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FAST TRACK



Motorbikes continue their way over Patong Hill past the landslide site.
Photo: Phuket Info Center

PATONG HILL REPAIRS UNDERWAY, HOPED TO TAKE ONLY TWO MONTHS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials are hoping that emergency repairs to the road over Patong Hill will be completed by mid-December to allow cars to travel over the hill past the area where a landslide damaged the road earlier this month.

A backhoe was brought to the site last Friday (Oct 28), with work starting the next day.

Kathu Mayor Chai-anan Suthikul said the emergency repairs were being carried out under a budget of B20 million. The work was expected to take 45-60 days, weather permitting, Mr Chai-anan said.

The announcement came within

hours of more earth at the landslide area giving way amid heavy rains last Friday, causing even more damage to the road.

Phuket Governor Narong Wongciew was at the site last Saturday morning to oversee proceedings as the backhoe rolled in and commuters on bikes drove past in the designated lane. All other vehicles have been banned from using the road.

Of note, the road over the hill, and past the danger zone, remained open to motorbikes throughout the day and night despite heavy rains last Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

EXPERTS

Mayor Chai-anan's announcement came after expert geologists were

deployed to install devices to monitor the water content of the soil at the site so that officials could close the road and give advance warning of any impending landslide.

Assoc Prof Dr Aphinit Chotisangkat from the Department of Civil Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, at Kasetsart University and his team inspected the site one day earlier (Oct 27) to study the geographic safety of the area.

The team installed devices to monitor the "safety aspects of the soil", such as soil pressure, soil strength and the percentage volume of groundwater at depths of three metres and six metres.

The system installed will alert relevant officers of any measure-

ments exceeding safety limits, said an official report, although who will be informed directly by the system was not explained.

Sandbags have been placed to guide any rain runoff away from the exposed soil on the side of the road where the landslide occurred on Oct 19.

Barriers have also been installed to separate traffic flow as motorbike riders make their way up and down the hill past the landslide site.

The road past the landslide site remains open to motorbikes and pedestrians only. Cars and larger vehicles are still banned from crossing the hill.

No official announcement was made as to whether the road will be...

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News



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...completely closed at any point whilst the repair work takes place.

The system aims “to use as information for the relevant part in managing the risks of using the area in order to not cause the greatest harm to the people”, the report said.

Kathu District Chief Siwat Rararangkul was present at the site to oversee the installation of the devices and inspect other measures taken to improve safety for people crossing the hill.

BIKES ONLY

Officials began allowing motorbikes over Patong Hill at 6pm on Oct 26, just seven days after the embankment beside the road collapsed during heavy rains.

The move to reopen the road to motorbikes came just seven days after the landslide.

Governor Narong, at the checkpoint on the Kathu side of the hill that evening to declare the road open to motorbikes, said the decision was to help alleviate the suffering of those who need to travel across the hill



Work continues in carving the new road over the hills from Chalong to Patong last Saturday (Oct 29). Photo: PPAO

each day, especially young students.

“Various agencies are working together to come up with ways to access Patong both by walking routes and roads, but such problems have affected a large number of people because it is the opening of the school semester. This caused the province [provincial government] to urgently find a way to alleviate such problems for the people,” he said.

“Every day, tens of thousands of

people have to park their motorcycles and travel on foot [from Kathu] to the Patong area, and from further analysis of the soil strength, while previously there was still a large amount of groundwater, the analysis from geologists from the Department of Highways and related agencies such as Kathu Municipality have concluded that the hillside area is strong enough to allow motorcycles to pass through,” he added.

Police, military personnel and local administration officers were designated to be on duty to regulate the traffic so the road can remain open to motorbikes 24 hours a day, he added.

“This is just temporary relief for people to travel over the hill. Cars or other types of vehicles still have to use the alternative routes [via Kamala or Chalong-Kata-Karon],” he noted.

Officers have continued to make improvements to the walking path up the hill from the Bang Thong Monastery in Kathu to the Chao Por Suea Shrine at the top of the hill, he added.

“Patong Municipality and Kathu Municipality are accelerating adjustments by bringing backhoes to level the area. It is expected that the improvements will be completed in the next two days,” Governor Narong said.

“As for the route behind Wat Luang Pu Supa - Chalong, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation [PPAO] is bringing machinery to improve that route as well. It is

expected to open for use next week,” he added.

CHALONG APPROACH

As of Monday, work was continuing on carving a road over the hills from behind the Klong Kata reservoir in Chalong to 50 Pi Rd in Patong. Diggers were excavating drainage ditches along both sides of the dirt road to prevent flooding and to create space in case of any landslides beside the road.

The move to build the new road was made on Oct 24. At the time, the work was expected to take just two weeks, with the road hoped to be ready to open to traffic next Monday (Nov 7).

While building the road was initially announced by Governor Narong as a “temporary measure”, Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Arerob on Monday revealed plans to transform the road into a 12-metre-wide road complete with large drainage ditches and to file a request for the road to be granted permanent status.

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Body of missing Russian woman found

THE BODY OF MISSING 53-year-old Russian woman Elena Radchenko was found by a search team scouring the waters off Tri Trang Beach, south of Patong, on Oct 26, the seventh day of the mass search for her.

Less than 24 hours earlier Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in had announced that if Ms Radchenko was not found on Oct 26, the mass search for her would be called off.

Ms Radchenko's was found at about 9:10am, rescue workers confirmed.

Phuket Marine Police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers recovered her body and brought it back to the search and rescue operations centre at Layan Beach, some 20 kilometres to the north by sea.

From there the body was taken to Thalang Hospital in the hope of confirming Ms Radchenko's cause of death.

The recovery of her body brought to an end a mass search operation by land, sea and air that began after Ms Radchenko reported missing on Oct 20. She was last seen at Nai Thon Beach at about



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

11am that day.

Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, after hearing from Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in that Ms Radchenko's body had been found, soon arrived at the search and rescue operations centre at Layan.

Mr Phiphat expressed his condolences to Ms Radchenko's family and praised the cooperation of all sectors that participated in the search.

“The Thai government would like to express our condolences about this incident... Thank you to

everyone who helped in the search until we were able to complete the mission today,” Mr Phiphat said.

However, more than five days after Ms Radchenko's body was found, police had yet to reveal any details of their investigation into her disappearance, or confirm her cause of death.

At time of press, police remained silent on any explanations of how, when or where Ms Radchenko had re-entered the water after a lifeguard reported that he had seen her exit the water on the day she disappeared.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Man slain in knife attack

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Pannawit Thepbutra has been charged with murder and armed robbery resulting in the death of a person after he stabbed a man to death at Phuket Grocery in Phuket Town last Saturday (Oct 29).

The attack took place at the popular shopping centre on Ong Sim Phai Rd around 6:30am. By the time police and medical workers arrived at the scene, the victim, 49-year-old Charoen Pan-ngern, was unconscious. He had been stabbed four times in the stomach.

Mr Charoen was rushed to Phuket Provincial Hospital, but later pronounced dead.

Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit confirmed the charges after Pannawit, 35, was brought from Phuket Provincial Prison to Phuket City Police Station, and then to Phuket Provincial Court to have the charges presented to him on Monday (Oct 31).

The charges were pressed following questioning witnesses and checking CCTV



Pannawit Thepbutra (left, white shirt), 35, is brought back to Phuket Grocery to re-enact the crime for police. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

footage in the area after the fatal stabbing, Col Sarawut said.

Col Sarawut dismissed claims by Pannawit's relatives, questioning whether Pannawit genuinely "surrendered" to police and whether police had arrested the real culprit of the fatal stabbing.

"DNA samples were taken from the weapon, a knife, and

clothing worn by the assailant. After this was presented it made him more comfortable to talk," Col Sarawut said.

Police had statements from witnesses and used CCTV to track down the killer after he fled the scene in a red Honda CRV, he added.

Col Sarawut also dismissed claims by Pannawit himself, who said he had

attacked Mr Charoen by accident, mistaking him for a person with whom he had a previous conflict.

Pannawit had told police that he thought Mr Charoen was the person he had a previous road rage incident with, Col Sarawut explained.

Col Sarawut explained that a gold necklace worth more than B29,000 was in the bag

that Mr Charoen was carrying when he was attacked.

Pannawit dropped the bag, which contained an assortment of Thai banknotes, and the necklace when he fled the scene after stabbing Mr Charoen.

Pannawit made off with an amulet in the attack, Col Sarawut said. He did not give a value of the amulet stolen,

or confirm whether the amulet had been recovered.

Police opposed bail at the court, said Col Sarawut.

However, he did not confirm whether or not the court had granted Pannawit to be released if he posts bail.

Mr Charoen's widow, Daranee Pan-ngern, 48, was also at Phuket Provincial Court on Monday to plead for the court to deny Pannawit the right to post bail.

Her lawyer, Paradorn Tangwinit, explained that Ms Daranee and her daughter both felt unsafe following the attack and had asked police to take steps to ensure their safety.

Col Sarawut told reporters that police were in the process of providing support to Ms Daranee in dealing with the processes she must now face, including advice on rights such as withdrawing money from various funds.

"We will try to help and take care of her," he said.

While exiting Phuket City Police Station on Monday, Pannawit wore a cloth bag on his head to obscure his face.

He also declined to answer questions from reporters.

Demolition of abandoned hotel on bypass road begins

DEMOLITION OF THE abandoned incomplete hotel on the bypass road is now underway. Heavy machinery rolled onto the site early last Saturday morning (Oct 29), a day later than originally scheduled, and immediately began demolishing the building.

According to a report by Phuket officials, the designated contractor confirmed that the demolition process would see the building razed from the top down by a machinery operator who the owner said has extensive experience in building demolition.

The contractor also assured that no debris from the demolition will fall onto the road, the report said.

The entire demolition process is expected to take around 15 days, although that could be extended if any further bad weather hits, the report noted.

Meanwhile, the northbound lanes of the bypass road past the site remain closed for safety. The lanes



Photo: Phuket Info Center

can be reopened immediately after the demolition has been completed, officials confirmed.

If it is deemed safe, the northbound lanes may be opened while the demolition work is being carried out.

Originally, the demolition process was scheduled to begin on Oct 28. Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Pan-pong visited the site around 3pm and, despite not being officially confirmed, it was believed the heavy rains ex-

perienced across the island at the time delayed the process.

The owner of the building, which looms dangerously atop a steep slope beside the road, had agreed to have the buildings demolished and filed a formal request to carry out the work with Ratsada Municipality.

This came after two landslides were experienced in the area on Oct 19 and 20 after heavy rainfall battered the island.

The Phuket News

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Signs removed at Layan

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials have removed several signs posted at Layan Beach claiming that ownership of the land was still in dispute under a case being heard in court.

Officials arrived at the beach on Oct 26 to remove the five signs in total that were posted making the claim.

The land in question was cleared of buildings late September after more than five years of efforts by officials to reclaim the land.

The demolition to knock down the last remaining illegal beachfront buildings on some 178 rai of state land, altogether estimated to be worth over B10 billion, began on Sept 30.

The Department of Special Investigations (DSI) originally served eviction notices in 2017 after the Supreme Court ruled that the occupiers were illegally encroaching on state land.

Several 'final warnings' were issued for years after the Supreme Court decision, with the last eviction notice served on Sept 12, 2022.

The officers at the beach yesterday were led by Thalang District Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Panjapong Boonchan.

Joining Mr Panjapong were officers from the Cherng Talay Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBor-Tor), Cherng Talay Police and the



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket office of the Legal Execution Department.

The signs claimed, in Thai, "This plot of land has a dispute pending lawsuit between the private sector and government officials. It is a black civil case No. 189/2020 of the Phuket Provincial Court.

"Government officials or any other person is prohibited from doing anything in the area without permission. Anyone who violates the law will be prosecuted for all cases along with filing a complaint with the affiliated

agency until final resolution."

The signs claimed that six plots in the area had been in dispute. Four plots had buildings demolished, but two plots were still in the process of legal action, the signs claimed.

The signs made no recognition that the Supreme Court of Thailand had ruled on the land ownership, superseding any ruling by the Phuket Provincial Court.

Officials said they would continue to uphold the law against any violations.

It was not made clear if any legal action would be taken for posting the signs.

For more than a decade, and while the disputes were heard in court and eviction notices were ignored, the illegal occupiers of the land operated businesses serving tourists at the pristine beachfront site.

Officials have not made any announcements about recovering any of the illegally obtained income from the occupiers of the land during those years.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Israeli arrested at airport with bullets hidden in suitcase

AN ISRAELI MAN HAS BEEN arrested at Phuket International airport after he was found carrying 55 bullets in his luggage.

Sakhu Police were informed of the discovery at about 12:30pm on Oct 26, police reported last Friday (Oct 28).

"Bullet like objects" were found inside a grey Samsonite suitcase belonging to Israeli national Gal Schmucl Farjun, 29.

A subsequent search of the suitcase found that it contained

55 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition.

Officers questioned Farjun, who had arrived in Phuket on a domestic flight. He reportedly admitted that the bullets were his.

No reason was given as to why he was carrying the ammunition.

Police confirmed that Farjun was taken to Sakhu Police Station for further questioning and was charged for illegal possession of and illegally carrying the ammunition.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Dead whale recovered from Racha

OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) are continuing their examination of a whale carcass found floating off Koh Racha Yai, south of Phuket, last weekend in the hope of determining the cause of death.

The carcass was first spotted off Laem Sai Bay at Koh Racha last Saturday (Oct 29).

DMCR officials, working with officers from the Phuket Marine Resource Conservation Center, the Department of Fisheries and other agencies, brought the remains back to Rawai, in Phuket, last Sunday.

The remains were confirmed to be of an adult female Bruda whale, some 13 metres long.

The whale was in an advanced stage of decomposition, making it difficult to determine the cause of death, DMCR officers noted.

The whale was estimated to have died some three to four weeks before its remains were found, officers added.

One plastic cup was found in the



Photo: DMCR

middle section of the small intestine, but did not cause intestinal obstruction, officers noted.

The condition of the remains have so far left experts unable to confirm the cause of death. They are continuing their examination, the DMCR reported.

People were asked to report any similar discoveries by calling the 24-hour hotline 1362.

The Phuket News

the Phuket news

Tackling Mt Everest base camp

The Phuket News
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In 2014, Phuket woman Mayura “Nan” Mansfield, took on a personal challenge and trekked to Mt Everest Base Camp. At the start of November, she will repeat the challenge, but this time she will be accompanied by her 7½-year-old son, Gus.

Gus is no newcomer to adventure, having launched his own YouTube channel, ‘Gusman - what to do in Phuket’, which features him flow boarding, rock climbing, skateboarding, surfing and more. Gus and Nan have been preparing by walking the many trails around Phuket and have adopted a strict training regime to get them as fit as possible for their upcoming challenge. They will be hiking around six to seven hours each day in Nepal, so their training is reflecting that as much as possible, says Nan.

They recently travelled to Krabi where they trained on the 1,260 steps of Tiger Temple, followed by the trek to Dragon’s Crest. They strongly recommend these walks to both Thais and tourists as the views are spectacular and



Gus is no stranger to excitement. Photo: Supplied

worth the effort.

Gus and Nan will be part of a small team, including local Phuket identities Michelle Hossack and Sherri Drolet. Michelle recently returned from competing in the World Masters Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland,

where she won a Gold and a Silver medal. Sherri, a super fit and a keen triathlete, has lived in Phuket for over 17 years.

Dealing with altitude will be their biggest hurdle, as they are constantly living and training at sea level in Phuket.



Young Gus is getting ready for his next big adventure. Photo: Supplied

However, their itinerary has been specifically designed to allow for two acclimatisation days, allowing their bodies to get accustomed to the lack of oxygen.

Mt Everest Base camp sits at 5,360m above sea level, below the towering summit

of Mt Everest, and is where teams camp and prepare before attempting their ascent to the summit. In 2014, a tragedy occurred when an ice fall above base camp killed 16 Sherpas. This was followed in 2015 by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake which devastated

regions of Nepal, killing 9,500 and leaving 3.5 million homeless. Nepal relies on tourism, and with the COVID outbreak preventing travel, the country is just beginning to get back on its feet.

Temperatures at this time of year drop to around -12°C at night and -3°C during the day. Gus, who recently returned from a trip to Australia where the temperatures were more than 40°C, says he is looking forward to seeing snow and throwing it at his dad.

Trek organiser Kevin Mansfield says the team will be well equipped to tackle the cold conditions, having trekked there previously and knowing what to expect.

Gus, a student at Kajonkiet Thalang School, has a lot of support from his teachers and fellow students. Asked how he feels about his big adventure, he said, “I will do my best, I think I can make it.” A remark similar to his mum’s back in 2014.

Gus invites everyone to follow him on his YouTube Channel, where he will post regular updates on his and the group’s progress, as they head to the base of the world’s highest mountain.



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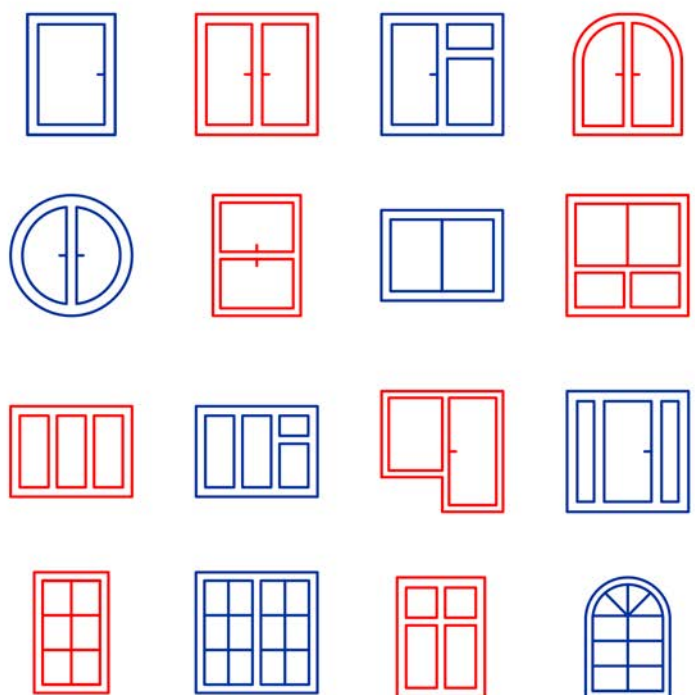
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Russians bolster arrivals

THE RETURN OF REGULAR direct flights to Phuket from Russia last weekend pushed the number of international arrivals at Phuket airport on the one day to a record 7,540 – the highest on any one day since the COVID-19 tourism shutdown in 2020.

Ikar Airlines LLC, affiliated with Pegas Touristik and also known as Pegas Fly or Nordwind, resumed direct flights from Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport last Sunday (Oct 30).

Flight EO3477 from Moscow Sheremetyevo landed at Phuket International Airport at about 1:30pm with 449 passengers on-board.

On disembarking, passengers were greeted by Pongsak Srimai, Staff Administrative Officer at Phuket airport, along with representatives from Airports of Thailand (AOT), which manages Phuket airport.

Russia's largest airline and flag carrier Aeroflot also resumed its daily direct nine-hour flight service from Moscow to Phuket with its first direct flight since March touching down at Phuket airport at 9:10pm last Sunday.

While the Ikar Airlines flights from Moscow will continue operating every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, the



Ikar airlines direct flight from Moscow landed in Phuket last Sunday (Oct 30). Photo: Phuket Info Center

number of daily arrivals is expected to climb even higher with the launch of the three new services from Russia's Far East.

Airport officials last Sunday announced that Siberia Airlines (S7) was to launch its round-trip flights from International Airport Irkutsk on Thursday this week (Nov 3), operating every Thursday through to March next year.

Also on Thursday Siberia Airlines was to launch its round-trip flights from Novosibirsk International Airport (Tolmachevo), operating every Monday, Thursday and Saturday. The new service will also continue through to March next year.

Siberia Airlines will also launch a new service from Vladivostok International Airport on Nov 7, operating every Monday, and also continuing through to March next year. *The Phuket News*

Thousands disembark as cruise liner returns

The Phuket News
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A delegation of high-ranking officials welcomed ashore passengers from the 'Spectrum of the Seas' cruise liner as they made landfall in Patong Bay last Saturday morning (Oct 29) for the second time in less than a week.

Adm Choengchai Chomchoengphaet, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, was directly appointed by prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to lead the delegation, which also included Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and Royal Caribbean International Vice President Asia-Pacific Angie Stephen, along with representatives of the Navy, the Marine Department, the Department of Fisheries, the Customs Department, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Marine Police and the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare.

Of the total 4,000 passengers on the liner, the largest American cruise ship in the Asia-Pacific region, 3,732 tourists disembarked to come ashore at Patong. It is estimated the tourists could spend in the region of B13 million while ashore.

"I am delighted to welcome you ashore to this world-class destination," Ms Stephen told the tourists as they made land.

"Phuket is considered one of the main destinations for tourists around



Photo: PR Phuket

the world, in particular in relation to cruise ship tourism.

"Phuket being included as a destination on the cruise ship itinerary shows that Thailand has fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and is ready to welcome tourists from near and far to its shores once again," she told the press.

The development of cruise ship ports as a part of the national infrastructure plan will only lead to further opportunity for tourists to experience the unique beauty of the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea region, Ms Stephen explained.

"Royal Caribbean International looks forward to contributing in enhancing the quality and capacity of cruise tourism in Thailand and Southeast Asia," she added.

Official estimates predict that around 10 million tourists will enter Thailand in 2022, helped by the government's decision to scrap the obligatory COVID-19 health

screening checks for incoming travellers.

Estimates state that Phuket will receive three cruise ships per week next year, a figure that is predicted to further grow in time. This will subsequently help increase the occupancy rate of hotels and businesses on the island as Thailand's marine tourism potential is explored to the fullest extent.

The 'Spectrum of the Seas' first arrived in Patong on Oct 24, becoming the first cruise ship to visit Phuket since the COVID-19 tourism shutdown in 2020.

"This is another good sign for tourism," Governor Narong said at the time. "The ship can accommodate up to 4,900 passengers, but this time around it is carrying around 4,500 people, which creates another way to stimulate the economy of Phuket."

"And after this, there will be more cruise ships continuously arriving," he added.

Malaysian tourists on the rise

MORE THAN A MILLION Malaysian tourists have made holidays in Thailand so far this year. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) now hopes to bank on the tourism high season and raise this figure to 1.8 million by year's end.

TAT deputy governor Tanes Petsuwan indicated Malaysia is a high-potential market due to tourists being able to enter Thailand by land as well as by air.

Mr Tanes said most Malaysian tourists drive into Thailand through various border points. Unlike in the past, Malaysian tourists no longer remain solely in Hat Yai City during their holiday in Thailand.

Instead, they now visit other provinces such as Krabi, Phatthalung, Phuket, Satun, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai. About 1.04mn tourists visited Thailand from January 1 to October 7.

These visitors are expected to have contributed about B26.575 billion of tourism income to Thailand, said the report.

Mr Tanes, who is in charge of International Mar-



Photo: NNT

keting in Asia and South Pacific, said the number of Malaysian tourists will increase as Thailand has entered the high season.

Additionally, the tourism high season coincides with the school break in Malaysia, as well as the Diwali, Christmas and New Year's festivals.

Mr Tanes said the TAT will continually hold tourism promotion activities

with an aim of attracting 1.8mn Malaysian tourists to Thailand this year.

The TAT deputy governor said cooperation between his agency and partners in Malaysia has contributed to the revival of the tourism industry. This is illustrated by the resumption of international flights between Malaysia and Thailand, of which there are now 23 per day. *NNT*

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Foreign land ownership bill causes backlash

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The government is listening to every concern about the proposal to allow foreigners to hold land ownership of up to one rai for residential purposes, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-
Ngam said on Monday (Oct 31).

He was responding to criticism triggered by the Cabinet's recent approval of the Interior Ministry's bill to alter the laws governing land ownership by foreigners, which is aimed at attracting foreign investment to fuel the economy.

Under the proposal, four specific groups of foreigners can apply to buy up to 1 rai of land on the condition they invest at least B40 million each for at least three years.

However, critics slammed the move, saying it would discriminate against locals. Some also accused the government of "selling off" the country to foreigners.

Wissanu said foreign ownership of property has always



A sign advertising land for sale in the Phahon Yothin area of Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post / File

been a controversial issue and the government is open to recommendations such as more restrictions involving the resale and purchase of adjacent plots to close any possible loopholes.

He said the bill is an upgrade of a ministerial regulation introduced in 2002 and is being reviewed by the Council of State, the government's legal arm.

"Whenever the issue comes up, it stirs a debate. When it was raised during the Chatchai administration, it failed. The regulation was successfully pushed during

the Thaksin administration, but there were few buyers," he said.

"So we want to reduce the number of conditions to attract investors. However, it is yet to take effect and is still being examined by the Council of State.

Asked if the government would back down if there was strong public resistance, Wissanu said the government would deliberate on the issue.

Pakorn Nilprapunt, secretary-general of the Office of the Council of State, used his Facebook to clarify some details and reject criticism it

would discriminate against locals.

He said limited ownership with some conditions attached including required investment is reasonable and it is unlikely to deprive Thais of land, which is more often caused by property hoarding by wealthy Thai landlords.

"We need to figure out how to introduce a law to better allocate land to narrow inequality. It is there in the charter, and it is something we should do," he said.

Pakorn said claims of "selling off" the country arise whenever an election approaches or a bill giving land purchasing rights to foreigners is raised.

Meanwhile, Mongkolkit Suksintharanon, leader of the Thai Civilized Party, asked the Office of Ombudsman to forward the bill to the Constitutional Court for a ruling. Political activists Jatuporn Prompan and Nitithorn Lamlua also lodged a petition demanding the bill be shelved, adding they would ask the National Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate.

Mountain B pub fire death toll rises to 26

CHON BURI

THE DEATH TOLL from the Mountain B pub fire has risen to 26 with the death of a 26-year-old navy officer at Siriraj Hospital after 83 days of treatment for critical burns.

Lt JG Setthasak Chandra of the Royal Thai Fleet succumbed to a blood infection on Oct 27 after suffering serious burns over 70% of his body during the nightclub inferno.

Setthasak had gone to the pub in Sattahip district of Chon Buri with friends. He fled the building when the fire broke out but still suffered critical burns.

He was rushed to Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital in Sattahip and the following day was transferred to Siriraj Hospital. During treatment, Setthasak developed a blood infection.

On Oct 15, Parichart Khwanyueng, 26, a female victim of the fire, died after 72 days of treatment at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok. She was the 25th death.



The Mountain B pub. Photo: Sawang Boriboon Foundation Pattaya

The fire started at the pub in the early hours of Aug 5, killing 13 people trapped inside as the blaze tore through the venue.

The pub was operating without a proper permit, had a blocked exit and had undergone extensive modifications including the use of highly-inflammable soundproofing materials.

The owner of the pub, Somyos Panprasong, has been charged with recklessness causing deaths and injuries, and opening and operating an entertainment venue illegally.

Families of victims have demanded legal action be taken against state officials for dereliction of duty.

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The Power of Collective Action

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Joanna Matlub

Living Waters Phuket Foundation (LWPF) is a charity which was set up to support the most vulnerable communities; and they certainly were put to the test with the recent and unprecedented levels of flooding in Phuket.

In times of devastating crisis, the champions of collective action show themselves to be an incredibly powerful network. This is ultimately the notion of individuals and companies coming together in groups to support a unified major effort in times of need in order to improve the communities that they live in.

LWPF wants to offer heartfelt thanks to all those who pulled together to help with the recent flood relief efforts across Phuket. Many individuals, organisations, island hotels and donors offered support via numerous channels including financial donations, supply packing efforts, emergency assistance and vital provisions deliveries or coordination.

Coordinated efforts saw essential initiatives such as hot fresh meals being cooked, medical kits prepared, life bags packed (contain-



Phuket's driving force of goodwill came together to provide much-needed help during the recent floods. Photo: Living Waters Phuket

ing staple dried or canned foods and household hygiene items), clothing, bedding and lifesaving water supplies being delivered to flood-impacted communities.

Flood relief efforts took place at central distribution centres and packing centres where companies and volunteers were able to donate, pick up and deliver crucial supplies to those in dire need; many were stranded after having lost everything to the rising water levels, others had been unable to leave their houses for days.

During these catastrophic times,

aiding people in desperate need of basic supplies and support is critical and therefore LWPF would like to thank each and every donor, individual, island hotel and organisation that kindly contributed to give essential assistance during the terrible impact of the sudden island flooding, offering some help to those communities most in need.

The concept of collective action to assist one another is not new, but it does provide hope that even in the face of adversity, Phuket can pull together and help make a difference.

Although the list is too long to mention everyone, the Foundation offers thanks to everyone who helped in any way during this time, including just some of the local island hotels and businesses listed below:

The Phuket Hotels Association

Amanpuri

Anantara Mai Khao Phuket Villas

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WINDOW ON PHUKET

The December/January 2023
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket.

Want to be in it?

✉ CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th

Italian Restaurant La Gritta Welcomes Giordano Roscini as New Chef

Giordano Roscini is running La Gritta

ADVERTORIAL

Anyone who witnessed the growth of Italian cuisine in Phuket during the 2010s would remember the iconic restaurant La Gritta and its authentic cuisine, traditional menus, personalised service and friendliness touched diners' hearts.

Giordano Roscini, 40, formerly in charge of Alberto's Pizzeria & Trattoria in Bangkok, is the new Chef de Cuisine of La Gritta at Amari Phuket. Roscini is a native of Amelia, Umbria – one of the most ancient towns in central Italy famed for its rolling green mountains, hearty food and robust beverages.

Roscini will introduce new menus and elevate La Gritta's traditional cuisine with modern culinary techniques honed from his years at the one Michelin star Casa Batavia in London. He's well-versed in picking the freshest and seasonal ingredients for special menus and sticks to his farm-to-table traditions gleaned from his formative years working in Umbria's farm hotels.

"I'm looking to bring high-quality ingredients to create menus from many regions. I will focus on unique and authentic recipes, such as introducing the region of Sicilia because the food there is a little different from all the other parts of Italy," Roscini said. "In Italy, the best cold cuts and cheeses are there – all with a variety. I will bring them from Italy to share with all my guests."

Roscini has been cooking since age ten. He found his passion for food when he started to cook for him-

self. At age 15, his culinary career took off after successfully running the culinary options for the Anita Hotel and the upmarket agriculturist restaurant at Agriturismo Piana Dele Selve Resort in Umbria.

"As an Italian, my favourite dish is fresh, home-made pasta," Roscini reminisces. "We have many kinds: dried, fresh or baked. We can make a full meal. Normally in Italy, lunchtime is a pasta meal. Our people like it because it's not too early but provide a fulfilling feeling and energy."

For the past 20 years, Roscini has been working in Thailand and moving to Phuket was happenstance – an unplanned move that had unexpected but pleasant ramifications for his lifelong culinary journey.

"I chose to move to Thailand because my older brother was already working in Thailand," Roscini said. "He was a Food and Beverage Manager, and I joined him to lead the culinary team in an upscale Italian restaurant he opened."

Roscini feels like he's a part of Phuket. The island's paradise setting, he said, inspires the food he cooks at La Gritta. "We have a fantastic restaurant with a beautiful view. The food must also be beautiful, authentic, and prepared. Guests can expect to feel like they're in Italy and forget they are in Phuket. I will recreate the perfect dining atmosphere and flavours following Italy's traditions."

La Gritta is one of Phuket's most romantic Italian restaurants, featuring authentic Italian cuisine inspired by homemade recipes from all regions of Italy – from the ancient town of Umbria to eclectic Sicily. Savour quality ingredients from local and Italian farms and ocean-to-table producers. This traditional



Giordano Roscini - Chef de cuisine of La Gritta.

restaurant serves Italian specialties, gourmet pizzas, pasta and delectable desserts. The iconic dining destination offers informal, personalised service to ensure a memorable experience amid sunset views over Patong Bay.

A true journey for the senses continues with the secluded La Gritta Bar, an upscale bar famed for picturesque views of Patong Bay, enticing guests with authentic, Italian inspired hand crafted beverages and a discerning Italian beverage list. Look forward to an evening of gorgeous sunsets while sipping drinks made from quality ingredients to capture Italy's essence.

Contact Details:

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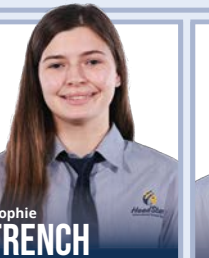
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Cambridge Learner Awards

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT



Mr Adam Drew
Headmaster at HeadStart
International School, Phuket

With over 10,000 Cambridge schools worldwide in 160 different countries, there are over 1.2 million examination entries for Cambridge IGCSE, AS and A Level qualifications on an annual basis. In Thailand alone, there are over 100 schools offering these qualifications and thousands of students completing them. This makes the following news quite exceptional indeed!

In October of each year, Cambridge announces those students who have scored the highest marks in their exams within Thailand, as well as in the world. HeadStart students have regularly received 'Top in Thailand' awards over the last nine years. However, this year our student's performance in their exams has been truly exceptional. 14 of our students have scored the highest marks in Thailand and for the first time, one of those students scored the highest marks in the world! The diversity of the subjects that have received such

high marks is incredible: Literature, Mathematics, the Sciences, Humanities, Computing, Language and the Creative Arts.

The success of these students is a result of sustained hard work, effort and dedication on their part, and outstanding teachers and supportive parents helping them to achieve success.

The students truly deserve the recognition that they will receive from the community and at the Cambridge Awards Ceremony in Bangkok. Each one should be rightfully proud of all they have achieved. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on this amazing accomplishment. Well done to all of you!

HeadStart International School, Phuket
<https://headstartphuket.com/>
Tel. 076612876

POP QUIZ

1. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?
2. What is the name of the fictional island Wonder Woman is from?
3. Who is Cristiano Ronaldo named after? (Hint: focus on his second name.)
4. Greta Thunberg has had a species of which animal named after her?
5. In Greek mythology, what is Nike the goddess of?

Answers below, centre

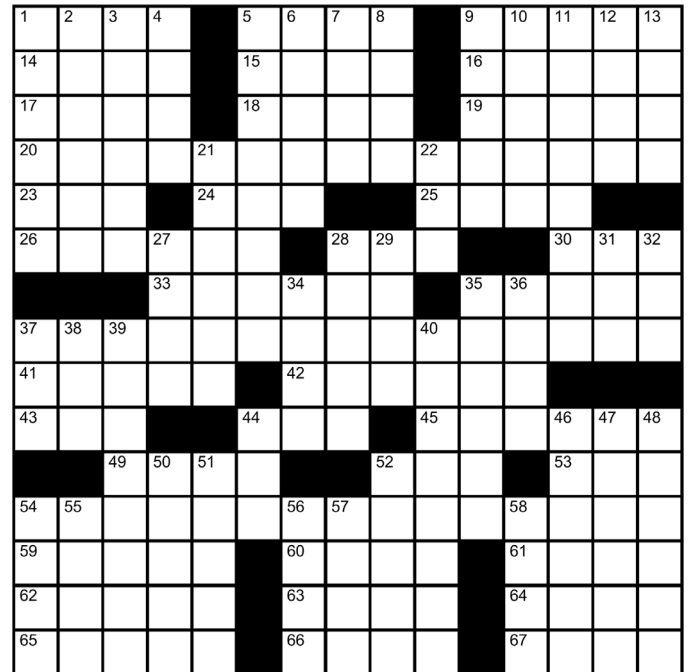
SUDOKU

Hard

5			6					
		3	7			4		
	9	2						3
	3		4				7	
		4		2		6		
	1				7		2	
4						5	3	
		8			9	1		
					1			8

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Culture media
 6. H.S. subject
 10. Buck
 13. Back, in a way
 14. Case
 15. Piece
 16. Try hard
 19. Evil spirit
 20. Regard
 21. New Look designer
 22. Of a river in Hades
 24. Denotes
 27. Finnish river
 28. Tenant
 32. "Tush!"
 33. Poet Swenson
 35. Phyla
 36. Alkaline liquid
 37. Even thinking
 42. Neruda poem, e.g.
 43. "The Alienist" author
 44. Turn
 45. ____ Huon (1906 Kentucky Derby winner)
 46. Punish with an arbitrary penalty
 48. Had taken the plunge
 52. Barn part
 54. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
- Down
1. Ancient official
 2. Pithy sayings
 3. Embraces
 4. 1980's White House nickname
 5. Jenny Lind, e.g.
 6. Saturn satellite
 7. Detail
 8. Blazer, e.g.
 9. Seven up, e.g.
 10. Like some tumors
 11. Fraternity letters
 12. Body shop fig.
 15. "O" in old radio lingo
 17. Village in southwestern Wales
18. Citrus cooler
23. Blood pigment
25. Those opposed
26. The Beatles' "____ Leaving Home"
29. First Super Bowl M.V.P.
30. Kind of story
31. Critical analysis
34. Spanish mayor
37. Casualty
38. Polish writing?
39. Mexican state
40. "Maid of Athens, ____ we part": Byron
41. Branch headquarters?
47. Cloud type
49. These may be lone
50. Surprise outcomes
51. Pastiche
53. Excises
55. Stewpots
57. Colony members
58. Big time?
60. Cygnet's father
61. Singer DiFranco
62. Nevertheless
63. Hurler's stat.



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

3	4	2	1	8	6	7	5	9
9	8	7	5	2	4	6	1	3
1	5	6	9	7	3	8	2	4
4	7	9	3	6	5	1	8	2
8	2	3	7	9	1	4	6	5
6	1	5	8	4	2	3	9	7
7	9	1	4	5	8	2	3	6
2	3	4	6	1	9	5	7	8
5	6	8	2	3	7	9	4	1

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

years is how long Tabasco sauce is aged in used whiskey barrels before it's bottled.

41

percent of the world's population is under 24.

1,500

to 2,000 is how many eggs a queen bee can lay per day.

960,105

US dollars were left behind in trays at airport security checkpoints in the US in 2018.

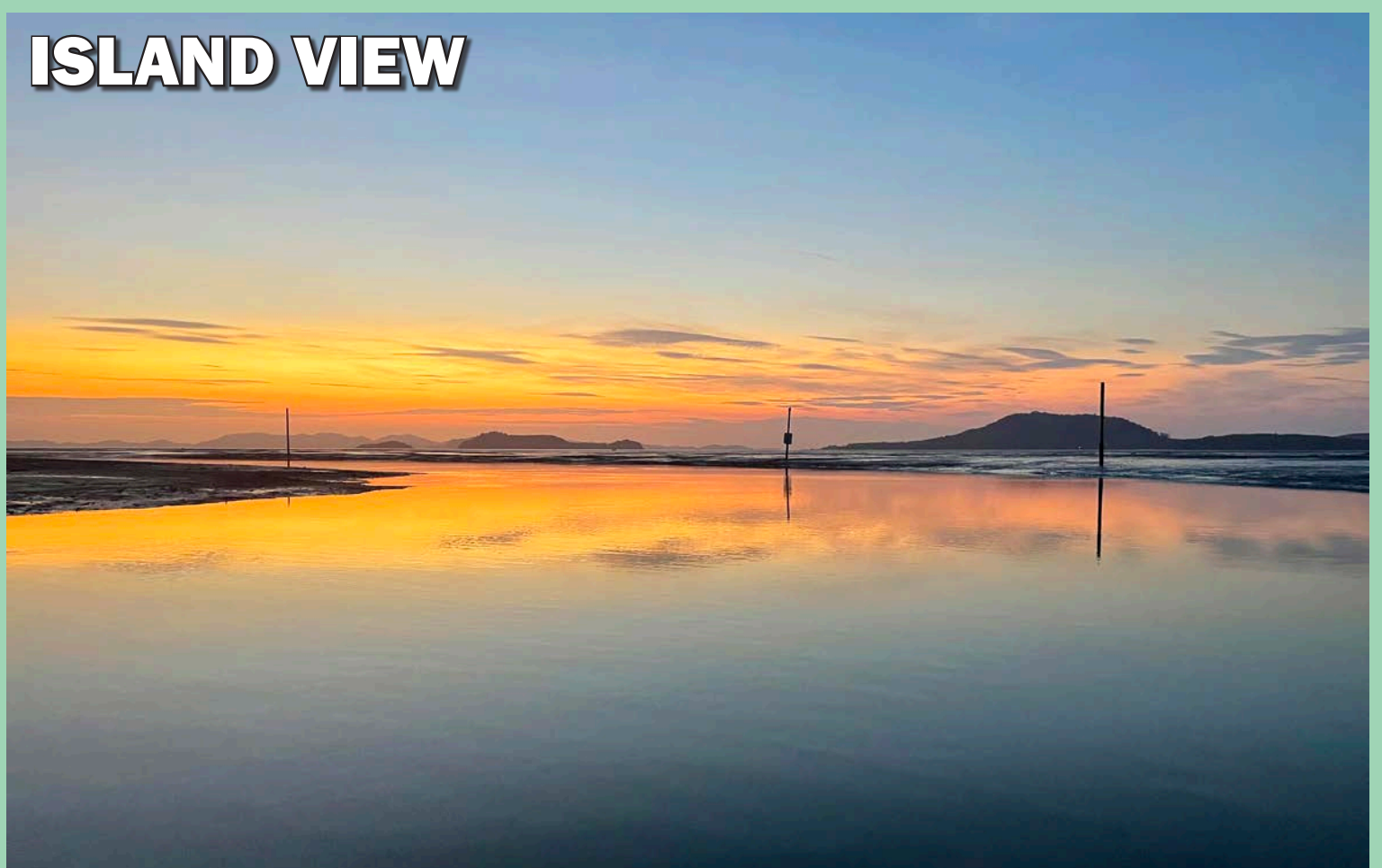
2

million

red blood cells are made by the body every second.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Entrance channel to Boat Lagoon at low tide. Photo by David Samuelson

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

November 4, 1922

In Egypt, British archaeologist Howard Carter and his men find the entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

November 5, 1605

Gunpowder Plot: Guy Fawkes is arrested for planning to blow up the UK House of Lords during the State Opening of Parliament.

November 6, 1944

Plutonium is first produced at

the Hanford Atomic Facility in Benton County, Washington. It is subsequently used in the Fat Man atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.

November 7, 1861

The first Melbourne Cup horse race is held in Melbourne, Australia. It continues to this day and is known as "the race that stops a nation".

November 8, 2016

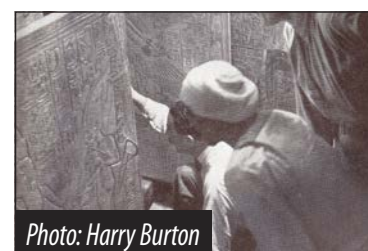


Photo: Harry Burton

Donald Trump is elected 45th president of the United States.

November 9, 1923

In Munich, Germany, po-

lice and government troops crush the Beer Hall Putsch in Bavaria. The failed coup is the work of the Nazis, led by Adolf Hitler.

November 10, 1871

Henry Morton Stanley locates missing explorer and missionary Dr David Livingstone in Ujiji, Tanzania, famously greeting him with the words, "Dr Livingstone, I presume?"

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI 4 NOV

SUN 6 NOV

FRI 18 NOV

**Friday Mussels Night**

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**SALA RESTAURANT**

SALA RESTAURANT Located beach and poolside, SALA Restaurant offers indoor, alfresco and rooftop dining with a lineup of fresh seafood, international dishes and authentic Thai favourites. Lounge on oversized daybeds, choose from an extensive beverage menu including a variety of delicious drinks, classic mixers and an international drinks selection. Mr. Anthony Van Sleuwen, 333 Moo. 3, Maikhao, Thalang, Phuket 83110, anthonyvans@gmail.com, nueng21011984@gmail.com, 076-338888, 076-338889

**Grow Boating Evening**

We look forward to seeing you at the next Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 4th of November. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Seam Upholstery, an independent Southeast Asia based upholsterer and soft furnishings expert with experience in the industry from residential and domestic, to industrial and commercial, marine vessels, hotels, resorts and restaurants. There will be a delicious buffet for all attendees sponsored by the Isola restaurant and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. A special thanks to our Media Partners The Phuket News, Live 89.5 Radio and Phuket News TV. growboatingphuket@gmail.com

**Sunday Roast**

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON 7 NOV

**Monday BBQ Night**

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED 9 NOV

**Wednesday BBQ Night**

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**AustCham Thailand Business Briefing**

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Business Briefing on "The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector", Friday 18 November 2022, from 17.00 - 18.00 hrs. The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector Will cannabis be a high or just a bad trip for Thailand's tourism sector? This talk will highlight topics to gain practical insight about operating a medical cannabis business focused on tourism in Thailand. Topics include: Marketing and pitch deck considerations for start-ups. Changes to the Cannabis and Hemp Act and how they will affect businesses in the sector. The future of medical cannabis in Asia. Speakers: Dr. Paul Crosio, a Partner at Silk Legal who was recently recognised as one of the Top 200 Global Cannabis Lawyers of 2022. Diego Sala, Managing Director of Siam Trade Development specialises in regulated activities surrounding cannabis products, dietary supplements, and medical devices. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

**Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham**

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Phuket Sundowners at SAii Laguna Phuket, on Friday 18 November 2022, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. Join us for a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community. As well as, getting to know and learn from our corporate sponsors Silk Legal, a boutique law firm based that specializes in commercial transaction, foreign direct investment, technology, blockchain and artificial intelligence. 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members 900 THB for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

WED 23 NOV

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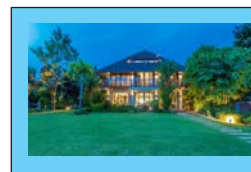
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- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Knowledge and understanding of HSE responsibilities. Willing to study for additional formal qualifications if necessary.
- Good commercial and financial awareness.
- Ability to prepare action plans and implement them.
- Demonstrate a good level of spoken English, written and interpersonal skills, including an ability to communicate, negotiate and consult with all levels of staff and to produce related reports.



Send your CV and Application directly to: Scott Duncanson
Email: scott.d@ifs-thailand.com





WINDOW

ON PHUKET

The December/January 2023
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MARRIOTT BONVOY'S CHARITY GOLF DAY RAISES OVER THB 2 MILLION FOR CHILDREN'S FOUNDATIONS IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

ADVERTORIAL

On Friday October 21st, 2022, Marriott Bonvoy brought business and golfing communities together for the Inaugural Southern Thailand Charity Golf Day at Blue Canyon Country Club in Phuket. The event was an overwhelming success, raising over two million Baht for Asia Center Foundation Phuket and Operation Smile Thailand – two organizations that support underprivileged children.

Led by Mr. Jakob Helgen, Area Vice President – Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar, the important event gathered more than two hundred golfers, business partners, sponsors, and Marriott Bonvoy Elite loyalty members along with media and celebrities including Shiv Kapur - one of India's top professional golfers, Khun Grace Mahadumrongkul - a popular Thai actress and TV host, and her husband Khun Jongjed Vacharanan.

Upon arrival, golfers were presented with a premium Marriott Bonvoy goodie bag, before tee off. This fun-filled day of golf was enhanced with delicious bites and light refreshments from Marriott Bonvoy on Wheels' food trucks, plus live entertainment and numerous novelty on-course competitions. The event concluded with a glittering awards



dinner and live charity auctions.

Mr. Brad Edman, Multi-Property Vice President Phuket, and General Manager at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa commended: "On behalf of Marriott Bonvoy, we would like to express our appreciation to our sponsors, golfers, business and community leaders in joining our Inaugural Southern Thailand Charity Golf Day. Together, we have helped provided a brighter future to the children at Asia Center Foundation Phuket and Operation Smile Thailand – a future they deserve.

Importantly, we would like to thank Blue Canyon Country Club for their amazing support and ensuring that this golf day will become a 'must attend' annual event, supported by business and golfing communities across Thailand and overseas."

Mr. Daryn Hudson, Co-Chair of Marriott's International Business Councils Thailand, and General Manager at Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort added: "Over the past weeks, communities across Phuket have suffered unprecedented flooding.

The Marriott International Southern Thailand Business Council was quick to react to the situation and the Marriott Bonvoy portfolio of hotels and resorts across Phuket, in partnership with 5 Star Marine and Living Waters Phuket donated over 10,000 meals to the communities in need."

In total, THB 200,000 was raised from live auctions at the Marriott Bonvoy Inaugural Southern Thailand Charity Golf Day, which will now be donated to Living Waters Phuket to support the flood-

affected communities.

Marriott Bonvoy – a travel program that helps people connect with others, connect with their passions and places they love – enables members to enjoy world-class benefits and get access to unforgettable experiences in amazing destinations around the world. Learn more at marriottbonvoy.com.

To browse the best accommodation deals from Marriott Bonvoy's portfolio of hotels & resorts in Phuket, please click marriott.com/en/destinations/phuket.mi

ONE Championship, Globo form alliance

MMA

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP has announced a broadcast partnership with Globo's Combate, making them the exclusive distributor of ONE martial arts events in Brazil.

The multi-year agreement, which was announced on Oct 24, is set to begin in January 2023 and calls for 12 events to be broadcast annually live in prime time.

Combate, Globo's leading provider of premium combat sports content and pay-per-views in Brazil, will deliver relevant coverage throughout Globo's free-to-air, digital, and pay TV channels.

Globo is the largest media company in Latin America, with a reach of more than 100 million viewers across free-to-air, digital, and pay TV.

ONE roster features martial artists from over 80 countries who represent the full spectrum of martial arts, including MMA, Muay Thai, kickboxing, submission grappling and mixed rules bouts.

"This multi-year agree-



Chatri Sityodtong. Photo: PR/Bangkok Post

ment will give our Brazilian fanbase the opportunity to connect with ONE like never before as we present a minimum of 12 primetime events each year," said ONE chairman and CEO Chatri Sityodtong.

"Brazil is one of the most passionate combat sports regions in the world, and with a best-in-class partner like Globo distributing our content, we will be able to

reach the widest audience possible in an extremely important market for ONE."

ONE features an extensive roster of Brazilian star athletes, including ONE bantamweight world champion John Lineker, ONE atomweight Muay Thai world champion Allycia Hellen Rodrigues, and former ONE flyweight world champion Adriano Moraes.

Bangkok Post

Verstappen claims record win at Mexico GP

FORMULA ONE

MAX VERSTAPPEN CLAIMED A RECORD-BREAKING 14th win of the season with a dominant victory over Lewis Hamilton at the Mexico City Grand Prix last Sunday (Oct 30).

Verstappen started from pole and was only ever at risk off the line, when George Russell in second and Hamilton in third slipstreamed him down to the first turn.

But the Mercedes drivers tangled with each other rather than the Dutchman. Hamilton eventually jumped Russell with a robust move through turn 3, but by the time the order shook out at the end of the lap, Verstappen had more than a second in hand, enough to prevent a DRS move in the first stint.

A cagey opening stanza ensued, with Verstappen stretching the gap to around two seconds but unable to build a bigger margin without overusing his delicate soft tyres.

Hamilton had no such trouble keeping the leader in check with his more robust mediums, but they proved ultimately to be his downfall by forcing him into a switch to the unfancied hard compound at his first pit stop.

Mercedes new the hardest tyre was unlikely to be competitive but thought Verstappen, who switched to the medium tyre, wouldn't be able to make it to the end without a second pit stop, handing Hamilton track position and a chance at victory in what would become a defensive race.

But the medium tyre proved more durable on Verstappen's car than imagined, and at half distance it was clear he could make it to the flag without needing a new set.

Mercedes's victory hopes evaporated on the spot, and Verstappen ran away to a



Verstappen celebrates on the podium after his win in Mexico City. Photo: AFP

15-second victory.

"An incredible result," Verstappen said. "The pace of the car was again every nice."

"We had to look after our tyres because it was a very long stint on the mediums, but we made it work."

His 14th win of the year broke the record for greatest number of victories in a single season, bettering the previous benchmark jointly held by Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher.

"It's been an incredible year so far," he acknowledged. "We are definitely enjoying it and we'll try to go for more."

Hamilton said that his team had chosen the wrong strategy but admitted that he didn't have the pace to beat Verstappen in a straight fight.

"I was so close I think in the first stint but the Red Bull I was clearly too fast today and ultimately they had the better tyre strategy," he said.

Sergio Perez completed the podium with a popular third place in front of a packed-house home crowd.

Michael Lamonato

Partey time as five-star Arsenal remain on top

FOOTBALL

AFP

Reiss Nelson was the unlikely hero as Arsenal retook top spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 thrashing of Nottingham Forest last Sunday (Oct 30).

Nelson was introduced for the first time in the Premier League this season after Bukayo Saka was forced off with a concerning injury for England boss Gareth Southgate just weeks ahead of the World Cup.

Nelson struck his first Premier League goal since July 2020 early in the second half to give Arsenal breathing space. He added a second just three minutes later and then teed up Thomas Partey who curled a spectacular shot into the top corner from 25 yards.

Partey was outstanding at the heart of everything Arsenal did, driving the team forward and setting the tempo of the game.

Victory lifts Mikel Arteta's men a point above Manchester City at the top of the table.



Arsenal's Thomas Partey (right) celebrates with teammate Granit Xhaka after scoring in the 5-0 win. Photo: AFP

City beat Leicester 1-0 on Saturday thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's stunning strike.

City were without the free-scoring Erling Haaland for the trip to the King Power due to a foot injury and were blunted up front without the Norwegian's firepower.

But one moment of magic from De Bruyne was enough as the Belgian's free-kick four minutes into the second half clipped the inside of the post

on its way past Danny Ward.

Liverpool's five-year unbeaten home league run in front of fans was ended by a 2-1 defeat to Leeds.

Leeds began the match second bottom of the table, but climbed to 15th with their first win in nine games courtesy of Crysencio Summerville's stunning 89th minute winner.

Jurgen Klopp's men increasingly look outsiders just for a return to the Champions

League next season as they slip to ninth, still eight points adrift of the top four.

Chelsea boss Graham Potter suffered a nightmare return to Brighton with a 1-4 defeat, ending his nine-game unbeaten run since taking over at Stamford Bridge.

"It's part of the process," Potter said afterwards. "You have to suffer and feel pain in order to grow and get better. We have to take the pain today and learn from it."

Elsewhere Tottenham came from two goals down at Bournemouth to win 3-2 and Manchester United beat West Ham 1-0 thanks to Marcus Rashford's 100th goal for his club in all competitions.

Newcastle's fine form continued with a 4-0 thrashing of Aston Villa and Crystal Palace moved into the top half with a 1-0 win over Southampton.

Wolves remain in the bottom three despite coming from behind to salvage a 1-1 draw at Brentford.

Fulham moved up to seventh place despite squandering a host of chances in a 0-0 draw against Everton.



Worawut. Photo: Bangkok Post

Worawut axed after drink-driving shame

FOOTBALL

CHONBURI FC PARTED ways with Worawut Sukuna last Thursday (Oct 27), sacking the Thai League 1 goalkeeper after criticism it had been too lenient in only suspending him after a fatal drink-driving accident 24 hours previous.

The team's announcement said it had reconsidered his punishment and decided to axe the 23-year-old, effective immediately.

The sacking came after Sasis Singthong resigned as team manager on Wednesday (Oct 26) to show responsibility for what occurred. "I would like to apologise on behalf of the player," Sasis said.

Sasis added he was with a group of players, including Worawut, on Tuesday night but

he returned home early.

Worawut was driving the car that hit a 62-year-old woman during her morning walk along the bike lane on a road in Muang district of Chon Buri about 4:30am. Her male companion was injured and taken to Chon Buri Hospital.

Police said Worawut had tested well above the blood alcohol limit for driving. He was charged with drunk driving and negligent driving causing death.

"Should the club take stronger action? This is a big issue including a death. But the action taken by the club was only dropping him from the squad," one fan posted on the team's Facebook account.

Worawut's bright future now looks bleak. He was reportedly on a B10 million contract signed two years ago.

Bangkok Post

Women's Rugby World Cup reaches semi-final stage

RUGBY

ENGLAND AND CANADA MADE EASY work of their quarter-finals at the Women's Rugby World Cup in Auckland last Sunday (Oct 30), ensuring the world's top four ranked teams will contest the semi-finals.

In wet conditions, England steamrolled Australia 41-5 before Canada were nearly as dominant in their quarter-final, seeing off the United States 32-11.

The two winners will square off at Eden Park tomorrow (Nov 5), while defending champions New Zealand will face France in the other semi-final after they eased past Wales and Italy respectively.

The final four have been a class above their rivals at the tournament and were barely threatened in the quarter-finals, where the average score across the four games was 42-6.

England retained the favourite's tag with a power-packed display against the Wallaroos, with all seven tries scored by forwards, including a hat-trick to flanker Marlie Packer.

However, no try sparked greater celebrations than the opener to captain Sarah Hunter, in a game where she became the most capped women's Test player.

The veteran No.8 was playing her 138th Test, surpassing the previous record held by former England prop and long-time team-mate Rochelle Clark.



England's Amy Cokayne dives to score a try against Australia. Photo: AFP

"It's been amazing, I've tried not to think about it too much – you don't know what's going to happen so I just wanted to get out on the pitch," Hunter said.

"It's a really special day and now I can sit back and enjoy it."

England will be challenged up front by world No.3 Canada, who scored two tries in each half, complemented by 12 points from the boot of captain Sophie de Goede.

De Goede said a team meeting on the eve of the match brought them together, as they reflected on the sacrifices made by many in what is effectively an amateur sport in Canada.

"We spoke a bit about what every person has gone through to get to this point," she said.

"For every player to come out here and perform the way we did, I'm just so proud of this group." AFP

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Sport



Gunners keep title chase on track > p15

CELEST IS BEST

Phuket fighter wins Fairtex Road to ONE Thailand tournament

A jubilant Celest in the ring at Lumpinee Stadium last Saturday (Oct 29) with her winner's belt. Photo: Fairtex Fight

MUAY THAI

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

She's only gone and done it! Phuket-based fighter Celest Muriel Hansen won her final fight in the Fairtex Road to ONE Thailand tournament last Saturday (Oct 29) at Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok.

The 28-year-old Australian, who trains at Phuket Singha Muaythai Gym in Chalong, defeated Thai fighter Lomanee in the women's 52.2kg atomweight class on a majority points decision.

In doing so she became the first winner of the finals stage of the tournament which

saw a total of eight female and male fighters compete across a range of different weight classifications.

The victory means Celest secures a six-fight contract worth US\$100,000 (B3.7 million) with Asia powerhouse sports property ONE Championship, who recently signed a broadcast partnership with Globo's Combate of Brazil to extend their reach to more than 100 million viewers across free-to-air, digital, and pay TV (see page 14).

After a hard-fought five-round bout against Lomanee, Celest waited in the centre of the ring with the referee and her opponent to hear the outcome. Clearly emotionally and physically exhausted,

the tension and anticipation was etched on her face as she awaited the announcement that could change her life for the better.

All three judges scored the fight 48-47 in Celest's favour and the fighter in the black corner was declared the champion.

Celest fell to her knees in floods of tears, overwhelmed by the announcement and a range of emotions, including the realisation that her dreams had come true.

"When I first watched the clip back of me falling to my knees in the ring, sobbing uncontrollably, I thought maybe I looked a bit silly," Celest commented after the fight.

"It's scary to be vulner-

able in public but I was just so overwhelmed, relieved and delighted that I could not help it; it was just how I felt at that very moment.

"I also think, on reflection, that it is ok to show that vulnerable side in the heat of the moment, when emotions run high and you are so overwhelmed by so many feelings. It's ok to cry with happiness, it's ok to cry with sadness, it's ok to show whatever emotion you have. After all, we are all human beings, not robots! In a way I hope my reaction in the ring can maybe inspire any vulnerable people out there to not be afraid to express your true emotions," she added.

The victory was the culmination of a long journey

for Celest, with three separate fights contested over three separate months. However, she was fully focused throughout, determined to capture the prize that will impact her and her future so significantly.

"All the hard work was worth it," she said after her victory. "There was so many times I wanted to give up, so many things happened to me where I could have thrown the towel in but I am not a quitter and wanted to win so much more!

"I am so blessed to have people in my life that support me and motivate me to want to achieve. From an early age my parents always supported me and my coaching team at Phuket Singha Muaythai

Gym are simply incredible – a huge thank you to Kru Pat, Nantaporn Opor Nutcharas and Kru Nart as I could not have done this without you.

"I also would like to thank all my teammates at the gym in Phuket who have trained and sparred with me and everyone that has supported me on this amazing journey.

"It's just incredible and still hasn't fully sunk in yet. I was the once the young girl who couldn't even do a star jump and now I will be fighting in ONE Championship.

"I hope I can show people that if you really want it and you set your mind to achieving it in the right manner then anything is possible and dreams can come true."

Atthaya captures top spot in women's world rankings

GOLF

THAI TEENAGE GOLF SENSATION Atthaya Thitikul was celebrating on Monday (Oct 31) after reaching the No.1 spot in the latest Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings.

The 19-year-old from Ratchaburi supplanted South Korea's Ko Jin-young and becomes the second Thai player to reach the No.1 ranking after compatriot Ariya Jutanugarn achieved the feat

in 2017, a position she held for a total of 23 weeks.

Ko had spent a total of 152 weeks at the top of the rankings and now drops to number two. Nelly Korda of the United States remains in third place.

Atthaya and Ariya are the only Thai golfers to reach the top of the rankings as no male player has ever achieved the feat.

In reaching the No.1 rank, Atthaya becomes only the second player to do so in her rookie year; South Korea's Park Sung-hyun did



Atthaya at the Honda LPGA Thailand in May 2021. Photo: AFP

likewise in November 2017.

Atthaya is also only the second player under the age of 20 to reach the summit after Lydia Ko did so

in February 2015 at the age of 17.

"It means a lot for my team, my family, my supporters and myself," Atthaya said after the latest rankings were released on Monday.

"It is such an honor to have my name at the top amongst the biggest names of the game. It is very special to get to the top but it is much harder to retain it. I still have a lot to learn from all the legends and current players both on and off the course. I will continue to work hard for my family, my team,

my fans and my country."

Stardom found Atthaya early. In 2017, at the age of 14, she became the youngest player, male or female, to win a professional golf tournament when she triumphed at the Ladies European Thailand Championship as an amateur.

She secured four more titles on the Ladies European Tour from 2017-21 and this year won the JTBC Classic in March and the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship in September on the LPGA tour.

The Phuket News