Sivaroj Kongsakul

Genre Thai Romance

Starring Wanlop Rungkarnjad, Namfon Udomlertlak, Prapas Amnuay, Pattaporn Jaturanrasmee

A young man dies and his spirit revisits three parts in his life leading up to the love of his life.



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Sun benefits mind, body and soul

Everybody knows excessive exposure to the sunlight can be dangerous but if we focus too much on the harmful effects, we may overlook the sun's natural benefits.

While Phuket's cloudy skies seem to dominate at the moment, our hot and dry season is just around the corner and with it comes days of sunshine. In our first installment of a three-part article about sun exposure we describe the beneficial and harmful effects of the sun.

SUNLIGHT, in the broad sense, is the amount of energy/light or rays that the sun radiates. Part of that light consists of 3 types of invisible ultraviolet (UV) rays: UVA, UVB and UVC.

Sunlight is filtered through the ozone layer present in the atmosphere that filters almost 99 per cent of the sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, screening out and reducing the amount of UV light that we are exposed to.

The level of UV light today is higher than it was 50 or 100 years ago. This is due to a reduction of ozone in the earth's atmosphere or the so called Ozone Hole.

Other influencing factors include elevation, latitude, and cloud cover.

Ultra Violet light is stronger as elevation increases. The thinner atmosphere at higher altitudes cannot filter UV as effectively as it can at sea level.

The rays of the sun are also strongest near the equator, but nowadays, even in Antarctica, Chile, and New Zealand, the UV level is much higher than normal especially in the springtime due to the ozone hole in the southern hemisphere.

One factor that actually reduces

UV is cloud cover. Locations with climates and microclimates with regular cloud cover may have a 50% lower level of UV light.

Benefits of exposure

1. The most valuable positive effect of sunlight is that it is the main contributor to help our bodies produce vitamin D. Sunlight helps your body convert a form of cholesterol that is present in your skin into vitamin D. This results in lower blood cholesterol levels. It also helps your body to fix calcium at the bone level. Vitamin D only occurs naturally in a small range of foods.

For this reason, even the healthiest diet program can not cover your

daily needs of vitamin D. Your body's daily need is equal to the quantity of vitamin D present in 30 liters of milk. One week of sun exposure during your holiday can help your body to increase your level of vitamin D tenfold.

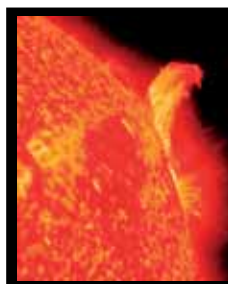
2. Getting regular exposure to sunlight will help protect your skin in the long run. This is because your body will build a natural resistance to the harmful effects of ultraviolet light.

If you allow your skin to get moderately tanned, it will be more resistant to infections and sunburns than if your skin is not tanned.

3. The ultraviolet rays in sunshine act as a natural antiseptic.



ENJOY THE SUN: Suntanning isn't just pleasurable, it's essential for good health. Photo: Ed Yourdon



Skin Type

Safe exposure (unprotected)

Safe exposure (protected)

Light or fair skin

5 minutes

120 minutes

Light intermediate and dark skin

8 minutes

200 minutes

Brown and black skin

12 minutes

300 minutes

PLAYING IT SAFE: The table shows how long skin can be exposed to the tropical sun. Photo: Undertow851

These rays can kill viruses, bacteria, molds, yeasts, fungi, and mites in air, water, and on different surfaces including your skin.

4. Getting some sun tends to help clear up different types of skin diseases such as acne, boils, athlete's foot, diaper rash, psoriasis, and eczema.

5. Sunlight stimulates your appetite and improves your digestion, elimination, and metabolism.

6. Getting your daily dose of sunshine enhances your immune system. It increases the number of white blood cells in your blood.

7. Sunshine encourages healthy circulation. It also stimulates the

production of red blood cells, which increases the amount of oxygen in your blood.

8. Sunlight also soothes your nerves and boost your mood leaving you with a renewed sense of well-being. It increases the production of endorphins and serotonin in your brain, which will definitely leave you feeling much better.

9. Getting enough sunlight during the day can help you sleep better at night. If you are exposed to natural light during the day, it will increase your melatonin output at night.

Melatonin is a natural hormone made by our bodies. It enhances sleep and slows down the aging process.

10. Sunlight helps to balance your hormones.

11. Sunlight improves your liver function, and helps it to break down toxins and wastes that could lead to cancer and other diseases.

12. Other benefits of sunlight include the life-giving energy it gives to your organs and the way it helps to strengthen and vitalize your body.

Harmful effects of exposure

The effects of the sunlight can be harmful if we do not protect ourselves properly.

UVA rays can penetrate deep into the surface of the skin, damaging the cells beneath. Thus they are considered the chief culprit behind wrinkling, leathery, and other aspects of premature aging of the skin. They penetrate deeply but they do not cause sunburn.

UVB rays are more powerful than UVA and are considered the main cause of basal and squamous cell carcinomas (skin cancer) as well as a significant cause of melanoma. However, recent studies made at the French Molecular Genetics Laboratory, show that UVA can also be responsible for cellular damage linked to skin cancer.

UVC rays are the most dangerous, but fortunately, these rays are blocked by the ozone layer and don't reach the Earth.

The table above shows the length of time the skin can be exposed to tropical sun (UV index 8+) without any sun protection or with the wrong sun protection before cellular damage occurs.

In next week's article we look at the benefits and pitfalls of sun tan lotions, creams and screens and other ways to protect or enhance your skin's natural defences.

Parts of this article were made possible thanks to the invaluable input of Sun Spa Esthederm Phuket.

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Mario Zanasi

MARIO Zanasi is Country Manager for Thailand for Simpson Marine, Southeast Asia's largest yacht brokerage. He's had a dynamic life of adventure sports since he was a young man in his native Italy. He first came to Phuket in 2004 on holiday and decided to move to the island, closing down his business and working life in Monte Carlo.

Mario was born in Modena and educated in Milan. He began racing motorcycles at age 16. He enrolled in a business and law course at university but chose to spend most of his time racing his off-road motorcycle, a Suzuki 500 RG, and competing in tournaments where he would reach speeds of nearly 300 kilometers per hour. His early talent for fast sports was recognized by sponsors in the racing world, including major corporations like the French petroleum giant, Total.

"I always work and live for my passion. When I was young, I raced motorbikes for six years and had only one major accident, when my engine failed. I spent a few days in a coma. But I woke up and was fine."

By 1980, he started his own business offering overland trips across the deserts of Egypt at a time when there were no competitors.

"We traveled in caravans. We had to carry our supplies and tools in case of a breakdown. These were very basic tenting adventures for those wanting to experience the beauty of the Sahara."

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

At the same time, Mario learned how to sail and started his career on the high seas as a crew member on the famous 23m yacht *Stormvogel*.

His first assignment as skipper was on a 24 m steel schooner, *Serikon*.

"We left Genoa for Brasil back in the days before the GPS. We navigated using a sextant. Fortunately, we made it and I spent the next two years sailing up and down the coast of South America, taking many trips inland to the *Amazonas*."

Mario spent the mid-1980s as captain of yachts in the Caribbean, sailing around the islands in the winter and then returning to the Mediterranean for summer. His reputation as a captain grew and he was given command of larger yachts.

In 1988, he became a partner in Orion Auction House, Monte Carlo, which dealt solely in the acquisition and sale of rare Ferrari motorcars.

"I spent five years locating, racing and selling Ferraris to some of the most exclusive and private buyers in the world. There was a big market in Monte Carlo for a collectible Ferrari."

I researched and found where these beautiful cars were located and

then convinced their owners to put them into our auction. The bidding was always quite emotional as people felt very passionate about these wonderful cars. I was able to record the highest world price for a Ferrari during one of my auctions."

During the same period of his life, Mario joined the classic car racing event *Mille Miglia*, which took him a thousand miles around Italy.

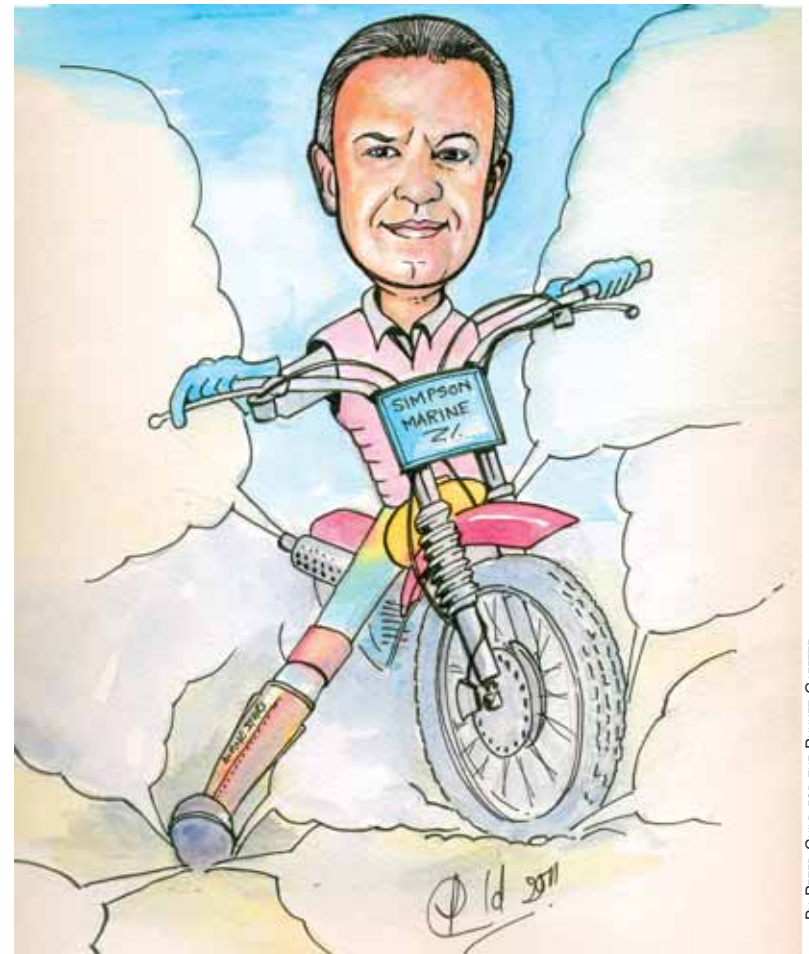
By 1993, he was ready to return to driving some of the largest yachts in the Mediterranean, including the 60m *Altair*, an Explorer classic motor boat that chartered for \$ 250,000 a week (plus expenses for fuel, food and tips).

"These large yachts attracted a lot of corporate clients but we also had big names in the music industry on board. I was also captain of the 42m *Christianne B* sailing yacht owned by the Bulgari family of watch and jewelry fame."

He was sent to Greece as project manager for an 85m motor yacht that featured 300 square meters of spa and could be chartered for \$ 100,000 a day, plus expenses.

By 2004, he was ready for a change of life and Phuket seemed the perfect location.

"My life is an ongoing adventure. I've been here for six years and enjoy my work with Simpson Marine and all the opportunities for sailing in the region. I join every regatta and thoroughly enjoy my life here."



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 through 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 they all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.









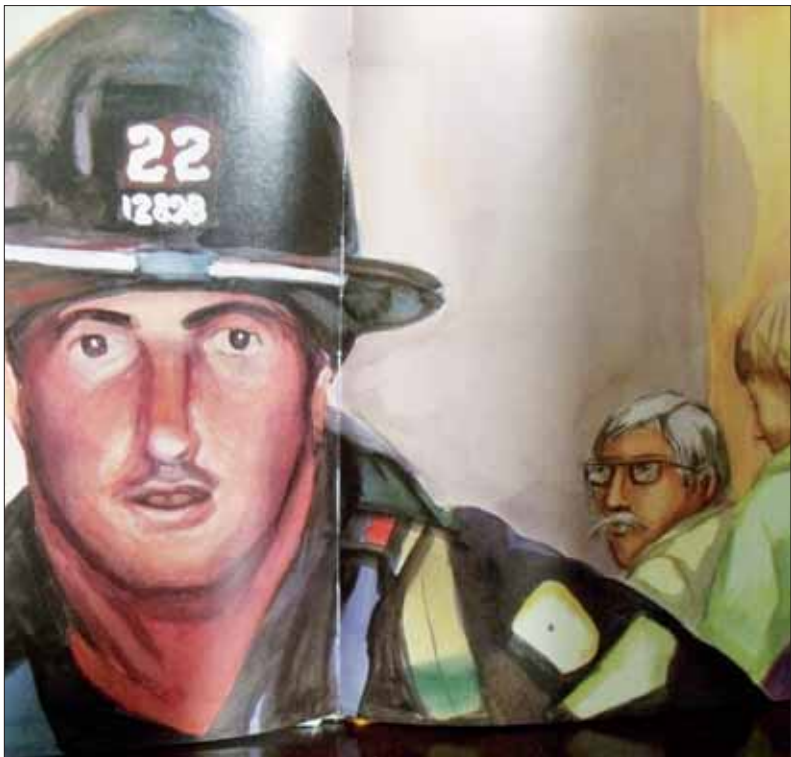
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PAGES OF HISTORY: Iconic drawings of photographs in a children's book.



A DECADE GONE: The image we all know so well, the World Trade Center twin towers. Graphic: Peter Child

Teaching 9/11 in schools

A decade on from that fateful day, what are Phuket schoolchildren learning about 9/11?

By Fraser Morton

TEACHING children too young to remember the events of 9/11 is difficult to imagine for adults who can recall the carnage of that day as if it were yesterday.

For us adults 9/11 will be an event that defines our time, but for children it is another subject to learn about in school, another book to read, and another lesson about an event they were not a part of.

From the United States to Phuket, school teachers are divided over the best ways to educate the young about 9/11.

One reason is the complexity of the answer to the first question children ask: "Why did it happen?"

Religious fundamentalists, hate, response to US foreign policy, conspiracy theories – ask 10 people; get 10 different reasons. All adults have an opinion. We all watched the towers fall, we recall the events unfolding live on TV and we know about the wars that followed.

But how do you teach children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds about 9/11 at an

international school in Phuket? No easy task.

"9/11 is one of the most difficult subjects I can think of for children to comprehend," said Doug Haberman, 52, journalism and world history teacher at Quality School International Phuket.

His students are aged between 13 and 16 years old. They have no memory of 9/11.

It's not a subject currently taught on the school's curriculum, and Doug said he feels it is a subject more suited to college students.

"It is a subject fraught with peril, and teaching it in a meaningful way would require a sophisticated approach.

"Ideology, religious fundamentalism, ongoing conflicts as a result of 9/11 are all complex issues...For young students to assimilate an understanding of the whole picture is very difficult," he said.

In the US today there is a wide choice of educational materials and curricula centered around 9/11.

Some have been highly controversial. A newly released children's coloring book, *We Shall Never Forget 9/11: The Kids' Book of Freedom*

from publisher Really Big Coloring Books Inc, caused outrage among Muslims for its treatment of the Islamic faith. The book was aimed at 9 to 11 year olds.

Outrage and controversy are words never far from 9/11 education.

But a quick web search will produce more than 356,000 matches for the field of study. Many of them have been hugely successful.

The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, which has a range of educational materials on its website and offers seminars to teachers, has been well received.

Back in 2009, the first high school curriculum dedicated entirely to the 9/11 attacks was implemented in schools in New York, New Jersey, California, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana and Kansas.

Written by the September 11th Education Trust, the curriculum brought together the efforts of politicians and victims' families, survivors, rescuers and educators across the US.

American Patrick Buckley, 39, the director at QSI Phuket, said students' parents should also play a role

with regard to learning about 9/11.

"The events on 9/11 are something that a parent must choose regarding an appropriate age for their child to learn. Additionally, how in-depth the lesson should be would be dependent on the developmental maturity of each child," he said.

And while he feels teaching 9/11 requires focus on respect, tolerance and peaceful resolutions to conflict, Patrick said it is not possible to teach without discussing the extremism behind the attacks.

At the British International School Phuket, humanities teacher David Gow said his students (age 11 to 17 years old) do learn about 9/11.

The 29-year-old Canadian teacher said his students don't remember 9/11 – his oldest student was only seven at the time.

"To the majority of the students it's a historical event, one that they have no memory of and no frame of reference for the gravity of what happened," he said.

"We deal mostly with the events that transpired as a result of the attacks: the US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Using news clips and discus-

sion-based classes is the most productive method for teaching the subject," he added.

In his class, the students are encouraged to study the impact of 9/11 on a world scale and comment on its causality.

"Religion has never been issue. There's no good, no bad in our discussion – that is not a subject we broach. We look to the context of these events in history and they effect they have on it."

Over at Headstart International School Phuket, 9/11 is not currently taught on the curriculum.

But Briton Mark Goodman, 39, lead teacher for secondary, said his 12 to 18 year-old students learn about Hurricane Katrina, World War 2, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge and Apartheid, but not the 9/11 attacks.

He said if it was added to the curriculum, he would teach it as a "factual representation".

"With this type of event, I feel as a teacher we should not be shying away from presenting our students with the reality of that day. I would let them see the towers collapsing and then hold a discussion-based class," he said.

World Trade Center site today

On the website of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, it says the Memorial Plaza will open to the public on Sunday, on schedule.

- One World Trade Center, the name given to the tallest of seven new towers being built, has reached 80 floors, rising one floor per week. It is now the tallest building in Lower Manhattan, surpassing 40 Wall Street built in 1930. Upon completion it will be the tallest building in the US, and among the tallest in the world. The estimated cost is US\$ 3 billion with a completion date of 2013. Other construction additions to the site include the two mammoth Reflecting Pools where the twin towers once stood, a visitor center, transportation hub and a memorial wall.

- Despite winds of more than 60mph during hurricane Irene last week, the World Trade Center site was unscathed, with not a single newly planted tree downed.

- More than 200 trees have been planted, and final preparations were underway as this article went to print.

If you would like to learn more about progress at the World Trade Center site, then visit W:panynj.gov/wtcprogress. For teachers, see: The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial W: pentagonmemorial.org/learn/education-materials, or Education Trust W:sept11educationtrust.org, or for answering students questions about war: educationworld.com

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Da Sandro: the atypical trattoria

TO MOST food lovers, a typical Italian trattoria is a terracotta-floored cozy enclave of peace and serenity, where the sound of chomping on veal chops is occasionally broken by a satisfied belch or a staccato bark from a diner for more Chianti. The offended squeak of a signorina protesting that her Lothario's hand is where it shouldn't be is all part and parcel of the dining rite.

And what happens to all of the Chianti bottles once they're consumed? Why, they're tied together and strung up on the stucco walls like the pirates of old on harbor-entrance gibbets.

Not so at Da Sandro Trattoria on Chao Fa East Road near Land & House.

At first glance, Da Sandro is a *gelateria* and indeed it sports a large ice cream sign outside. It's the most atypical trattoria ever – that is if you buy into Wikipedia's description of one: [A trattoria] "is an Italian-style eating establishment, less formal than a *ristorante*, but more formal than

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

Italian. Da Sandro features an extensive list of homemade pasta dishes, Milanese pork chops, soups, salad combinations – there's even roasted rabbit with boiled vegetables (300 baht).

Our rocket salad with Parmesan cheese and prawns (250 baht) is spot on and miracles must be happening in the *cucina* because the kids joust for the last mouthfuls of their shared lasagna (150 baht). Parents who regularly dine out with

their children will recognize this is as an achievement on the scale of an ancient Roman-like Triumphal entrance to the city-state. Other readers without kids won't.

Nevertheless, the daily specials blackboard is the place to immediately head to. It featured incredibly fresh fish accompanied by tagliatelle that was so good I recreated the recipe the next day

Da Sandro has an air-conditioned interior, al fresco seating, al dente pasta and an Al Capone machine-gun-like delivery.



an *osteria*. There are generally no printed menus, the service is casual, wine is sold by the decanter rather than the bottle, prices are low..."

This trattoria is different. For a start, Da Sandro has an extensive menu and an admirable bottled wine list. To be more precise, Da Sandro is an air-conditioned Thai-style restaurant with laminated tiled floors, large ice cream receptacles and the acoustics of a RAF wind tunnel. Cozy Nostra it ain't.

Our numbers add up to 14 people – 14 happy people of all ages, that is. Vesuvius in full belch is as calm as vespers compared to us lot in this place once the wine kicks in.

Mind you, the house red is a hefty 15%, with all the horsepower of a souped-up Lamborghini Diablo and not many mortals can handle this sort of viticulture puissance in polite studied silence.

In spite of the decidedly Asian look of the place the food is 100%

at home, immediately gobbled up by our increasingly appreciative mini connoisseurs.

Also on the blackboard was black-ink pasta and seafood (150 baht) that was proclaimed *delissimo* by one of the less rowdy diners; that is, the only one I could hear in the din. To Da Sandro's credit all 14 were served within minutes of ordering.

In sum, Da Sandro has an air-conditioned interior, al fresco seating, al dente pasta and an Al Capone machine-gun-like delivery. All in all, it's really not bad for a relative newcomer to Phuket's burgeoning culinary scene. And there are definitely no dead pirates or Chianti bottles to bang your head on when you stand up. Is that why they wrap them in that ruffino straw-like stuff?

Da Sandro Trattoria is open from 3.30pm until 11.30pm at 12/79 Chao Fa East Road (near the Honda dealership). T: 081-5697781 or 085-1454442, W: dasandrophuket.com



DA REAL THING: At first glance, Da Sandro is a *gelateria* and indeed it sports a large ice cream sign outside.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 10. 7th Anniversary Celebration Concert

Central Festival Phuket cordially invites you to their 7th anniversary celebration. Come and enjoy a grand concert featuring famous Thai singers 'Christina Aguilar' and 'Golf Pichaya' from 6.30pm onwards at Lanlom Zone, 1st floor. For any purchase of 2,000 baht or more at Central Festival Phuket, you can collect two free concert tickets at the Tourist Information Center close to Zen restaurant. Seats are limited. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111 E:KoSiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

September 11. Phuket Yacht Club Back-to-School Open Day

From 11am to 4pm at Phuket Yacht Club, Ao Yon. Whether you're a sailor or a social member, the club and stunning location is yours to enjoy. Take advantage of the beach, the grill, the sunny days and the balmy breezes. On Open Day, the club invites members to come and play on the Optimists and Concepts and enjoy bites free of charge on this special day! Lunch at noon and bar open all day. Contact Donna Stephens at T:086-1200752 E:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com or visit W:phuketyachtclub.info.

September 16 and October 7. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm, Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa present Curry Fridays twice per month. Here's your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry



September 16. AMCHAM: Allan Zeman speaks about Brand Andara

From 4pm to 7pm at Andara Resort Kamala Phuket. At this American Chamber of Commerce Thailand (AMCHAM) Phuket event, well-known entrepreneur 'Allan Zeman' will speak about how he developed Andara into a much sought-after brand, and how his investment in Phuket has paved the way for a continuing success story. Organized by AMCHAM and its Greater Phuket Chapter, this is a great opportunity to see one of the region's highest profile business personalities up close and personal. After Allan's presentation and a Q & A session, networking drinks will follow at about 5.30pm. Attendance is open to the public with entry at 100 baht. Contact Sheree Tanpensuk at T:02-2541041 ext 212.

E:sheree@amchamthailand.com or visit W:amchamthailand.com.

buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and more, served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Special discount on beverages as well. Reservations at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karon-seasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

September 17 and October 1. Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Twice per month on Saturday, Two Chefs host their now-famous

Saturday brunch from 12pm to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. The delicious food is inspired by Scandinavian cooking. The buffet is only 395 baht, and if you add another 300 baht you can drink all you want from the free flow options. The Filipino house band will perform live, with MJ & Megan on the microphone and Mr. Ollie on the drums. Only at Two Chefs Kata. Reservations at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 19. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata Center

From 6pm to 2am, there's a large buffet inspired by the Old West. So come on down to Two Chefs in Kata and enjoy the buffet for only 495 baht. With Francis & Ollie performing live music, it can't be anything but a success. Don't miss it. Reservations at T:076-284156 E:info@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 21. Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon Beach

Wednesday night is Tex-Mex Evening from 6pm to 2am at Two

Chefs Karon Beach. Possibly the best Tex-Mex Buffet in Phuket. The price is only 495 baht. With great prices on drinks and MJ & Megan on the microphones, there will doubtless be a good party too. Make reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 27 to October 7 Vegetarian Festival 2011

This Annual Festival is always held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Although the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict 'vegetable only' diet will purify the

mind and body. Sacred rituals are performed at all the Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of their anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

October 9 to 11. Alternative Ownership Conference Asia-Pacific (AOCAP) 2011

From 8.30am to 6pm at Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok. The Alternative Ownership Conference Asia-Pacific provides a platform for resort developers and operators within Southeast Asia to meet and discuss exciting new concepts which are now appearing in the region, and which offer developers greater scope and flexibility in their master-planning and execution. The AOCAP Conference will provide an opportunity to learn more about concepts such as branded residences, condo-hotels, buy-to-use-and-let, destination clubs, fractional ownership and private residence clubs, and how they can be successfully introduced into a resort's menu of recreational real estate offerings. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Chanut at T:089-5127030 E:info@aocap.org or visit W:aocap.org.

October 19. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club

From 8pm to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort, Patong Beach. The Phuket Punchline Comedy Club is back with another night of fun and laughter. The line-up has yet to be confirmed, but to be the first to know please go to our website and join our FREE mailing list. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Boom at T:089-6469278 E:info@phuketcomedy.com or visit W:phuketcomedy.com.

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Patong Rotary is ten years old



Photos: Denis Carpenter



SWEET 60: Steve Lawrence held a rocking party on September 6 to celebrate his coming of age.



BACK IN TOWN: Rick 'n Roll's eponymous frontman is back from the USA and had a party to prove it.



SHEESH!: SHEBAB 4 opened in Cherg talay recently with their first delicious kebabs on offer.

Deputy Head of Mission of Australian Embassy Bangkok visits Phuket



SMILES ALL ROUND: Mr Simon Farbenbloom, Deputy Head of Mission of Australian Embassy Bangkok, was in Phuket last week to foster regional collaboration between Australia and Thailand.



Hucky Eichelmann (left) and Anthony Garcia played to a spellbound audience at Phuket Rajabhat University as part of their Thailand Tour 2011. They played classical, folk and world music from Thailand, Australia, and many other countries with a highlight being the rendition of a much beloved composition of HM the King.

**YOUR
Phuket**



BRIDGING THE GAP: The 'Seriously Social Bridge Club' from Brisbane, Australia, enjoyed a weeklong tournament on Phuket hosted by local Grandmaster Derek Priest (front row, third left). Led by Grandmaster Denise Dodd (front row, second left) twenty of Brisbane's best bridge players spent a week at Villa Royale organized by Boathouse PR Manager, Lies Sol (back row, far left).

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'Tri Tim' has already beaten the odds

Tim Haddon, Director of Golf at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, is on a mission – a mission that will change his life, and hopefully the lives of others as well. In the six months between May and November 27, Tim, under the guidance of his trainer Darren Hancock, Club Manager of Royal Phuket Marina Health Club, has set out to change from a man with heart problems, diabetes and a list of daily medications, to a triathlete who can complete the Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2011. Here is the first installment in a personal diary series chronicling his challenge leading up to, during and after the big day.

By Michael DesPortes

ACCORDING to Tim this all started with the question: "Can you swim?"

I may have been training since the second week of May but it was February when the initial idea of going for the Laguna Phuket Triathlon came up in conversation.

Darren was having lunch with Debbie Dionysius, Assistant Vice-President of Destination Marketing at Laguna Phuket, and I had been a member of Royal Phuket Marina Health Club for about a year without much success.

I was plodding along thinking I was getting healthy but I wasn't. Darren asked me that question, I said "yes" and so the process started from there.

Let's start at the beginning. I think the reason I was a challenge for Darren and why I personally didn't think I could do this is because I am a Type 2 diabetic with heart problems. I have taken 17 and a half pills per day for the last six or seven years. There were a lot of obstacles that I had to overcome.

That is where a personal trainer like Darren comes in. Surprisingly, he knows my capabilities better than I do, which is at the heart of what we have achieved. When my body says "That's enough, I can't go that extra five minutes", he pushes me and gets me through. *That* is what makes me go out again and push the limits each time. It happens every week!

The training has definitely been an evolution. We started with walking and it has been a real learning experience since. We would move on to different things every week. Darren's column will give you a technical take on his approach.

I want to really illustrate the benefits – both physical and mental – I've seen since beginning my training. Firstly, my mindset



We started with walking and it has been a real learning experience since.

has experienced a complete reversal. It's been so important because before it was always too easy to have a bag of chips or a meat pie, but now it doesn't even cross my mind. The cravings are gone.

It's like trying to give up smoking. Smokers often quit a hundred times without success and that was what eating was like for me. But I've done it. I've quit. The cravings are gone and I am eating healthily.

My family has even started to adopt my improved habits but they still have their weak moments. I am happy to say that I have managed to resist and stay focused.

To really put this change into perspective, a massive roadblock was my holiday in July. As we know, holidays are when



TOGETHER WE CAN: Tim and Darren both have their work cut out

ACCORDING TO DARREN

WITH TIM we were essentially starting from scratch. I know what we need to do to get over the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) finish line, which is to exercise for four and a half to five hours continuously, *but* across different disciplines.

I had Tim run about 10 meters on the first day just to see how he puts one foot in front of the other, so then we knew that he would have to build up from that to what will be required in November.

As Tim pointed out, we started him off on a walking program in the mornings so he could get used to early starts. We could make quick jumps from there while making sure we looked after his knees, which needed to adapt to the exercise.

Weight training two, three or more

times per week has also been part of his regime. We are basically building a new person underneath, so after he sheds fat, this "new Tim" will be revealed.

Sessions at the RPM Health Club also made use of cardio equipment – a cross-trainer for example – that would replicate the movement of exercising outdoors without the impact.

One of my goals for him is to shatter all previous beliefs he held about his capabilities so when he starts the LPT, he will know he can do those distances.

Six months of training will completely change Tim's life and on the first day after the event I won't be there anymore but I know he will know exactly what to do to continue on his path.

our eating and fitness suffer the most. However, my swimming progressed in leaps and bounds. I lost two and a half kilograms and my blood sugar levels continued to fall. My cardiologist is ecstatic!

Speaking of which, I see my doctor every month and he has already reduced my insulin and medication steadily and says he will continue to do so. After my last appointment I found that along with losing 1.5kg for the month, my readings fell out of the diabetic range for the first time!

I have also taken up this challenge with the hope of inspiring other people to adopt healthy living.

In a nutshell, that is where things stand now. There is so much more to say about personal milestones and the challenges of my training so please check out Darren's space and the future articles in this diary series.

I have to give a big thankyou to Laguna Phuket, Darren and RPM Health Club for this life changing experience.

I will tell you more next week.



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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

1. How many "C's" denote the value of a diamond?
2. Which is the lowest whole number, when spelt out, is in correct alphabetical order?
3. According to Tina Turner, what is the speed limit in Nutbush?
4. Which actor died shortly after starring as The Joker in the film The Dark Knight?
5. What current branch of the US military was a corps of only 50 soldiers when World War I broke out?
6. What game was created by French mathematician Blaise Pascal, which he discovered when doing experiments into perpetual motion?
7. What president was shot while walking to California Governor Jerry Brown's office?
8. What was a gladiator armed with, in addition to a dagger and trident?
9. Who was the last president of the Soviet Union?
10. What is the glabella?
11. What problem did Leonardo da Vinci, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and General George Patton have in common?
12. To whom did Mahatma Gandhi write for advice on diet and exercise?
13. What would the Barbie Doll's measurements be if she were life-size?

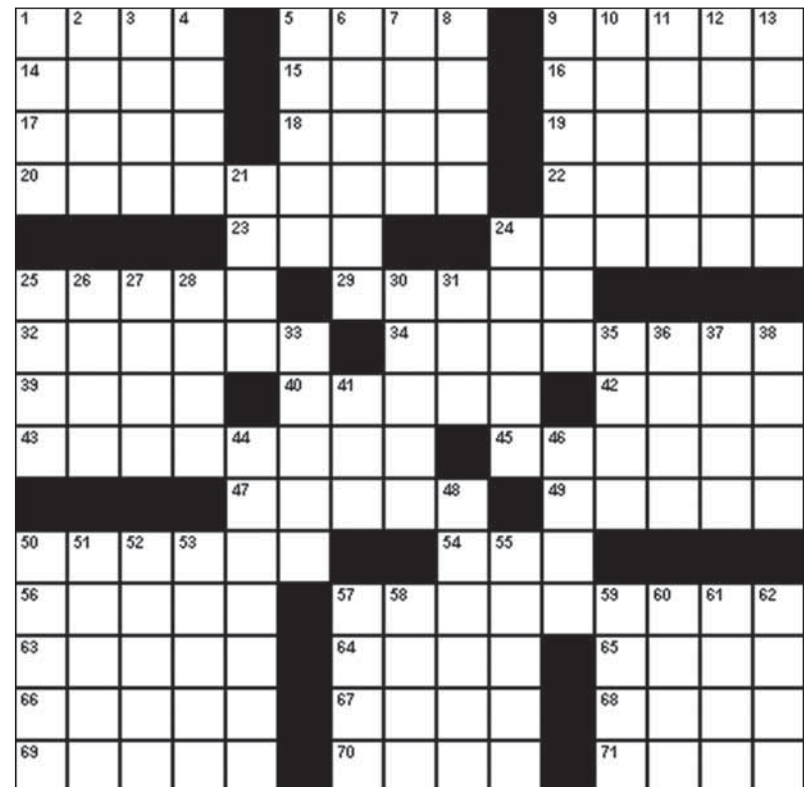
Quiz answers on page 39

Across

1. Mex. miss
5. Autos
9. Pretentious
14. Fleece
15. Quickly, quickly
16. "Our Gang" girl
17. Burn soother
18. Queue after Q
19. Broadcasting
20. Harass
22. Walked back and forth
23. Rocky hilltop
24. Speaks
25. Like lungs
29. Circumvent
32. Debt that remains unpaid
34. Beholden
39. Equal
40. Eagle's nest: var.
42. He sang about Alice
43. Rapid breathing
45. Allotted amount
47. By accident, old-style
49. Rock
50. Of religious rites
54. Boxer Laila
56. Early anesthetic
57. Janitor
63. Concert venue
64. Injure
65. Actress Garr
66. Connect with
67. Switch ending
68. Fall birthstone
69. Mother of Isaac
70. Young deer
71. Microscopic arachnid

Down

1. Large mop
2. Acting part
3. Implement
4. "Hard -- l" (sailor's yell)
5. Freight
6. Guarantee
7. Appraise, charge per unit
8. Boot attachment
9. Person with new parents
10. Charged



11. Vestige
12. More cunning
13. Fenced areas
21. Gillette brand
24. Mammary gland in cows
25. Scandinavian
26. Black-and-white treat
27. Songwriter Jacques
28. Ethereal
30. Like some infections
31. Black bird
33. Kidney-related
35. Inner layer of a quilt
36. Small combo

37. North Carolina college
38. Completed
41. "Sure thing"
44. Ancient Egyptian king
46. -- -- were
48. Composite plant
50. Chairs
51. Heart chambers
52. Gaiety
53. Oscar de la -- --
55. Admit
57. Cook
58. Ambience
59. Energy source
60. French military cap
61. Part of Q.E.D.
62. Anger

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 39

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Familiar faces and places will help unsettled Virgoans to feel more secure this week. This is an auspicious time to improve your living environment, and talking to another earth sign who shares your taste will inspire you. Those with a birthday in the days ahead are forecast to be more successful in their working lives in the coming year. Your lucky number this week is five.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Exploring unknown territory is likely to land Librans in hot water this week. If this advice relates to business or work, you should remain aware of your limitations and allow more experienced people to do what is beyond your skills. Where personal relationships are concerned, a water sign is ready to help you rediscover a forgotten interest. The number seven brings good luck early next week.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpions are predicted to receive at least one wake-up call this week. Expect a partner or close friend to remind you that money doesn't grow on trees. The stars suggest that small changes made in

your lifestyle now will make a big difference to your bank balance. In the realm of romance, another water sign sends mixed signals. The number nine is lucky midweek.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The world of work is forecast to expand for those born under the sign of Sagittarius. A slow start to September should give way to more activity, and there are indications that progress will come due to connections made earlier this year. Where romance is concerned, living in the past is blocking the chances for a new relationship to work out. Your lucky number this week is six.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your dreams could hold important messages this week. Capricorns who have noticed that a work colleague who has been avoiding certain subjects may be enlightened. In the realm of romance, an air sign friend sends signals that a more intimate relationship would be welcome. The stars advise keeping your wits sharp as mistakes with money could be easily made. The number one can bring good luck midweek.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The stars suggest that your personal life will be stormy this week. A culture clash on Wednesday or Thursday should not be blown out of proportion. The astral atmosphere could cause Aquarians to be impatient, leading to misunderstandings. The world of work is better starred during the second half of September, with a fire sign appreciating that you take the initiative. Your lucky number this week is three.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your change of heart over a work issue is predicted to disappoint more than you imagined this week. Those born under the sign of Pisces who have to let someone down should find a way to compensate. Useful information can be gathered by communicating with earth signs on Monday and Tuesday, but facts provided by an air sign could be unreliable. The number eight can bring luck.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Admitting that you don't know as much as you led someone to believe will be hard for Arians this week. The stars suggest that this should be a reminder that your stubbornness can get in the way of success. The pace of romance with another fire sign picks up -- expect sparks to fly this weekend. Wear the color forest green to encourage a better grip on reality. Your lucky number this week is three.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans are forecast to be spreading positive energy around this week. The stars indicate that water sign friends in particular will appreciate your ability to lift their spirits. Where creative projects are concerned, there are signs that fruitful contact will be made during the second half of September. Romance becomes relaxed when a partner explains what has been bothering them. The number two is lucky midweek.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Security is highlighted to be uppermost in Gemini's thoughts this week. If this relates to property matters, the stars show that another air sign will have valuable

suggestions. If you are worried about money issues, there are hints that the second half of September will bring chances to improve your financial situation. Hot days for romance are Monday and Tuesday. The number three can bring good fortune midweek.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians should concentrate on keeping things simple this week. This is not an auspicious period to make spontaneous moves or take on extra responsibilities. There are signs that close friends or family members might expect you to do more than your fair share this weekend. Romance is well-starred, with emphasis on finding more in common with a new partner. The number four can be lucky midweek.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Luck continues to come Leos' way this week. The astral atmosphere will inspire confidence, Tuesday and Wednesday are the most fortunate days to approach others. Love is better starred around the middle of September, with the spotlight shining on a new romance with an earth sign. Those already committed find that compromise becomes easier. Your lucky number this week is eight.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

AOCAP '11 to be held in Bangkok

SOME of Phuket's prominent property players will be heading to the capital soon as the 2011 Alternative Ownership Conference Asia-Pacific (AOCAP) will take place in Bangkok for the first-time.

To be held at Shangri-La Hotel October 10-11, AOCAP is the leading Resort Development Event focusing specifically on mixed-use resorts and all forms of alternative ownership in South East Asia. Over 150 delegates are expected to attend from ASEAN countries and further afield.

The event is now in its third year. The last two years it was held in Phuket.

The two-day event continues to expand its scope and coverage in line with the dramatic growth in interest in "hotel-related real estate" seen over the last decade.

More and more hotel projects in many parts of the world, both within destination resort areas, as well as in cities, now adopt a mixed-use model.

This year, the AOCAP Conference is broadening its content and reach, providing a platform for Resort Developers and Operators

within South East Asia to meet and discuss these exciting new concepts.

Alternative Ownership products are more in tune with the needs and preferences of today's discerning consumers, especially in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis.

The AOCAP Conference will provide an opportunity to learn more about concepts such as Branded Residences, Condo-hotels, Buy-to-Use-and-Let, Destination Clubs, Fractional Ownership and Private Residence Clubs, and how they can be successfully introduced into a resort's menu of recreational real estate offerings.

"Alternative Ownership is no longer niche. It has become mainstream with many hospitality developments around the world applying a mixed-use model," said Paul Dean from the AOCAP Advisory Board.

"The playing field has changed and now, more than ever, coming through the financial crisis, both developers and hospitality operators are looking at new business models to improve ROI and de-

liver enhanced operating synergies," he added.

At AOCAP, a host of global industry experts, highly acclaimed and award-winning regional Developers and Operators, will be in attendance to cover some of the hottest current topics in resort development.

During the Conference, delegates will have a unique opportunity to listen to experts in the fields of resort development, architecture and design, branding and marketing, resort management and operations, resort information and management technology systems and regional travel, as well as experts within specific country markets.

Confirmed keynote speakers include keynote speakers Geoff Ballotti of Wyndham / RCI; Eulogio Bordas of Dream Resort / THR plus Howard Nusbaum, President and CEO of ARDA; John Berenyi, Bergent Research; Andrew Pang, yoo; David Simister, CBRE Thailand; Jan Poul de Boer, Six Senses; Marc Townsend, CBRE Vietnam; Joseph Hickman, Interval International;



SHARING TIME: Alternative Ownership products are more in tune with the needs and preferences of today's discerning consumers, especially in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis.

Michael van der Hoeven, Anantara Resorts, and many more.

The AOCAP Conference, which is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* among others, will provide an opportunity to learn more about Branded Residences, Condo-hotels, Buy-to-Use-and-Let, Destination Clubs, Fractional Ownership and Private Residence Clubs, and how to successfully introduce them into a resort's real estate offerings.

The Conference will include plenary sessions throughout, with allotted time for Q&A, in addition to many networking opportunities providing a platform for Resort Developers and Operators within South East Asia to meet and discuss exciting new concepts

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PROPERTY



HEAD FOR THE HILLS: Layan Hills Estate near Cherng Talay, has plots ranging from 1 to 1.2 rai.

Layan's tale of great expectations



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE island's geography often remains a vague and fickle instrument, tacking an erratic course along the rising and falling fortunes of property developers. You could almost liken the gyrations to that of the ignominious Wall Street ticker tape parade.

One of the more interesting locations on the island over the past five years has been Layan. Ah yes, the area which somehow has more names than someone buried in the witness protection program.

Often referred to as the upper side of Bangtao, northern Bangtao, past Laguna, or any vague combination of the above. Staccato phrases or directions often ending up with a perplexed look from the person you are speaking to and the ultimate query – where?

Bangtao Bay has somehow metamorphosed over the years unlike a typical cycle of density growing from the south and slowly pushing north. The destination resort of Laguna Phuket was smack in the middle of the area and became an epicenter for two decades of building hotels, villas, condos, a golf course and

a tourism support structure.

Within the past ten years the lower side of the bay has become increasingly popular and has some significant building sites. Some locals have even christened the area now as Kata North, due to the number of micro builds and small establishments cropping up in virtually every nook and cranny.

As for Layan, in the mid part of the last decade (say 2004 or 2005) the area was poised to springboard in a very big way. One of the key differences was the propensity of larger land plots than other parts of Bangtao. Here a cut and paste method was not needed to obtain project sites and master planning was as easy as the stroke of a brush.

Perhaps the most significant landmark of the times was the acquisition of a 134-rai site by the Indonesian group PT Setiabudi and launch of the mixed use Shangri-La luxury resort. Other projects came up including Vichuda Hills, Layan Estate, and Lakewood Hills. The buzz was on and all looked bright for Layan to be a renaissance for upscale living.

Progress was only delayed by the 2004 tsunami yet projects continued to build out, including Layan Gardens. Speculators started launching projects including Layan Sunset and Baan Talay, and the often documented saga of Lersuang's Tamarind Hills.

As Europe's currency came under attack with the pound devaluing

and the protracted global financial crisis, things became very muted. One casualty was the Shangri-La site where work was stopped after piling the site and developing a show villa and a few structures.

Other projects mentioned earlier were either canceled or went into hibernation and the area became a reminder of how rising tides come and go in the world of real estate.

At the beginning of the decade lush tropical forests dominated the area (or at best highly treed second generation rubber plantations). These were mostly cut down during the expected boom and a barren landscape with rusting construction fences and some partially built developments created a lunar like landscape.

Was this the end of Layan?

Clearly not as we can see today. One of the largest landowners in the area, Japanese conglomerate Kajima, control over 700 rai and are working on the early phase of a luxury villa estate. Frenchman Alain Cohen successfully brought the upscale *La Colline* to market, built it out and has nearly sold out the homes.

Land is trading, with the former project sites for Layan Sunset and Baan Talay trading in recent months. As for the Shangri-La, the owner is looking to sell approximately half the site (70 rai) for a reported 16 million baht per rai.

Perhaps one of the most positive notes underscoring the resurgence is the affiliation of the boutique Bundarika resort with a Bali-based management company and plans to upgrade the project.

So that's our tale, for better or for worse. The south to north push is once again becoming a self proclaiming prophesy. Hopefully, as the building starts again, trees will be replanted and what was one of the lovelier parts of the island will be restored.

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

In brief...

Nadathur and Bill Black's Australian hotel takeover bid

SINGAPORE private equity firm Nadathur Fareast including well known Asian hotelier Bill Black who heads up affiliate Silver Needle Hospitality have taken over Australia's Constellation Hotel Group which has over 60 properties in Australia and New Zealand with brands including Chifley, Australis, Country Comfort and Sundowner.

Nadathur is reportedly set to fund a fast paced growth model into an international hotel chain under its hospitality arm Silver Needle.

Veteran hotelier Bill Black is a hospitality icon in Thailand after a long stint at Bangkok's Regent which eventually became the Four Seasons. He is also the owners' representative of the Indigo Pearl and Trisara Hotels. Recently he's been in Phuket upgrading Kata's boutique Boathouse property which was bought earlier this year by Trisara's owners, Three Dolphins.

Outrigger goes panache at Laguna

OUTRIGGER have opened a new 100 seat restaurant at Laguna Village next to the recently opened Lofts. Austrian chef Robert Czeschka is manning the kitchen with the menu offering Pan Asian cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Cherngtalay continues to see new dining options opening up in the lead up to high season.

Phuket Town's New Casa Blanca Boutique Hotel

A renovated building has been converted into the Casa Blanca Hotel in Phuket town.

Located on Thepkassatri Road between Thalang and Phang Nga Roads the property is an eclectic design mix of old and new.

Rack rates start at 3,500 baht a night but there is not a website up yet for reservations.

It's a good sign to see the owners of property in the interesting historical part of the city redevelop and upgrade businesses and hopefully we will see more of this in the years to come.

– Bill Barnett

Correction

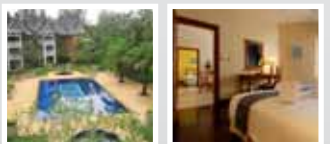
In our story "Rent it all" on August 27, we ran a photo of Sri Panwa identifying that luxury Phuket property as the top-end Luna2 boutique hotel in Bali. This was a layout error at the Phuket Gazette and not in any way the fault of either Sri Panwa, Luna2 or the article's author, Bill Barnett. The error is regretted.

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

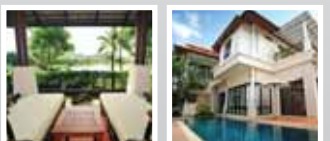
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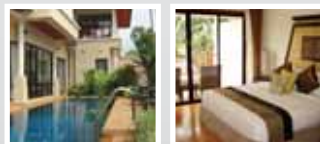
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- lagoon view • fully furnished
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- Laguna Resident's Privilege card

5 Laguna Waters THB 42 M



- 2-storey 4 beds Townhomes
- golf view • maid's quarter
- fully furnished • private pool

2 Laguna Links THB 19 M



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- golf membership
- upgrade maid room

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PLAN AHEAD: You need a good Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) design for your villa.

Avoid the aftershock of poor villa design



ELECTROCUTION made headlines two weeks ago with the death of a British tourist. In fact there have been several electrocutions over the years due to various, preventable faults. If you are building a villa in Phuket, this should be a major area of concern.

One of the least understood and most overlooked aspects of villa construction in Phuket today is the design and installation of Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (and waste management) systems, commonly referred to as MEP in the construction industry.

Since Thailand's construction methods are based almost entirely around concrete, it is essential to ensure builders have the right MEP plans at the design stage. Early miscalculations can mean over-budget or delayed construction, plus high monthly utility bills later on.

MEP is approximately 20-30 per cent of the cost of the average construction contract. To allow the most important package of works to proceed without full design, poses a great financial risk to villa and hotel builders.

"One concern we always hear from villa owners is about the rising cost of monthly maintenance for their Phuket villas", says Wally Sudik, Director of AVC Engineering, Phuket's lead-

ing MEP service providers who have been involved with over 170 villas and hotels since its inception in 2001. "With the correct MEP design, coupled with an independently supervised installation, these costs can be controlled."

Another aspect of MEP is environmental sustainability, something that all villa owners are interested in. While many "green technologies" have higher up-front costs, significant savings can be realized over the long run.

Solar hot water heating, LED lighting, rain and wastewater recycling, proper insulation of air-conditioned rooms and automated shading systems linked to light sensors are all readily available in Phuket. These are just a few of the common and simple ways to plan for the future.

From a villa builder's perspective, a well-executed MEP plan features design aspects that provide safe and convenient solutions for everyday home life which usually includes the following elements:

- Safe electricity used throughout the internal and external areas of the villa with international-standard grounding and lightning protection systems
- Air conditioning that gets cold quickly and is quiet
- Pre-installed wiring systems for quality IT, audio visual, security
- Automation systems for lighting, sound, gates and curtains

- Emergency backup power
- Filtered water that offers high pressure and instant hot water
- Efficient pond and swimming pool systems
- Drainage and wastewater management systems



MEP engineering staff looking over plans for a villa in Phuket.



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MEP engineers, on the job, working to ensure the safety of the villa.



OLD SALTY DOG: Casuarina trees, which occur from Australia to the Pacific islands, often grow to a height of 30 meters or more; (inset) Casuarina flowers and needles. Photo: Tatters

Between a rock and a hard place



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

SINCE we all live on an island, seaside plants deserve a bit more attention here. Like the screw pine and sea vine, there are other plants that also stubbornly refuse to lie down when inundated by seawater.

Take the *casuarina* tree. Although this tropical pine normally spreads its extensive roots on slightly higher ground, it still grows close enough to the shoreline to have felt the full effects of the tsunami.

All along Phuket's western seaboard, stately groves of *casuarinas* were saturated by salt water, but unlike the trees further inland, they mostly survived, slowly readjust-

ing to higher levels of salinity in the soil, and then renewing their progress skyward. They are, and will continue to be, a dominant feature in areas such as Rawai, Nai Harn, Patong and other beaches further north, offering welcome protection and shade to picnickers or beach-side vendors.

The *casuarina*, (*son thaleh*)

has distinctive gray-green, wiry branchlets which function as leaves – a bit like pine needles. It has a number of practical attributes.

For one, it grows very quickly into a shapely, open tree, and can easily reach thirty

meters or so. It is also able to withstand harsh, windy conditions as well as

salty environments.

It can be usefully employed in coastal

dune stabilization, and it has root nodules which are nitrogen-fixing, adding to the fertility of the soil.

Remember, its resinous needles, unless swept up periodically, can inhibit growth beneath its branches.

Although it's not often found in gardens here, it is well worth considering if you want a quick screen or a bushy hedge.

Casuarina equisetifolia, to give its full name, is now being used increasingly in nonmarine contexts. It's

often used as a median strip tree or to line urban streets since it not only provides a pleasant and

effective barrier, it can readily be pruned into attractive shapes.

Young specimens are naturally conical.

After clipping, the new foliage is an attractive shade of light green.

Another shoreline tree that sometimes grows right on the dunes beside the screw pines, is the sea almond or *Terminalia catappa* (*huu kwang*).

If your garden is close to the beach, this is an excellent tree to acquire. It is deciduous: it has shiny, bright green leaves, some of which turn an attractive yellow or rich red before falling twice a year.

It's called the sea almond because its nuts resemble almonds. Wherever the tree grows, these edible nuts populate the shoreline at high tide. Like the screw pine and sea vine, the seeds float and are impervious to seawater. A fast-growing and unusual tree, it grows from seedlings and will reach sizable proportions after only four years.

Both the *casuarina* and the

Terminalia catappa are pretty much ignored as potential garden trees. Fortunately, people are beginning to realize their value. Many of these trees are being introduced in areas such as Kata and Karon.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured contact camelotdatura2011@yahoo.com



Young casuarinas are naturally conical, and are easy to prune into shapes. Photo: Sage Ross

Tip of the week

Protecting your plants

IT'S a good idea to have an area in your garden where young plants and cuttings can develop and convalesce. In temperate countries, we use greenhouses for protection against winter chill, or to take advantage of the intermittent summer sunshine.

In Phuket, by way of contrast, you need a space where the rays of the overhead sun cannot strike, that enjoys some protection from tropical storms.

Choosing a place next to a north facing wall is sensible. Here you can put your cuttings in plastic pots and monitor their progress, and revitalize houseplants suffering from an extended stay indoors, and showing signs of malaise brought on by low levels of light and inadequate levels of humidity.

If you circulate all your houseplants by giving them a temporary spell outdoors, you will certainly extend their lifespan.

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Baan Suan Loch Palm. Price: 9.5 million baht. Contact Wanrisa. Tel: 088-765 1826.

LAND FOR SALE IN RAWAI

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA, SEAVIEW KAMALA

Beautiful 3-bedroom villa. All bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms in Balinese style, 2 salas, a private pool and garage. Price: 9 million baht. Email: imconnac@aol.com For further details, and lots of pics see website at <http://villakamala.com>

SEAVIEW CONDO



2-storey, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, computer office, dining, fully furnished and TV room. 15 million baht. Owner eager to sell. Located at Khao Khat, breathtaking Ao Chalong view. Tel: 087-265 9977. Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE NEAR BIS

Near British Int'l School. Gated estate, 6 bedrooms, maid's room, pool, sala. Please email for info and pic. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong Price: 8.9 million baht (reduced from 9.7 million baht). Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos, please email jihshand@gmail.com.

NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

Best value house for sale in Chuan Chuen Lagoon. Quiet, safe, good security. 5 mins to British school. 3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, includes washing machine. 3.95 million baht. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

LAND FOR SALE

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

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO



Luxury hillside project, over 1,000sqm. Price: 5.9 million baht. Next to river w/ waterfall. Road, utilities. Tel: 084-445 8880 (English). Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

THE BEST PROJECT



Close to nature. Prices range from 5.4 million to 7.4 million baht. "The Grove" by Khirithara Village Co., Ltd. Tapsakea, Prachup Khiri Khan. Includes clubhouse and 24-hour security.

- One-storey house with 2 bedrooms and two-storey house with 4 bedrooms.

- Built-up area: 148sqm. Land size: from 560sqm.

Tel: 081-018 3311. Fax: 032-815151. Email: keree_thara_kae@hotmail.com See our website at www.kt-village.com

HOUSE IN KHAO LAK



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 1 rai land in Phang Nga, 20km from Khao Lak. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

THAI MUEANG LAND

Approx 3 rai, 2km from town center. Good road access and electricity. Very quiet, green area. Urgent sale for just 5 million baht total. Non-negotiable. No agents please. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

PATONG APT

2-bedroom apartment for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with sea view. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-891 6502. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND, 2 POOL VILLAS

Rawai, 3 bedrooms, private pool. 5.7 million baht, 60% finance. No bank requirements. Best deal on the land. Tel: 087-893 8747.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dowroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 rai, 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-892 0190 (Warit), 089-646 4823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

TWO SEAVIEW PLOTS



Reduced to 4.95 million baht each or 8.5 million baht for both. Near Surin and Bang Tao beaches. Fantastic 180 degree views. Exclusive. Hillside development with quality homes, already built. All utilities available. Land area: 540sqm and 545sqm (adjoining). Chanote titles, leasehold or freehold. Tel: 084-744 2240. More information. Email: ross.t@welcorp.com

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO MAKHAM



For sale. Chanote title, easy access in and out with concrete road. Price: 12 million baht per rai. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

LAND FOR SALE

At Pasak Soi 8, Cherng Talay. 135 sq wah plot, Chanote title. Plot is in front of villa project and hotel. Price: 3.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028.

SUPER CHEAP, PATONG

Now only 4.7 million baht. New pool villa with seaview. 3 storeys, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 4 aircons. Tel: 087-053 6016.

PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE



59sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European kitchen. Fully furnished, with common pool. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

LAND NEAR PIA: 1,730SQM

Land plot, Chanote, in a housing estate with underground electricity and security, next to Mission Hills golf course and PIA. For quick sale: 2.79 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

4 RAI LAYAN/ 4MB PER RAI

By owner, Nor Sor 3 Gor, concrete road, house 2 minutes from beach. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andreapaoletti1@hotmail.it

BEST PRICE POOL VILLA



Thai-Balinese style with L-shaped design. 2 garden view bedrooms with open-plan living and modern kitchen, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Located near BIS. Premium quality. Land size 144sqm. Price from 3.7 million baht. Tel: 084-293 7923, 080-648 9622 (English). Must visit us: www.phuket-eurasia.com

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Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is **Wellta**

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

Swimming pool, garden view, 2 beds, aircon, 2 baths, cable TV, DVD, internet, terrace, tropical garden. Close to Nai Ham Beach. Available October 15. Daily rent: 2,600 baht. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

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Maid, pool, WiFi, cable, gym, 100 sqm. 2 units left. Book today! Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 800sqm land. For long- or short-term rent. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

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Condos for rent/sale. 1 or 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 085-342 5670 (Sona), 086-3029742 (Kae).

ROYAL PLACE CONDO



1 bedroom on the 7th floor. Cable TV, fax, refrigerator, washing machine, living room, internet, car parking space. Rent: 15,000 baht/month. Fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness. For sale 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-893 9493 (Thai), 081-891 2333 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-223237. Email: anusara@phuket.biz

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



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

LUXURY 1 BEDROOM

Ground-floor apartment 65sqm. Central Patong, 1 month minimum. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

CONDO IN PATONG

1 bedroom, nicely furnished at Phuket Palace. Pool and parking. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

3-BEDROOM VILLA

Furnished, aircon, TV, garden, located in Land & Houses Park in Chalong. 24-hour security, clubhouse with pool, fitness, spa, restaurant, walking distance. Rent: 25,000 baht per month, long term only. Call for viewing. Tel: 081-846 9981 (English), 081-537 8774 (English & Thai). Email: ursaeabi@gmx.net

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Ham. Luxury rent: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT KAMALA

House for rent in Kamala. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, with TV and computer. Includes large pool. Tel: 086-971 9776. Email: Natacha_phuket@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

5 MINUTES FROM LAGUNA

For rent or sale. 4 bedrooms, family pool home, 1,000sqm land, 330sqm built-up area. Contact for details. Agent welcome. Tel: 087-418 5924 (Thai), 089-875 9609 (English). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Ham Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, fridge, TV, DVD and ADSL. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

NAI YANG BEACH HOUSE PHUKET

3 bedrooms, furnished with cable TV and ADSL internet. 5 minutes to Nai Yang beach and Phuket airport. 18,000 baht/month or for sale at 4.9 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1751 (English & Thai), 089-648 4703 (English & Thai). Email: pietankam@yahoo.co.th

PATONG CONDO FOR RENT/SALE

Great location. Fully furnished, airconditioned, cable tv, high speed internet. Tel: 076-319956, 086-269 8758 (English), 085-591 7575 (English & Thai). Email: jimbeckett41@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, aircon, internet, TV. Short terms to December 15 + 2 weeks in January. Ask rates - contact Hockey. Tel: 084-852 4091. Email: sales@thaiwaitravel.net

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

50,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT



or lease, studio at Rawai condotel, quiet, furnished, cable TV, fridge. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com

2br twin house for rent in Phuket Town (20,000 THB/month)



- Surface: 45 Sq Wah (180 Sqm)
- 2 stories: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.
- Top floor with 2 br, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room
- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)
- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival
- Security 24-hour
- Clubhouse with swimming pool

Call +66 (0) 818687676 or +66 (0) 898682268 for more information or house inspection

NICE HOUSE IN PA KHLOK



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircons, phone line, furnished, large pool and big garden. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-531 0697.

HOUSE IN PATONG

Newly furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious dining area and stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony. Full aircon. All extras: LCD television, Internet, satellite. Quiet setting. 27,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Spacious, fully furnished, four-bedroom villa with pool for long-term rent near Chalong. Price: 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-245 8986. Email: take_a_tab@hotmail.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

Bang Tao area, 1,2,4 bedrooms, fully furnished, ADSL, Sat TV. Tel: 085-674 6786.

HOUSE 12,000 BAHT PER MONTH



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, TV. Just 3km from Downtown. Tel: 086-690 0626, 087-417 8566. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

12,000 BAHT/MONTHLY RENT



Apartment, pool, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, kitchen. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 100,000 baht yearly rent. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 089-054 5271. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 160sqm. Large apartment, swimming pool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

2-BEDS APARTMENT IN PATONG

120sqm apartment with 10sqm balcony. Large sunken living/dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full built-in kitchen, storeroom. European standard. All aircon. Tel, UBC, WiFi, etc. 19,500 baht, long term pref. Tel: 081-185 8536.

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Position : Assistant Resort Manager
We are seeking an adventurous, motivated and experienced person to join us to work on the beautiful remote Island called Koh Pra Thong for the period of October through April.

Responsibilities:
Assisting Resort Manager in daily resort operation but mainly responsible for all administrative functions such as handling daily bills for the resort, bookkeeping, vendor payments, correspondence, and maintaining accurate reservation records.

Requirements:
1. Male or Female - Aged 28 years and up
2. B.A Degree
3. Good spoken and written English and Thai.
4. Good literacy with Microsoft Office
5. Pleasant personality, service-oriented and good problem-solving skills
6. Prefer Hotel/Travel or customer service-related experience.
7. Experience with billing and knowledge of PayPal system is an advantage

Interested candidate please send resume, a recent photo and expected salary to Khun Pissa Tipsombut Email: pena@goldenbuddharesort.com
www.goldenbuddharesort.com

AQUACULTURE ASSISTANT

Australian-owned barra-mundi farm (Pla Kra Pong) located close to Khok Kloy. Seeking English-speaking Thai assistant manager for immediate start. 20,000 baht per month. Onsite accommodation provided. Please Contact Alan for more information. Tel: 082-640 7486. Email: al.debwaap@gmail.com

ADMIN OFFICER

Qualifications

- Female, age over 21 years old, Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in human resources management, business administration or other related field.
- Able to handle overall general affairs and office administration.
- Good command of English and computer literate.
- Good team player with excellent interpersonal, communication and leadership skills. Tel: 076-261096. Send email: sec@phuketawnings.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Full-time, speak English. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 089-652 5664.

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Need accountant that can multi-task. Must have good understanding of P&L and Balance Sheet reconciliation, ERP Software Data Entry and Report Running BS in Accounting from accredited Thai UV required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently.

Contact:
martin@phuketfishboat.com
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You will not get an interview if you call.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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MR CYRIL

Looking for lady who speaks Thai, English and French very well, good experience. Salary 10,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-143 8523, 084-898 1065.

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

For IT company. English speaking Thai national, degree in philology. Must have good knowledge of English and good computer skills. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

THAI TEACHER & NANNY

Thai nursery teacher required to teach children aged 18 months to 2-and-a-half-years-old. Must possess a teaching degree, must have experience and excellent English skills. Also require a Thai nanny with good English skills. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978 (English). Fax: 076-383150. Or send email to: dannypilling@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.cravensnurseryphuket.com

STAFF REQUIRED FOR NEW HOTEL

Reception staff, four waitresses or waiters, four bartenders or barmaids, two cashiers, two accountants. Contact Victor. Tel: 088-819 1976 (Thai). Fax: 076-366204. Email: admin@hemingwayshotel.com

NEED THAI STAFF IN PATONG HOTEL

Waitress, cook and bartender needed. Good salary and housing included. Contact Manuela. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 081-270 1370, 083-392 8462. Or send email to: m@bayshoreprojects.com

THAI WAITRESS NEEDED

Full time or part time to work in busy cafe. Good personality and spoken English essential as customers are mostly foreign. Excellent salary given. Tel: 089-648 8324, 086-5097 510. Email: simon@colonialconnection.com

Pre Press

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We are a media group with operating activities in Germany, as well as different Asian locations with more than 300 colleagues.

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Media-Production Manager (m/f)

These are your tasks:

- You will take over the operating leadership of a motivated and qualified team of about 50 employees with the responsibility in all production topics
- You will be the interface between the German production planning and control department, the customer service, as well as for the foreign production teams.
- You ensure a smooth process at the production site and are responsible for securing and optimizing the technological processes, as well as taking care of the workforce management in the section media production with focus on image processing
- You are responsible for the planning and optimization of jobs and orders
- You elaborate improvements during faults and process deviations
- You coordinate product related trainings for the employees

These qualifications you should bring with you:

- You have completed a technical education in a media related field or have an equivalent qualification plus several years experience in the field of media production, particularly in the field of digital image processing
- You have extensive practical experience in dealing with standard programs, in particular Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign and QuarkXPress, and have gained first professional experience in managing teams
- We are looking for a strong motivated and far-sighted leader, who supports us with assertiveness, strong negotiation skill and natural authority in our corporate philosophy
- You have high social competence and enjoy, as well as having the skill in dealing with people of different cultures
- In addition to excellent communication and team skills, initiative, responsibility, flexibility, resilience and commitment as well as structured and result-oriented work should describe your strengths
- You are fluent in English

This is what you can expect

- We offer a secure and full-time position. You can expect an interesting, diversified and responsible job with a variety possibilities and freedoms.
- For the production site in Bangladesh, you have the opportunity to build up a young production facility and be a significantly part of the success in the initial phase
- In addition to comprehensive support in relocation (e.g. relocation service, visa) you will get an attractive remuneration package corresponding to the responsibilities of the position

We are looking forward to your application

Your application stating your salary expectations and earliest possible starting date, please direct to the following e-mail bewerbung@schnell-media.de or to SCHNELLmedia GmbH + Co. KG – HR-Department – Winterswykerstr. 120 – 48691 Vreden, Germany

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Work in the sun. Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contacts included. Patong area. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

F&B MANAGER CAPE SIENNA

Seeking a creative, experienced, outgoing professional with great customer service and management skills. Send CV to: frank@cape-sienna.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Working in Rawai. Please contact Khun Wit. Tel: 084-844 0008. Or send email to: m@bayshoreprojects.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Native English-speaking teacher with experience to teach class of 10-12 children age 3-7. Mon - Fri 8-4 Chalong start Sept 5. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com

FRANCHISE ASSOCIATE

Brokerages available in Phuket and Pattaya to sell businesses and property. Full training and set up given. Fees apply. Tel: 087-034 0568. Email: phil@tsba.info

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New IT Company is seeking Graphic Designers to join our rapidly growing company. A creative mind and willingness to work as part of a team is a must. Skills required: Adobe PhotoShop (HTML not compulsory). Monthly salary is 20,000-35,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-951 3478. Email: kirrin.lis.iecki@nriteam.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Patong area. Please contact Mike for more information. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT

Part-time position, flexible hours. Must be western fluent in written and spoken English, good communicator, excellent computer skills, be home-based and have a fast/reliable internet connection. Please send CV to admin@esxoasia.com

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Austrian Captain, 55 years old, is looking for a very good female cook and honest girlfriend. I can offer you a job as a cook on my sailing vessel in Phuket. You must speak English or German. Free eating, drinking, living and salary **15,000 baht per month. Call Captain Frank:**
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Contact Human Resources Department,
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Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166



Positions Available

Sales & Marketing
• Sales & PR Coordinator

Villa Operations

- Senior Villa Host
- Villa Host Supervisor
- Guest Service Center
- Villa Host
- Bell Man

Food & Beverage

- F&B Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Infinity Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor
- Waiter/Waitress

Kitchen

- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef
- Demi Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Cook Helper
- Steward (part-time)

Engineering
• Handy Person

Housekeeping

- Villa Supervisor
- Villa Attendant
- Florist Supervisor

A successful candidate will need to possess average to above English communication skills.

Join us to create your own story! Good Luck!

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- System Maintenance
- Security
- Building Maintenance
- Steward
- Pantry (Cook Helper)
- Housekeeping

Teacher's Assistant

Qualifications

- Thai National
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience with child care, teaching experience preferable
- Good spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Love to take care of children

Primary Secretary Assistant

Qualifications

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund, etc.



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Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130
Email: patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th or
sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Able to write news stories in clear, concise English
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Willing to work extended hours
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Have the initiative to delve into the facts to make a good news story
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially PageMaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and samples of work published in print or on the internet by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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Career Opportunity



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Qualifications:

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- Fluent German language in reading + writing
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Crossword puzzle:

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1	S	R	T	A	5	C	A	R	S	9	A	R	T	S	Y
14	W	O	O	L	15	A	S	A	P	16	D	A	R	L	A
17	A	L	O	E	21	R	S	T	U	19	O	N	A	I	R
20	B	E	L	E	23	T	O	R	24	U	T	T	E	R	S
25	L	O	B	A	29	E	V	A	D	31	E				
32	A	R	R	E	33	I	N	D	E	35	B	T	E	D	
39	P	E	E	R	40	E	Y	R	I	42	A	R	L	O	
43	P	O	L	Y	44	P	N	E	A	45	R	A	T	I	O
47	H	A	P	L	Y	48	S	T	O	49	N	E			
50	S	A	C	R	A	L	54	A	L	I					
56	E	T	H	E	R	57	C	A	R	E	T	A	K	E	R
63	A	R	E	N	A	64	H	U	R	T	65	T	E	R	I
68	T	I	E	T	O	67	E	R	O	68	O	P	A	L	
69	S	A	R	A	H	70	F	A	W	N	71	M	I	T	E

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. 4 (Cut, Clarity, Color, Carat)
2. Forty
3. 25 miles-per-hour
4. Heath Ledger
5. The US Air Force
6. The Game of Roulette
7. Gerald Ford
8. A net
9. Mikail Gorbachev
10. The space between the eyebrows
11. All were dyslexic
12. Strongman Charles Atlas
13. 39-21-33

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COMMANDER 114**

HS-AWS. Year: 1976. Operated in Thailand for 6 years
Engine: Lycoming IO-540T4B5D. 1,300hrs and 700hrs until TBO. Garmin and Garmin radios. Autopilot and Stormscope. Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra. Contact Tony Scragg at mobile 081-906 3250, or send email to tony_scragg@hotmail.com

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COM Becker; Transponder C Becker; GPS Moving map; Intercom 2 seats; Electric Attitude Indicator; Electric Heading Indicator. Engine: Rotax 912S, 80 hrs. Airframe: 80hrs. Exterior: new aircraft; Interior: new aircraft. For sale at 1.9 million baht. Email: fly@nokaviation.com

TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
-Registration: U-B08
-Year of Manufacture: 2002
-Equipment: Full standard equipment
-Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
Aircraft is based at Klong 15
Contacts: Tharee. Tel: 081-840 8418.



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Asian Senior Women's Volleyball Championship starts this month

The 16th Asian Senior Women's Volleyball Championship will be held from September 15 to 23 in Taipei with 14 teams in total vying for the top honor in Asian Volleyball. This is the first time for Taipei to host the Asian Women's Championship.

The 14 teams are divided into four pools for the preliminary round to be held from the 15th to 17th. The host Taipei, Iran and Indonesia are in Group A, while Group B consists of top seed and defending champion Thailand, along with Vietnam and Australia.

Group C comprises second seed China, fifth seed Kazakhstan, the People's Repub-

lic of Korea and India, with third seed Japan, fourth seed Korea, Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan in Group D.

The top two from each pool will play the classification round from 1st to 8th places in Pool E and Pool F from September 18 to 19 to decide the ranking in the quarterfinal pools to be held on September 21.

Defending Champion Thailand, China, 14th edition Champion Japan and Korea are considered the top favorites for the Asian title and, as expected, eleven time winner China will meet strong challenges from their arch rivals: Japan, Korea and Thailand.

The most prestigious Asian women's event also doubles as a

qualifier for the 2011 World Cup in Japan later this year.

As host Japan has already secured a place in the World Cup, the Asian meet provides the other 13 teams with a way to cruise their ways into the World Cup.

According to FIVB regulations, the five continental champions will be joined by the four highest ranked vice-champions according to the FIVB World Ranking as of January 15, 2011.

And if Japan win or finish as one of the top two teams in the AVC Continental Championship, the team that finishes third in the tournament will compete.



Thailand saw off China 3-1 in the finals of the 15th Asian Women's Championship in 2009 to win the gold medal for the first time

Phuket Thailand Open in doubt beyond 2011

THE 6th Swatch FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour is set to make Karon Beach its stage again this year, starting November 1, despite the possibility of the event moving elsewhere in the future due to a lack of funding from Phuket, organizers say.

The Phuket Thailand Open, which is a women's tournament, has been growing in popularity and scope, with tourists filling the stands and inter-school and inter-hotel satellite competitions running in conjunction.

Geoffrey Rowe, managing director of event organizers Pentangle Promotions, explained to the *Phuket Gazette* that a change in venue was not possible because of timing restrictions set by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

"Every year, I have to go to a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the head office of the FIVB, one to two weeks after our [Thailand] tournament. If I'm not ready to change the venue by then, they won't let me change it," Mr Rowe said.

Changing the venue is not a simple process, as the FIVB requires a large amount of information to be presented at the meeting for any move to be possible, Mr Rowe explained.

Asked whether the event would remain in Phuket, Mr Rowe described the island as an ideal venue, but remained uncertain about the future.

"At the moment we have no final decision [about] where the event will go in 2012. It is a big event. Many people are interested in taking the event to their province, or even to other countries in the region. We are still considering it," he said.

"We have an agreement with

the FIVB until next year. So, next year we will decide whether to continue here or not. It is like an evaluation to consider whether it is worthwhile.

"For us, financially, it is not very good. It costs a lot of money and it is quite hard in Phuket because most of the spectators are foreign people. So, sometimes it is hard to get sponsors because they are looking for the Thai audience," he said.

"I'm not sure whether Phuket really wants the event. I get the feeling that Phuket has enough [events] already, and that it is not necessary to have another big one. It really depends on if they really want it or not.

"Phuket is the best venue, which is why we have been using the location. But if they don't really want it, what is the point of us doing it in Phuket?" he added.

The "Phuket Thailand Open Powered by PTT" 2011 is set to be held on November 1-6 with up to 25 of the world's top-ranked women's teams competing.

Total prize money is US\$ 190,000 (more than 5.6 million baht).

Mr Rowe was optimistic about attendance and the benefits the event would bring to Phuket's economy.

"The reception of the audience [last year] was great. Six thousand people attended the final rounds on center court each day for the final two days," Mr Rowe said.

As Thailand is the last stop on the 16-event tour, many players stay after the event is over and holiday here with family and friends, he said.

Mr Rowe estimated that the event generated 25 million baht in visitor spending last year.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a proud sponsor of the Phuket Thailand Open.



TOUCHING MOMENT: Brazil players are popular with local fans.



GAME OVER: 'So, next year we will decide whether to continue here or not.'

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Thailand look on to the World Cup

TEAM Thailand trudged on in its uphill 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign with strong performances in third-round matches against Australia and Oman last week.

Despite Australia's Socceroos being heavily favored in a home match last Friday night, it was the Thais who opened the scoring in the 14th minute, shocking some 24,500 spectators at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

The brilliantly executed goal marked Thailand's first-ever score against the Socceroos, who had beaten the War Elephants 4-0 in both previous encounters, in 1982 and 2007.

Having read and intercepted an Australian pass in Thai territory, Buriram FC forward Sompong Soleb led the ensuing Thai counterattack, reinforced by Buriram PEA midfielder Jakkraprom Kaewprom.

Driving up the right wing, Jakkraprom sent a perfectly timed cross to Muang Thong United forward Teerasil Dangda, who had beaten his marker.

In a single touch, Teerasil sent the ball into the back of the net, sparking wild celebrations for football fans across the Kingdom. Thailand was able to maintain their lead into halftime, but the home side scored the equalizer in the 58th minute.

Brisbane Roar hero Matthew McKay drove strong down the left wing past Thai defenders and setting up a direct shot on goal. McKay's shot was deflected by the Thai keeper, but rebounded straight to the foot of Josh Kennedy, who sent the ball to the back of the net from the middle of the penalty box.

Australia dominated possession throughout the remainder of the game, finally paying off when Alex Brosque sealed the game with the winning strike just four minutes before regulation time.

Thailand were satisfied with the 1-2 defeat, knowing the scoring differential could have been much wider.

In the second match, Thailand hosted Oman before a 60,000-capacity crowd at Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok and revealed the full potential of the Thailand's finest.

Knowing they needed to bag three points, Thailand looked confident against their Middle Eastern opponents, attacking and dominating possession early.

Perseverance finally paid off in the 35th minute, when some slick Thai passing penetrated play deep into Omani territory.

One-on-one with the goalkeeper in the box, Sompong slotted in Thailand's first goal.

Six minutes later, Thailand scored their second goal after captain, Dutsakorn Thonglao drove up the right wing and sent a cross to Teerasil, requiring little more than a tap to beat the Omani goalkeeper.

Possession in the second half was more balanced, though the score remained 2-0 at the end of regulation time.

The first minute of extra time saw one more goal after sustained Thai pressure resulted in an own-goal for Oman, making the final tally 3-0 in favor of a jubilant Thai side.

Now second in their group, Thailand will next play Saudi Arabia on October 11 in Bangkok.

MATCH RESULTS

TPL DIV ONE

September 4

Chiang Mai FC 1-0 Thai Honda
CT Chantaburi 0-2 Bangkok Utd

THAI FA CUP

September 4

Songkhla FC 4-1 Krabi FC
(Songkhla advances to Q-finals against TOTFC on Oct 19)

WC2014 ASIAN QUALIFIERS

September 2

Australia	2-1	Thailand
Oman	0-0	Saudi Arabia
Japan	1-0	DPR Korea
Tajikistan	0-1	Uzbekistan
China	2-1	Singapore
Iraq	0-2	Jordan
Korea Rep.	6-0	Lebanon
UAE	2-3	Kuwait
Iran	3-0	Indonesia
Bahrain	0-0	Qatar

WC2014 ASIAN QUALIFIERS

September 6

Thailand	3-0	Oman
Saudi Arabia	1-3	Australia
Indonesia	0-2	Bahrain
Qatar	1-1	Iran
DPR Korea	1-0	Tajikistan
Uzbekistan	1-1	Japan
Lebanon	3-1	UAE
Kuwait	1-1	Korea Rep.
Singapore	0-2	Iraq
Jordan	2-1	China

(Asian Qualifiers resume on October 11 when Thailand hosts Saudi Arabia and Australia hosts Oman)



SPONSOR THAI PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	P	Pts
Buriram PEA	21	50
MTUTD	21	44
Chonburi	21	42
BGFC	21	35
Osotspa-Saraburi	21	32
BEC	21	32
Sisaket	21	32
Thai Port	21	29
CRUTD	21	27
Insee Police Utd	20	27
Army Utd	21	25
Pattaya Utd	21	25
TTM	20	23
Samutsongkham	21	21
Navy	21	20
Sriracha	21	18
KKFC	21	16
TOT	21	16



THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Team	P	Pts
BBCU	21	49
Buriram	21	48
Chainat	21	39
Songkhla	20	38
BUFC	22	37
PTT Rayong	21	35
Rajapracha	21	34
Saraburi	21	30
Phuket	21	29
CCFC	22	25
AFUTD	20	24
Suphanburi	21	23
J.W. Rangsit	21	21
SCUTD	21	21
Bangkok	21	19
Chiangmai	22	17
Thai Honda	22	17
RBAC	21	12

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

TPL DIV ONE

September 10 4pm

Bangkok FC - Buriram FC @ Chalem Phrakiet Bang Mod Stadium, Thonburi

FC Phuket - Bangkok United @ Surakul Stadium, Phuket
Chula United - RBAC @ Army Stadium, Bangkok

September 10 6pm

SPONSOR THAI PREMIER LEAGUE

September 10 6pm

Chiang Rai Utd - Army Utd @ Sompoch 700 yrs Stadium, Chiang Rai
BEC-Tero - Sisaket @ Thephasadin Stadium, Bangkok
Insee Police Utd - Sriracha @ Thammasat U.Stadium, Rangsit
Bangkok Glass FC - TOTSC @ Leo Stadium, Rangsit
Chonburi FC - Navy @ Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

TPL DIV ONE

September 11 4pm

Rajapracha - JW Rangsit @ Mahidol U.Stadium, Nakhon Pathom
CT Chantaburi - Thai Honda

September 11 6pm

Chainat FC - PTT Rayong @ Central Sports Stadium, Chainat
Suphan Buri FC - Songkhla FC @ Central Sports Stadium, Suphan Buri
Airforce United - Chiang Mai FC @ Thupatemee Stadium, Rangsit
Saraburi FC - Samut Prakarn Customs United @ OrBorJor Sports field, Saraburi

SPONSOR THAI PREMIER LEAGUE

September 11 4pm

Khon Kaen FC - Samut Songkhram @ Mahasarakham U.Stadium, Khon Kaen
Thai Port FC - Osotspa-Saraburi @ PAT Stadium, Bangkok

September 11 6pm

Pattaya Utd - TTM Phichit @ IPE Stadium, Chonburi

TOYOTA LEAGUE CUP

September 14 6pm

BEC-Tero - Buriram PEA
Thai Port FC - Pattalung FC

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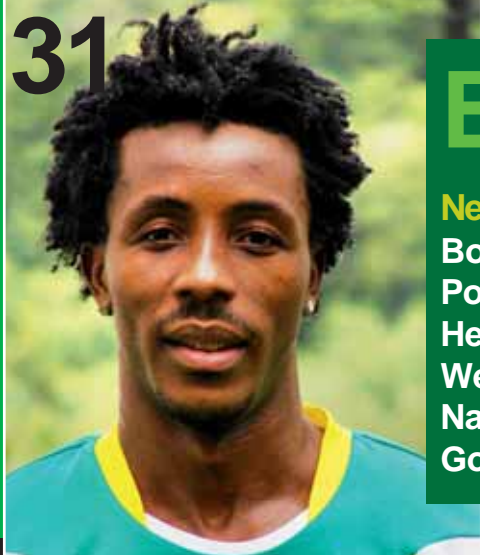
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WE certainly do love our FC Phuket yet little is known about the players off the pitch. Who are they? Where are they from? What do they do in their free time? Due to popular demand *The Phuket Gazette* will publish brief player bios and interviews every week, here is our second installment for fans to cut out and collect.

31



BIO

Nenebi 'Nenebi' Tre Sylvestre
 Born: Dec. 31, 1986
 Position: Defender
 Height: 183 cm
 Weight: 68 kg
 Nationality: Ivory Coast
 Goals: 9

16



BIO

Tameezee "Z" Hayeyusoh
 Born: Feb. 10, 1990
 Position: Forward
 Height: 180 cm
 Weight: 65 kg
 Nationality: Thai
 Goals: 3

Q. Apart from FC Phuket who is your favorite football team?
 A. Barcelona

Q. What has been the biggest challenge in your career?
 A. Playing for the Ivory Coast International in 2009.

Q. What interests do you have outside of your work?
 A. Fashion and modelling.

Q. If you were not a football player, what would you like to be?
 A. A fashion model.

Q. What do you like about Phuket?
 A. I like the people, especially the enthusiasm of the fans.

Q. Apart from FC Phuket who is your favorite football team?
 A. Muang Thong United and Arsenal.

Q. What has been the biggest challenge in your career?
 A. Playing with Rajpracha FC all the way up to Division One.

Q. What interests do you have outside of your work?
 A. Surfing the Internet and studying at university.

Q. If you were not a football player, what would you like to be?
 A. I'd work in my family's electrical appliance business.

Q. What do you like about Phuket?
 A. The technology, beautiful beaches, green scenery and lovely culture all together on a small island.



FC Phuket are back at Surakul Stadium this Saturday evening in what is certain to be an action-packed, unpredictable match-up against Bangkok United.

Kickoff is set for 6pm. Strong downpours are highly probable so fans seeking good, sheltered seats should show up as early as possible. Otherwise, bring an umbrella.

Tickets are sold at the 15,000-capacity stadium's three entrances at 50 baht for adults and 20 baht for children.

The match will mark Phuket's first league fixture at home in 11 weeks since holding the Songkhla "Fighting Bulls" to a scoreless draw on June 25 to a record Surakul crowd of 12,420 fans.

Since then, Phuket has endured a restless road campaign lasting throughout July and August, which finally bore fruit in their last league match on August 21 against RBAC 1 - 0, the team's first away victory in league play all season.

A win this Saturday is crucial but not guaranteed.

The last time Phuket met Bangkok was on April 2 in

Bangkok, and it was the "Angels" who were victorious 2 - 1, despite Phuket's Thawin Butsombat scoring first in the 54th minute.


Phuket conceded an own-goal in the 66th minute and Bangkok sealed the game with a strike in the 82nd minute by Romain Gasmis, who was named man of that match.

If any lesson were learned, Phuket will need to closely mark Bangkok's star striker considering the Frenchman has scored 12 goals this season, outdone only by Songkhla FC's Brazilian import, Chayene Santos (13 goals).

With 29 points from 21 games and currently ranked ninth among the 18 teams in the Thai Premier League Division one, Phuket cannot afford to lose if they hope to keep their promotion dreams alive.

In fifth place with 37 points from 22 games, Bangkok United are in fifth place coming off a 2 - 0 victory over CT Chantaburi last Sunday, and so won't be giving the game away to Phuket.

Indeed, tensions will be high.



Phuket International Women's Club Celebrates





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Futsal league starts

THE EIGHTH season of Phuket's Adult Futsal League (AFL) premier division got underway last Thursday at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club in Thalang, where three action-packed games saw twenty goals scored.

The evening began with reigning AFL champs Portrait FC taking on league newcomers Thanachart Bank. In the final moments before half time, Thanachart took a 1-0 lead on an own-goal by Portrait. Portrait redeemed themselves in the second half. They equalized in the 26th minute, then quickly took the lead with another goal in the 33rd minute. Thanachart scored again with only four minutes remaining in the match, which ended honors even.

The next match was played between new teams, Honda and Chevrolet. Midway through the first half, Honda captain Natee opened the score with a close-range strike. Honda doubled the lead only three minutes later, when Chevrolet suffered an own-goal to put Honda into the half with a comfortable lead.

Honda's Natee scored his 2nd of the night in the 22nd minute, but Chevrolet hit back straight away to pull within two. But the unstoppable Natee kept up the Honda assault, scoring his 3rd and 4th goals before Chevrolet scored a consolation goal late in the game. Final score: Honda 5 Chevrolet 2.

The final game to be played on the artificial turf pitted Jitjongrut and another new team, Subsidy. Subsidy took the lead in the 9th



FAIR PLAY: Portrait and Thanachart Bank captains show sportsmanship

minute from a breakaway, then doubled their lead six minutes later.

The AFL season-seven runners up, Jitjongrut hit back with two well-taken goals by Sukitti and Suriya to go into the halftime break tied 2-2.

The second half saw Jitjongrut come out firing on all cylinders to score four unanswered goals to go

up 6-2. As the clock ticked down, Subsidy had difficulty penetrating the Jitjongrut back line. The rout was completed in the 36th minute, when Jitjongrut's Tanwa scored his 2nd goal of the match to bring the final score to Jitjongrut 7 Subsidy 2.



CHEERS: Phuket youth train this month to improve their football game.

Learning Brazil skills

BRAZILIAN Soccer School (BSS) Advanced Team Training sessions in Phuket will begin this Sunday at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) in Thalang.

Youths aged eight to 16 years old who want to develop their game with professional, advanced training while harnessing teamwork skills are encouraged to register.

The age classifications are as follows:

- Under 16 (born 1995, 1996)
- Under 14 (born 1997, 1998)
- Under 12 (born 1999, 2000)
- Under 10 (born 2001, 2002)
- Under 8 (born 2003, 2004)

TSLC asks registrants to commit to at least one month of training, which will be held on Sundays.

This month training sessions are scheduled for the upcoming three Sundays, on the 11th, 18th and 25th, respectively. The total cost of registration for this

month's sessions is 1050 baht per child which covers three sessions (350 baht per session) which will be payable on the first Sunday.

A Full BSS kit including shorts, shirt and socks is to be worn at all sessions and matches and costs 1000 baht.

The first 10 player sign ups by e-mail at the U10 and U12 level will be offered the chance to play in the YFH tournament which will be held on September 17th and 18th.

Girls born on or after the year 2000 are eligible to play for the U10s tournament, however the U12s tournament is exclusively for boys.

Parents and players will also be asked to sign a code of conduct.

If this is not signed by all parties, the child will not be able to participate in any matches.

Registration and inquiries can be made by contacting Head Coach Martin Hill, E:bss@thanyapura.co.th and T: 085 331 0295.

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