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TIPPING POINT



Chains lock the doors to a restaurant in Kata. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

BANKS RECALLING LOANS POSE LONG-TERM THREAT TO ISLAND'S TOURISM RECOVERY

Tanyaluk Sakoot
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Bhuritt Maswongssa, who serves as the Southern Thailand representative on Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT), has called for government intervention on banks now calling in business loan repayments, warning that lack of action will send many hotels and other tourism-related businesses into bankruptcy and cause damage that will take the tourism industry years to recover from.

"Today, nearly all hotels on the island have bank loans. There are only a few hotels that do not have loans

with the banks. This leaves many businesses on the island exposed to critical risk from not being able to make loan repayments during the current economic situation," said Mr Bhuritt, who also owns and operates the Patong Resort Hotel as the General Manager.

"Some hotels may still be able to re-negotiate their loans or restructure them if they still have assets that they can use as collateral, but many hotels have been closed for a long time without any form of revenue, so it makes no sense for banks to be foreclosing on unpaid loans and seizing a property that will not make any money," he added.

"We need the government to make a deal with the banks in order to help hotels and other tourism-related businesses on the island. If this does not happen, many hotels and tourism businesses are likely to go bankrupt," he warned.

"Worse, once these businesses close permanently, [beyond Phuket] hundreds and thousands of employees will be laid off, and that will aggravate the economy even further," he said.

Mr Bhuritt also called for serious representation be sent from Bangkok to assess the actual economic impact the COVID crisis is having on Phuket.

"In this situation, we need a proactive person to come to see Phuket as

fast as possible," he added.

Mr Bhuritt warned that lack of government intervention on bank loans could push enough tourism-related businesses into bankruptcy to cause a downward spiral for the industry that would take years to recover from.

His concerns echoed those of TCT President Chairat Trirattanajarasorn, who late last month warned that the industry as at a "tipping point", with 30% of tourism-related businesses believed to have already "exited the market" in the first half of this year, a trend that could spell heavy long-term damage to the industry as a whole.

Many related businesses were terminating their operations or selling...

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Bang Tao Beach fence developer dodges charges



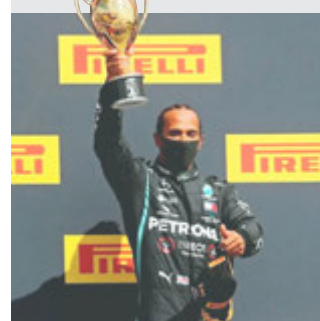
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BISP teacher debuts first children's book



SPORT PAGE 12

Puncture can't stop Hamilton Silverstone win



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News



Long weekend brings B95mn boost > p4

Teacher killed as storm fells tree

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A 29-year-old teacher was killed after strong winds brought down a tree onto staff accommodation at a school in Kathu last Sunday night (Aug 2) as strong storm weather lashed the island.

Police and rescue workers were called to Thairatwithaya School at about 8:25pm, reported Lt Col Somchai Nuboon of the Kathu Police.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew also present at the scene to oversee Kusoldharm rescue workers and Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) officers carry out the rescue and recovery operation.

A large tree had fallen onto one of six staff houses at the school. In the bedroom of the house rescue workers found the body of science teacher Thanachart Teanwattanakun, 29, crushed to death as the ceiling came down on him.

Siriporn Borna, a teacher staying in one of the other houses, told police that her husband heard a loud sound



Science teacher Thanachart Teanwattanakun, 29, was crushed to death as tree brought the roof and ceiling came down on him. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

of the tree collapse and ran out to see what had happened.

Her husband called out to Mr Thanachart, but heard no response, and so quickly called the DDPM emergency hotline 1669, Ms Siriporn said.

Ms Siriporn also told police that a branch from the same tree had fallen on the house next to the one where Mr Thanachart was staying once before, but no one was injured in that incident.

The heavy weather followed

a nationwide warning issued last Friday (July 31) in which the Thai Meteorological Department forecast strong thundershowers with waves along the Andaman coast reaching up to three metres.

True to the forecast, heavy downpours drenched the island and wind speeds at the airport reached over 64km/h on the Saturday and nearly 52km/h around Phuket Town on the Sunday.

By Monday morning, Phuket

Governor Narong Woonciew had ordered emergency services to be on standby to respond in case any further damage is caused by the onslaught of heavy weather, and disaster officials were been ordered to closely follow weather warnings issued by the TMD.

Emergency-response teams were dispatched to patrol risk areas, and ordered to have equipment ready to use at all times in order to help people in case of flash floods.

In line with the warnings repeatedly re-issued by the TMD, 12 in total from last Friday through Monday, the Phuket Marine Office ordered all small boats to stay ashore.

"As strong wind and waves are forecast (to reach) two to four meters high in the Andaman Sea, all ships should proceed with caution, and small boats keep ashore," the warning said.

All large boats, including large ferries, still heading out onto the bay, are ordered to ensure that life jackets are worn by all people on board while the boat is at sea.

"Boat operators must check their boats for safety, that the engine and

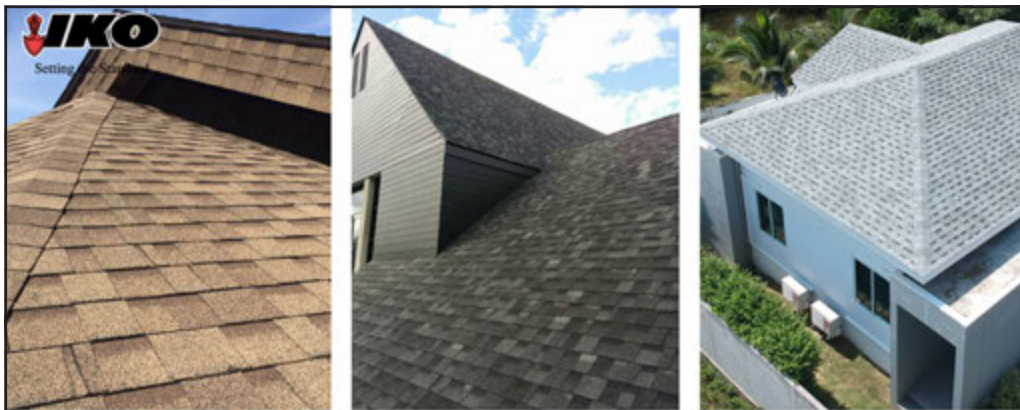
other equipment on board is in good working order and make sure that all life-saving equipment is ready to use at all times," Phuket Marine Office Director Wiwat Chitchertwong said in his warning first issued last Sunday and repeated on Monday.

"In addition, all passengers must wear life jackets at all times while on the boat, and boat operators are to stay tuned to weather updates from the TMD," he added.

The Phuket News was informed of two boats being pushed ashore at the northern end of Chalong Bay after breaking loose from their moorings, but no injuries or any other marine safety incidents were reported.

On land, teams from the Phuket branch of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEEA) all throughout last weekend and on Monday and Tuesday worked to restore power supply to areas across the island where power lines were affected by the storm conditions.

PEA Phuket Chief Boontham Jaroenpong urged any persons without power supply to inform the PEA by calling 076-216674.



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Tourism industry reaches critical point

Continued from page 1

...off assets, choosing not to wait for an uncertain recovery, with those most heavily affected being tour operators, bus services with small vehicle fleets, restaurants, souvenir shops and hotels that used to focus on foreign tour groups, especially the Chinese market, Mr Chairat explained.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) President Thanusak Phungdet agreed that the industry was now at a critical juncture, especially now with businesses under threat from bank loan repayments.

"The tipping point is all the businesses now facing problems making repayments to banks, because hotels and other businesses simply do not have the money to pay back the loans," he said.

"This will of course directly affect all the staff at these businesses who will become unemployed," he added.

Mr Thansuak also called for a top-level representative from Bangkok to come to Phuket to assess the true situation on the island, someone "who can help us in practical terms", he said.

"I don't care who it is, but it must be someone the Prime Minister listens to and trusts,"



Businesses along Patong's Bangla Rd remain shuttered. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

he said, without acknowledging that Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit was on the island for exactly that purpose less than two weeks ago.

"We also ask that the Bank of Thailand send someone to Phuket along with the CEO of each bank to hear firsthand the problems owners of hotels and other businesses are facing right now," he added.

"Third, we expect the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration [CCSA] to choose Phuket to be the first province to receive tourists from abroad, then the CCSA can use Phuket as the model for other provinces to use in receiving international tourists," Mr Thanusak said.

Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, has already called for Phuket airport to be allowed to receive direct

international flights, stating with chartered flights and private jets, saying the province already has three hotels accredited as "Alternative State Quarantine" (ASQ) venues.

At present, Phuket has three ASQ facilities. Another 16 hotels are awaiting approval.

Mr Bhumikitti said tourists in ASQ will help drive the industry and are likely to stay longer than the 14-day quarantine period, while tourists under travel bubbles may have a shorter length of stay, he told the *Bangkok Post*.

The province is preparing capacity for up to 20,000 tourists a day with 50 ICU beds equipped for coronavirus cases, he added.

The plan to open the province to chartered flights and become an ASQ destination was discussed with the Phuket provincial governor late last month. The idea of welcoming private jets from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore will be discussed later, he said.

"If Phuket cannot get international flights until the end of the year, then the province will have only B80 billion in tourism inflow, compared with B440bn last year," Mr Bhumikitti said.

Developer dodges fence charge

Public pressure thwarts attempt to steal state land at Bang Tao

The Phuket News
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No charges will be pressed against the owner of the 300-metre-long fence that was erected along Bang Tao Beach last week despite the fence being built on state land, MaAnn Samran, Chief of the Cherno Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) has confirmed.

The decision to not press charges was made in light of the fact that the owner had already had the fence removed, as ordered, Mr MaAnn explained last Friday (July 31).

However, MaAnn declined to identify exactly which person or company had ordered for the fence to be built.

Mr MaAnn said the decision followed a joint investigation by officers from the Damrongdharma Center (Ombudsman's office), the Phuket branch of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), Phuket Marine Office, Phuket office of the Department of Treasury, and officers from the Phuket office of the Department of Lands.

He also explained that the incident was brought to the fore by escalating comments and posts on social media over the four-day long King's



No charges would be pressed as the owner had already started removing the fence, Cherno Talay OrBorTor Chief MaAnn Samran said. Photo: Cherno Talay OrBorTor

Birthday weekend of July 25-28.

"This kind of case happened once two years ago. I ordered officers to tell the fence owner to remove the fence, and the owner followed the order," Mr MaAnn said.

"But later, local people also tried to take advantage of the land by setting up stalls and beach bed services on the land," he added.

Mr MaAnn explained that the area where the fence was built was confirmed to be state land registered

under land registration document PhorKor No. 263, which covers areas in Moo 2, 3 and 5 of Cherno Talay.

"The land [in question] is part of that state land and is under the care of the Treasury Department and the Marine Department," he said.

However, he noted, "The beach [area where the fence was built] is part of a state land parcel and is not 'public beach' like at Surin Beach or Layan Beach, even though it looks the same.

"Before this, the area was covered by plants and, as time passed, it became a beach," he added.

"In terms of law, the area is not a public beach, but local people have assumed that it is," he said.

"During the investigation, I asked the officers from the Treasury Department whether it was possible to change the status of the land to be the same as public beach areas [as at Surin Beach and Layan Beach], and they answered that the

land's status cannot be changed," Mr MaAnn noted.

"I further asked how about reducing the size of the state land parcel to cover only the area where plants grow and to allow the actual beach there to be deemed a public area, under the control of the OrBorTor and Thalang District Office. That would allow us to prosecute those who encroach on the beach," he added.

Asked whether the land where the fence was built was being rented out by the government to a private party, Mr MaAnn said "I don't know if that land is being rented out."

"For people to rent government land long term, that is for the Treasury Department to determine whether they can or not," he added.

Mr MaAnn said the workers at the site had two days to clear the remains of the fence that are still standing.

"For the equipment and sections of the fence that remain in the area, I will give their owner two days to clear it out," he said.

He also repeated his stance on the attempt to build the fence and claim state land.

"I, too, was also shocked that a fence had been built on the beach again," he said.

Russian man, Thai woman rescued from rip current

EVEN BEFORE THE heavy weather landed on Phuket last weekend, lifeguards at Nai Harn Beach had urged people to swim only where red-yellow flags have been posted, and where lifeguards are on patrol, after a Russian man and his female Thai friend were rescued from a dangerous rip current at the beach on July 29.

The couple were rescued at about 11am, Nai Harn chief lifeguard Chula Nontree told *The Phuket News*.

"I saw the couple swimming in the water. The woman seemed to be not good at



The Russian man recovers on the beach. Photo: Phuket Naiharn Surf Lifesaving Club

swimming and was caught by a rip current," he said.

"The man tried to help her, and then they were together dragged around 200 metres from the beach," he added.

Lifeguards brought the two back to shore by paddleboard, Mr Chula explained.

"The man looked exhaust-

ed, so we gave him first aid by providing him oxygen to assist his breathing. The woman was also very tired, but she seemed to be in better condition than the man," he said.

"They both seemed to have recovered well and we did not have them taken to hospital.

"Every day we set red-yellow flags to mark where it is safe to swim, and red flags marking where it is dangerous to enter the water," Mr Chula said.

"Please enter the water only in the areas between the yellow-red flags," he added.

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Long weekend brings B95mn boost

Tanyaluk Sakoot

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The King's Birthday four-day long weekend earlier this month saw some 16,000 tourists come to Phuket, bringing a much-welcomed B95 million boost to the island's economy, reported Napassorn Kakai, Director of the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

According to preliminary figures of bookings made through the We Travel Together campaign, hotels in Phuket taking part in the campaign saw some 30% occupancy over the weekend, July 25-28, Ms Napasorn told *The Phuket News*.

However, only 80 Phuket hotels at that time were registered with the campaign, offering 5,600 rooms, she added.

Some high-end resorts enjoyed much higher occupancy over the long weekend, Ms Napasorn noted.

"Especially luxury accommodations such as Sri Panwa, Intercon and Keemala, which saw occupancy rates of up to 90%," she said.

Of the 16,000 tourists to come to Phuket over the four days, about 98% were Thai with the remaining 2% being foreigners, she noted.

"On average they spent B5,500 per person per day, altogether generating B95 million in revenues for businesses on the island," Ms Napasorn said.

The weekend saw a busy airport, Ms Napasorn also noted.

"There are currently 27 flights a



Some 16,000 tourists visited Phuket for the long weekend, reported the TAT Phuket office. Photo: TAT Phuket

day operating at Phuket International Airport, and over the long weekend the airlines saw a load factor of 80%," she explained at the time.

Not all visitors landing at the airport spent their weekend in Phuket, Ms Napasorn admitted, pointing out that some visitors headed north to popular destinations in Phang Nga, such as Khao Lak.

Also, not all visitors arriving in Phuket came by plane, she added.

"Some drove their own cars, or even big bikes, from throughout Southern Thailand," she said.

The most popular destinations and attractions drawing the visitors

were popular tourist spots, beaches, scenic spots, the Phuket Old Town area, and local food and shops, Ms Napasorn added.

However, Ms Napasorn admitted that she had yet to be informed of the number of medical staff and volunteers currently booked to spend their holidays in Phuket under the government-subsidised 'Kamlang Jai' domestic tourism campaign offered as a thank you for all their work in preventing the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country.

"Right now I do not know the number of medical staff who will travel to Phuket. I will know later

when the tour agencies providing tours under the campaign report back to me every month. The campaign is from August through October," she said.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw on July 29 highlighted that the arrival of the medical staff and volunteers on the island was a key opportunity to promote to potential Thai and foreign tourists that Phuket is a safe place to visit for a holiday.

He urged all hotels and other tourism-related businesses to provide their guests the best holiday experience they can, and not to take advantage of the tourists by inflating prices.

Beachfront footpath collapses

RAWAI MUNICIPALITY workers have sealed off a section of the sidewalk along the Rawai beachfront beside where restaurants have set up their own tables and chairs after three people were injured when a gaping hole opened where a section of the sidewalk collapsed.

The three people were injured when the concrete beneath them collapsed last Sunday morning (Aug 2).

The three were taken to hospital by ambulance, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos confirmed on Monday, without giving any details of the ages or nationalities of the people injured.

"The three people were not seriously injured," he said.

One witness at the scene told *The Phuket News* that he ran to help after he saw one man had fallen into the hole with a restaurant table



Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos inspects the hole in the Rawai beachfront footpath. Photo: Rawai Municipality

landing on top of him.

"We have officers inspecting what to do with the hole now," Mayor Aroon told *The Phuket News* on Monday.

Officials from Rawai Municipality's Public Works division have yet to determine how to fix the hole to ensure that people are not in danger from further similar incidents.

"The constant movement of the sea washed away the soil underneath the seafront

wall," Mayor Aroon explained.

"This left the seawall intact, but the soil behind the wall was washed away, leading to the concrete behind the wall collapsing," he added.

Officers will inspect all along the seafront wall to ensure the sidewalk is safe, he said.

However, the tables and chairs along the beachfront sidewalk will remain, Mayor Aroon confirmed.

"The section along the sidewalk where the tables and chairs are placed are actually on private land. Only the strip beside the beachfront wall is a public area," he explained.

"When you walk along the footpath, you can see that the concrete where the restaurants' tables and chairs have been placed is different from the public walkway section," he added. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Climate change on the cards

Rising sea temperatures may be affecting turtles' nesting season

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Experts at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) have started a research project to investigate whether rising sea temperatures are a major factor in the recent spate of turtle nests laid out of their usual egg-laying season.

The project was launched after a large leatherback turtle came ashore a beach and laid a nest of 103 eggs in the Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park at night on July 28 – the fourth such turtle nest laid in the area in the past month.

Of the 103 eggs laid, 87 of them were capable of producing offspring while the other 16 were infertile, Mr Haritchai said. The eggs are expected to hatch in 55-60 days, he added.

The eggs were moved to a safer location beach inside the national park, where they will be sheltered by protective barriers and watched over by park officers, Mr Haritchai explained.

“Big waves were reaching



A large leatherback came ashore Thai Mueang Beach and laid a nest of 103 eggs on July 28. Photo: Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park

high up the beach where the nest was laid so we had to move quickly to make sure the eggs were not affected. We did not want to lose any of them,” he said.

“If anyone sees a turtle laying eggs on a beach, please call us at 076-679134 so we can quickly go to protect the eggs and take care of them,” Mr Haritchai added.

Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) Chief Kongkiat Kittiwatanawong pointed

out that the nest laid was the fourth such nest laid by turtles in their “off-season”.

“Turtles usually lay eggs from November through March, but it is July now and turtles are still laying eggs,” he said.

“It is hard to tell, but right now we believe that rising sea water temperatures may have affected the turtles, tricking their biological clock into thinking that it is still the right time of year to be laying eggs.

Sea water temperatures are higher this year,” he added.

A team of researchers have been tasked with looking into any correlation between the two, he noted.

“I want to look at the number of turtle eggs laid and the correlating sea water temperatures along the Andaman coast areas of Phang Nga and Phuket for last year and compare that data with this year. That will give us a better understanding of what is



happening,” Dr Kongkiat said.

Dr Kongkiat offered alternative explanations for the spate of “off-season” turtle nests.

“It is possible that the mother has not laid eggs before. An experienced turtle would not lay eggs where the waves flood up to the nest. They also prefer to lay eggs where there is less activity on the beach and fewer fishing boats in the area,” he said.

Officers at the Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park found another nest of leatherback turtle eggs on Sunday, July 26 about two kilometers south of Khao Nayak, near Khao Lak, where yet another nest was found on July 7.

As the nest found on July

26 was deemed not under threat by the strong southwest monsoon surf, the officers covered the nest back up and built a protective enclosure around it to protect it from predators.

The leatherback turtle nest found on the beach in front of Khao Nayak, the “resident reef” at Khao Lak, on July 7, contained nearly 100 fertilised eggs that are expected to produce younglings.

Just one week before that nest was found, a nest of leatherback turtle eggs was found on Thai Mueang Beach that was believed to have been laid by the same turtle that came ashore at Mai Khao Beach just days earlier.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

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Phuket more liveable than before COVID-19

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For most people, the COVID-19 global pandemic has been spirit-crushing. Its crippling effects on our day-to-day lives coupled with fears over the potential worsening of public health, largely due to the lack of a promising vaccine, are enough to make anyone feel skeptical about the future. However, the CEO of Blue Horizon Developments Andres Pira is among the few people who see the silver lining in all this.

"I'm someone who sees the glass half-full, not half-empty," says the 38-year old real estate tycoon who is well-known for his inspiring homeless-to-billionaire life story. "From where I'm standing, Phuket seems to have become a more liveable place now than before COVID-19."

While his statement probably garners divided responses, Pira might be onto something. Since Phuket went under lockdown, the lack of tourism and reduced human activity significantly minimised the emission of harmful pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides, into Phuket's atmosphere. This allowed flora and fauna to thrive and the other species on the island to take a breath of fresh air. In fact, it has been reported that the endangered and rarely-seen leatherback sea turtles have not only emerged but have been laying eggs on Phuket's beaches at an all-time high



The team at Blue Horizon Developments (BlueHorizon-Thailand.com) takes part in many projects in Phuket that are for the benefit of the whole community.

rate. If anything, Phuket has been getting a much-needed break to recover from environmental effects that have been accumulating for many years.

Aside from a greener environment, which makes the idea of residing in Phuket all the more enticing, the island's current property market prices are also ideal for investment. Due to COVID-19, the Thai property market experienced a slight hit, largely due to a drop in Chinese investors who were either unable to travel to Phuket or had reduced purchasing power as a result of the pandemic, causing property prices to fall. However, Pira expects the market to pick up at the end of this year or

early next year. "If you want to invest in a slice of paradise at a fraction of the price or buy low and sell high to make a good profit, this is the perfect time!" he says.

While Phuket may be greener than it was, Pira stresses that there are still countless people on the island living under the poverty line that have been further affected by COVID-19. "The 32-year old Khun Ball from Rawai is among the many that could really use our help," says Pira. Six years ago, Khun Ball climbed a tree to pick fruits when he fell, became severely injured, and lost the ability to walk. Although there is a chance that Khun Ball can

walk again with physical therapy, it remains an unaffordable dream as the pandemic shrunk his family's income to a fifth.

"It's heartwarming to know that there have been efforts to help Khun Ball's family rent a small shophouse in which they can continue their family donut business and make a better living," says Pira. "As a responsible member of the community, we ought to help more people in need like Khun Ball and ease their burdens. We, at Blue Horizon Developments, have been playing our part. We hope that with all of our combined efforts, we can make a real difference for everybody!"



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BISP teacher Neil Griffith with his first children's book, 'The Angry Banana'.

An angry banana like no other!

British
International School, Phuket

EDUCATIONAL CORNER

One of our talented BISP teachers, Neil Griffith has just published his first children's book. Neil, who has worked as an Early Years teacher for six years wrote and illustrated his story, "The Angry Banana" during the recent lockdown.

The book follows the exploits of a banana who gets increasingly annoyed as other fruit are chosen before him in the fruit bowl. There is a nice mixture of children's rhymes, counting fun, and even a song from the Fine Young Pineapples.

The book also has a cheeky ending guaranteed to have children in stitches! Whilst collecting quotes from toddlers was a challenge, we managed to speak to Olivia, aged 2, about her opinion. Her verdict? "That's so funny!"

We sat down with Neil and asked him a few questions about the Angry Banana.

What made you decide to write a children's book?

The recent period of lockdown and time spent at home gave me the chance to be creative and learn something new. This

is my first picture book and I learned a lot about keeping the story short and sweet, as well as making sure there are enough cheeky jokes in there to capture children's attention!

As an Early Years teacher and parent, I am always looking for fun ways to talk to children about social skills, as well as managing feelings and behaviour. What started as a silly story told to my own children ended up becoming a book that I wrote and illustrated myself.

Where did the idea about an angry banana come from?

It was as random as it sounds! I knew that I wanted to write a story about a character who needs help regulating strong emotions. So, it was always going to be an Angry something or another. I went through a number of possibilities but settled on The Angry Banana because it had a nice sound to it. Almost as soon as I had a name, I sketched him out and he came to life.

Could you describe The Angry Banana?

The Angry Banana is a simple counting book for children aged 2 to 6 years old, with a story that teaches us to be patient and calm. Counting to 10 is not only a useful mathematical skill, it is also a great way to keep a cool head when we are feeling grumpy!

My illustrations were carefully designed to prompt questions from parents and teachers that will help

children to develop their foundational understanding of numbers, or 'number sense'. I have included a page with teaching tips at the back of the book to help with this.

How has the book been received?

My first batch of books sold out really quickly, and it has been amazing to receive so many positive responses from children, parents and teachers alike. To hear that children have been asking for the book to be read over and over is

probably the best news I could have received. As long as they are enjoying it, I feel as though it has been a success!

What are your plans for the future – is this going to be the first in a series?

I am already receiving orders from people in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and The UK, so he will be an International Angry Banana very soon! I am excited about promoting this book a little more, and seeing how far I can make him travel.



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POP QUIZ

1. Which country did Vietnam gain independence from in 1954?
2. The song 'Tumbling Dice' is from which Rolling Stones album?
3. Telugu is a language native to which country?
4. At what temperature is Centigrade equal to Fahrenheit?
5. How many sons does Vladimir Putin have?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

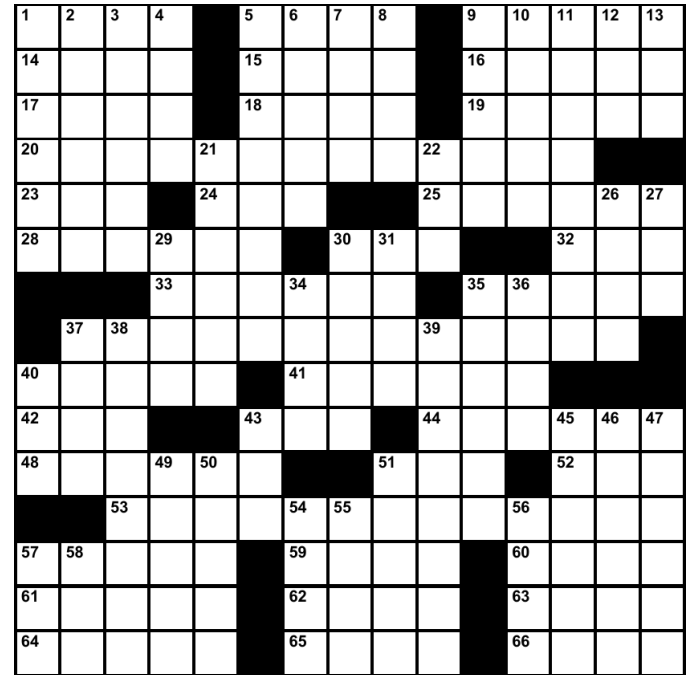
1		3						5
	2			7	1	8		
	9		6	4				
	5	9			8			
			4			9	1	
				3	7		5	
		7	9	2			4	
6						7		1

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Santa's present carrier
 5. Physics calculation
 9. Goes with Saxon
 14. S-shaped molding
 15. Chip in?
 16. Fabric
 17. Part
 18. Back of the house
 19. Rumba relative
 20. Start of a house?
 23. In-flight info, for short
 24. Consume
 25. Jane Eyre, e.g.
 28. It's always sold in mint condition
 30. Appear
 32. "We ___ family"
 33. Gas used in welding
 35. Wolf, coyote, fox, dog family
 37. House plan related
 40. Maids
 41. Actress Bloom
 42. Alter, in a way
 43. Not just "a"
 44. "Indian Idol," for example
 48. Italian town
 51. Absorbed, as a cost
 52. Can you dig it?
- Down**
1. Cold dessert
 2. Short-eared rabbit
 3. Abdominal
 4. Fall (over)
 5. "Besame mucho" singer
 6. Concerning
 7. For men only
 8. Balkan native
 9. Knight's "suit"
 10. Civil rights org.
 11. Equestrians' field day
 12. Court play
 13. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
 21. "Six Feet Under" subjects?
 22. What a house stands on
 26. Fleshy seed
- Across**
53. House to love
 57. "Home ___"
 59. Young salmon
 60. Bachchan, for one (var.)
 61. Danger
 62. HOMES part
 63. Whine
 64. Add color to
 65. Red or whitetail?
 66. Potato, slangily
- Down**
27. "Waking ___ Devine" (1998 film)
 29. Microsoft support rep
 30. Nee AI (anagram)
 31. Gut areas
 34. Carve in stone
 35. Horse move
 36. God of war
 37. "The ___ have it"
 38. Butting equipment
 39. Snigger maker
 40. "Bingo!"
 43. Backgammon impossibility
 45. Attach a hose
 46. An alloy
 47. Supposed, for Shakespeare
 49. Building style
 50. Refine, as metal
 51. Eagle home
 54. Didn't dillydally
 55. Ending with hard or soft
 56. Shakira's don't lie
 57. Appropriate
 58. Orchid arrangement

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1. France; 2. Exile on Main St.; 3. India; 4) -40 degrees; 5) None (He has two daughters)



Solutions to last week's puzzles:

LIMO REBBE REED
ASAP ORION ERGO
ONCE IN A BLUE MOON
STERN SURPASS
ADDS SEES
LOP IRES DETEST
ABA GENOA EMIR
YELLOW SUBMARINE
ELSE ETHOS LEA
RIYADH HONK EST
FOAM ROAR
GALILEO NOOSE
GREENER PASTURES
SOOT SCUBA TARP
AWNS TYSON SLAY

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 30 million lobsters is yellow.

28

kilometres per hour is the estimated top speed of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, not even faster than a professional soccer player today.

80

per cent of studied cultures eat insects.

40,000

Americans are injured by toilets every year.

55

million

years ago, the North Pole had tropical weather, with alligators and palm trees.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Thalang Rd at 3am. Photo: Kiattikul Chumanee

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

This week in history

Aug 7, 1858

The first Australian rules football match is played between Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College. After three days, the match was declared a 1-1 draw.

Aug 8, 870 AD

Treaty of Meerssen: King Louis the German and his half-brother Charles the Bald partition the Middle Frankish Kingdom into two larger east and west divisions.

Aug 9, 1965

Singapore is expelled from Malaysia and becomes the only country to date to gain independence unwillingly.

Aug 10, 1948

Candid Camera makes its television debut after being on radio for a year as Candid Microphone.

Aug 11, 1984

"We begin bombing in five



US President Ronald Reagan, 1984.

minutes": US President Ronald Reagan, while running for re-election, jokes while preparing to make his weekly Saturday

address on National Public Radio.

Aug 12, 1765

Treaty of Allahabad is signed. The Treaty marks the political and constitutional involvement and the beginning of Company rule in India.

Aug 13, 1905

Norwegians vote to end the union with Sweden.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI 7 AUG

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SAT 8 AUG


All you can eat BBQ night

6pm – 11pm: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns and Squid, Salad buffet, Choice of potatoes and sauces, bread, buns and garlic bread. Reservation recommended. B395 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

SUN 9 AUG

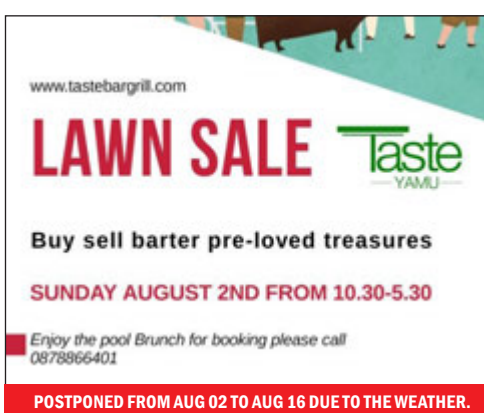

All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

Beef, Pork and Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, fried mushrooms, grilled tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes–gravy, mushroom sauce, mint sauce. Reservations recommended. B350 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

MON 10 AUG


All you can eat BBQ Ribs night

6pm – 11pm: All you can eat BBQ Ribs served with salad buffet, potato salad & choice of sauces. Reservation recommended. 295 baht P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com, 081 891 4381.

SUN 16 AUG


Lawn Sale

*From 10:30am till 5:30pm Taste Yamu restaurant will be hosting a lawn sale in support of two local charities. We are offering free tables for people to set up any items to sell except food and drink. All welcome, more info and bookings call 087 886 6401.

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The Grow Boating Networking Evening for August 2020 will be held at the Port of Call restaurant at the Ao Po Grand Marina on Friday the 7th of August from 5pm. Please contact us if you would like to be our drinks sponsor for the evening. Sponsors receive a generous media package from *The Phuket News* and can display their products and services on the evening and give a 10-minute presentation on their company. There will be a light buffet sponsored by the d'deck Bar and special prices on your favourite beverages. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along.



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Bam double downs Chelsea

Skipper Aubameyang leads Arsenal to record FA Cup win

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang wrote his name into Arsenal folklore as his two goals were enough to defeat London rivals Chelsea 2-1 and win the FA Cup last Saturday (Aug 1).

Aubameyang underlined his importance to the club by winning and scoring a first-half penalty to level the game after an early Christian Pulisic goal had given Chelsea a deserved lead.

The Gunners skipper, the first African to captain an FA Cup final side, then scored an exquisite goal in the second half that was enough to ensure the North London club secured a record 14th final win.

It was also a two-goal masterclass from Aubameyang in the semi-final that enabled Arsenal to overcome favourites Manchester City and advance.

However, despite his heroics, there remain questions as to his immediate future; facing another season without Champions League football and with just one year left on his contract at the Emirates, the Gabon international has been linked



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang lifts the FA Cup after scoring twice against Chelsea. Photo: AFP

with a move away this summer.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta is hopeful his star striker will stay and has emphasised how critical he is to the future aspirations of the club.

"He knows what I think about him, I want to build a squad around him," the Gunners boss said post-match.

"I think he wants to stay, it is

about getting the deal done. I think moments like that will help to realise and give him belief that we are in the right path and he is a big part of it."

The game itself was somewhat marred by controversy as referee Anthony Taylor sent off Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic for a debatable second yellow card and was criticised for not being harsher on Blues' captain

César Azpilicueta when he hauled down Aubameyang in the incident that led to the penalty.

A miserable day was compounded for Chelsea as Azpilicueta and talisman Pulisic succumbed to hamstring injuries and were forced from the field, joined shortly afterwards by Pedro Rodriguez whose Chelsea career ended with a dislocated shoulder.

All three will be sorely missed as the Blues try to turnaround a 0-3 deficit in their Champions League last 16, second leg tie against Bayern Munich tomorrow (Aug 8).

Victory secured Arsenal's place in the Europa League next season after they risked missing out on European football for the first time in 25 years after finishing eighth in the Premier League.

The knock-on effect is that their bitter North London rivals Tottenham now have to enter the qualifying rounds of the same competition, threatening a potential fixture pile-up in what will already be a packed season and no doubt provide ammunition for Spurs boss Jose Mourinho to complain.

The fall guys are Wolves who are now not eligible for next season's Europa League. They are, however, still contesting this season's competition and, should they win it, will qualify for the Champions League next season.

It may have been a day of disappointment for Chelsea but they had already achieved their primary goal from Frank Lampard's first season in charge by securing a place in next season's Champions League via a top-four finish in the league.

COVID claims Suzuki Cup

FOOTBALL

THE ASEAN FOOTBALL Federation has announced that the 2020 AFF Suzuki Cup will not be held this year because of COVID-19, ending the suspense shrouding the future of the regional championship scheduled for November-December.

The announcement last Thursday (July 30) followed a videoconference meeting of representatives of the regional football federations, which was attended by Foot-



Vietnam, the reigning Cup champions. Photo: AFP

ball Association of Thailand (FAT) Secretary-General Patit Supaphong.

Patit said the AFF member federations were in favour of putting off the tournament. Later, AFF president Khiev Sameth issued a statement,

confirming the postponement of the popular event to 2021.

"Since the onset of COVID-19, the AFF has been closely monitoring guidance from the World Health Organisation, health ministries, government agencies, Fifa and AFC," said Khiev.

"With the risk of the spread of COVID-19 remaining high, the AFF finds itself in a situation where we cannot proceed safely with the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020," he added.

It was not specified which time of the year the competition is planned to be held. AFP

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Sport



Bam the man in Gunners FA Cup win > p11

THREE-WHEELED WIN



Lewis Hamilton nursed home his Mercedes with a punctured left-front tire on the final lap of his victory in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone last Sunday (Aug 2). Photo: AFP.

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Lewis Hamilton took a record-breaking seventh home-race victory at the British Grand Prix last Sunday (Aug 2) on just three wheels after a last-lap tyre failure robbed him of a cruise to the chequered flag.

Hamilton's front-left tyre let go with half a lap remaining and a 40-second advantage over second-placed Max Verstappen, who had just put on a set of the fastest rubber.

The gap closed at a ferocious rate, but Hamilton coaxed his stricken car to the

line with five seconds of his margin remaining to record perhaps the most tense home win of his career.

"Up until that last lap everything was relatively smooth sailing," he said. "The last few laps I started to back off, then down the straight it de-plated."

"I was just praying to try to get it around, to not be too slow. I nearly didn't get it around the last two corners, but I did."

"That was definitely a heart-in-the mouth kind of feeling. Just driving it, trying to keep the speed up."

For Verstappen the outcome was bittersweet. He had been running a lonely third behind Hamilton and

Valtteri Bottas when on lap 52 the second-placed Mercedes suffered what turned out to be a foreboding front-left tyre blowout.

The Dutchman zoomed past the stricken Bottas to inherit second, but with the Finn no threat behind and Hamilton too far ahead to attack, he dived into the pits for a set of soft tyres to score a bonus point for fastest lap.

The team wasn't to know Hamilton would suddenly become vulnerable had Verstappen only been close enough to take advantage.

"It's lucky and unlucky," he said. "I'm very happy with second, it's a good result for us again."

Bottas couldn't hold onto the final podium place, his tyre failure coming early on lap 50 and consequently forcing him to limp back to the pits, losing bucketloads of time.

He emerged from his emergency pit stop in 12th, which became a desperate 11th after McLaren's Carlos Sainz also succumbed to a tyre blowout on the final lap, falling from fifth to 13th.

Instead it was Charles Leclerc who inherited a rostrum finish for Ferrari. The Monegasque was off the pace of the top two teams all race but managed to keep himself out of the fray of the midfield to capitalise on the chaos that unfolded ahead.

Tyre trouble

The spate of explosive rubber came about thanks to an ambitious strategy brought about by a lap-12 safety car triggered by a violent crash at the ferocious Maggots and Becketts complex by Alpha-Tauri's Daniil Kvyat, who emerged from the wreckage shaken but unscathed.

With 40 laps remaining in the race, the caution period was right on the cusp of the maximum tyre life of the hard tyre, but the prospect of a one-stop strategy was tempting enough for almost the entire field to adopt it.

Renault wasn't so afflicted by tyre trouble, allowing Daniel Ricciardo to chase

home Leclerc, the Australian falling short of a podium by just 1.1 seconds.

It equalled Ricciardo's best Renault result, having earned it with a late-race pass on Lando Norris, who finished fifth ahead of Esteban Ocon, completing Renault's first double points finish of the year.

Pierre Gasly finished seventh for AlphaTauri, holding off Red Bull Racing's Alex Albon on a difficult weekend for the Thai driver.

Lance Stroll sunk to ninth after starting sixth for Racing Point, the Canadian fading the longer the race went on and Sebastian Vettel finished in 10th place.

Thai league hopes for spectator return

FOOTBALL

TOURISM AND SPORTS MINISTER Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said on Monday (Aug 3) he will ask the government to allow Thai league matches to have spectators when the season resumes next month.

The campaign was suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will restart on Sept 12 and end in May next year.

Phiphat took part in a special exhibition football match in Rayong last Saturday as the government tried to rebuild tourists' confidence in the popular seaside province.

The 'New Normal' Demonstration Match: Rayong Kick Off! was staged after a coronavirus-positive Egyptian military official visited several busy spots in the province, sparking fears of a second wave of coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Spectators were allowed to watch the match at the stadium with strict protocols.

"It's a good test and a pioneer match for the resumption of sports competitions in the country," Phiphat said.

"As for the Thai league season which will resume in September, there could be spectators if there

is not an increase in COVID-19 cases."

He said he would ask the government's Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) to allow spectators to watch Thai league matches.

Gongsak Yodmani, governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand, said he believed the CCSA would be satisfied with the exhibition match in Rayong and this could lead to the agency giving the green light for Thai league games to have spectators.

In the match, Warinthon Panyahakarn and Danai Jarujinda netted two goals each and Prabpakon



Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister, in action during the exhibition match. Photo: Bangkok Post

Suwannabang added the fifth for the Star Riders, a team comprising leading Thai League 1 players.

The scorers for the VVIP

government officials' team were Charnwit Phalajivin, Chote Trachu and Kanawat Chantralawan.

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