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FIGHTING FEAR

**CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED
TO COUNTER COVID
FEARS, 'PHUKET
MODEL' START ON
OCT 1 'NOT LIKELY'**

Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn in Patong last Sunday (Sept 6) said plainly the launch of the 'Phuket Model' on Oct 1 was 'not likely'. Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn in Phuket last Sunday (Sept 6) plainly told business operators and residents in the tourism town that the launch of the 'Phuket Model' for allowing long-stay tourists to arrive in Phuket on Oct 1 was "not likely".

The announcement followed Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn just days earlier revealing that he believed the launch of the 'Phuket Model' scheduled for next month as part of efforts to revive the local economy,

was likely to be pushed back.

Under the Phuket Model, presented by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, about 200 visitors from Australia and New Zealand were to be allowed in. However, they must first test negative for the virus in their country of origin and stay in quarantine for 14 days at designated places in Phuket. After that, the visitors can travel throughout the province if they test negative for COVID-19. But if they want to visit other provinces, they will have to stay in quarantine in their respective provinces for another seven days.

However, the government's plan to reopen Phuket as a model to welcome back foreign visitors gained resistance

after the country last week saw the first case of local COVID-19 infection in more than three months.

The announcement by Minister Phiphat last Sunday capped off a weekend that saw himself and no less than three deputy ministers and their entourages as well as Member of Parliament representatives from the Bhumjaithai Party visit various communities across Phuket to "gain feedback" from local residents and business owners about the 'Phuket Model' for allowing long-stay tourists to arrive in Phuket.

It also followed Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul in Phuket last

Saturday (Sept 5) calling for local residents and business owners to be confident as the province aims to navigate and overcome the challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Tourism Minister Phiphat last Sunday said that his office had been dispatched by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to gather feedback from local residents and business owners and about the 'Phuket Model'. About 100 people were present at the public meeting in Patong, including Patong businessman Preechavude "Prab" Keesin, Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) President Weerawit Kreuasombat and Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup...

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News



Villagers hold fast against shipyard > p5

COVID fears hold tourism at bay

Continued from page 1

A delegation from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports had arrived in Phuket and conducted activities last Saturday and Sunday to gain feedback from Phuket people about the proposed 'Phuket Model', Mr Phiphat said.

"Next, we will draft a summary of this information and report it to the Prime Minister," he added.

Mr Phiphat explained that he had spoken with local residents and business operators in Phuket Town and Patong "to determine the needs of each".

"I believe we have obtained good information. Please feel comfortable, and wait for more announcements in the near future," he said.

"The Prime Minister will personally answer to the public about the solution for the Phuket Model. This is not only a tourism issue, the result will solve other issues because many officials from many

other ministries have come to Phuket to observe the situation [here]," he added.

Mr Phiphat said a concern was poor communication of the tourism issues "that may not be 100% complete", which he said would likely delay the launch of the Phuket Model to allow tourists to return, even with precautionary measures to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 on the island.

"I believe that the Phuket Model is likely to not start on Oct 1, mainly due to fear among Phuket people," he said.

Mr Phiphat also said that he recognised that "about 90% of the income generated in the province is from tourism".

"This time, it comes down to communicating through various channels of Phuket the right way, to let the people of Phuket know what to do in order to bring tourists from abroad to Phuket in the future," he added.

Mr Phiphat repeated that



Massive economic fallout is predicted as domestic tourism has failed to support businesses. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

all tourists who will eventually be allowed to come to Phuket must first be tested in their home country before coming to Thailand, and they will be tested again after they arrive. They will all also be required to serve a mandatory 14-day quarantine period in an Alternative Local State Quarantine (ALSQ) venue, he said.

All protocols to be implemented to prevent COVID-19

from being brought to Phuket by a visiting tourist must first be approved by the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Mr Phiphat assured.

The failure to relaunch international tourism, and the failure of the domestic tourism campaigns to support businesses in Phuket, spurred an outcry from the Phuket Hotels Association, which on Monday said Phuket's hotel industry is

reaching breaking point and drastic economic support from the government is needed for it to survive the high season.

New research by consulting group C9 Hotelworks points to COVID-19's crippling implications with airport arrivals plunging, the Phuket Model stuttering and 50,000 jobs expected to be lost if there are no overseas visitors this year, the release said.

"What is clear is that the 86,000 rooms in Phuket's registered accommodation establishments cannot realistically break-even or even be cash-flow positive with only domestic demand. This realistically could set the scene for 50,000 job losses in the hotel sector this year if there's no support forthcoming or international visitors are not allowed in.

Anthony Lark, President of the Phuket Hotels Association, which represents 78 hotels in Phuket said, "The

math simply doesn't work with single-digit occupancies being reported. No amount of induced local demand can prevent the dramatic continued loss of jobs and rapidly eroding financial crisis for owners and operators. We strongly advocate a safe, pragmatic, and strategic reopening for foreign travelers."

C9 Hotelworks Managing Director Bill Barnett said, "Thailand's failure to relaunch overseas tourism creates a dangerously perilous scenario for Phuket's hospitality industry. The domino financial impact is not only on hotels and the expanded tourism sector, but it suffocates the development pipeline. This will negatively trigger the erosion of jobs in construction, real estate, retail and ultimately be manifested in consumer credit defaults. The situation is bad, and likely to get worse, as operating hotels continue to incur losses day in and day out."

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Struggling to attract tourists

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office Director Napasorn Kakai has revealed that some 15,000 tourists came to Phuket to enjoy the four-day long weekend from Sept 4-7, altogether spending an estimated B80 million over the holidays.

Ms Napasorn said that the 125 hotels on the island currently open, providing some 8,000 rooms for guests, had recorded an overall occupancy rate of around 30%.

Of the 15,000 tourists who came to Phuket, 98% were Thai and 2% were foreigners, she said.

The average expenditure per person, including travel costs, was estimated at around B5,500 per person per day, Ms Napasorn said, noting that altogether the tourists travelling to Phuket over the long weekend had generated some B80mn for the economy.

Ms Napasorn pointed out that there are currently 34 flights traveling to Phuket every day, comprising 30 flights from Bangkok as well as flights from other major destinations in Thailand such as Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Koh Samui and Udon Thani.

Most of the flights were enjoying around 80% occupancy, bringing some 5,000 passengers per day to Phuket, she added.



Tourists enjoy Patong Beach during the recent Phuket Tasting & Seafood Gastronomy' event, a rare weekend when Patong welcomed a host of visitors to the town. Photo: Patong Municipality

Ms Napasorn rated the success of the long weekend in attracting tourists to Phuket as low, but added that it was expected.

"When comparing the actual number of tourists who came to Phuket with the number of tourists expected to come, there is no difference. Some tourists went north to Khao Lak in Phang Nga, as a lot of five-star hotels there have given big discounts, which can be even cheaper with the discounts offered

through the We Travel Together campaign," she said.

"The reason we have not had large numbers of tourists might be because of the image that visiting Phuket is expensive, even though we have been trying to create a new good image," Ms Napasorn said.

"When comparing the cost of a holiday in Phuket, it is much cheaper [for people in Bangkok] to travel to a province nearby. They do not have to spend money on flight tickets,

which are currently quite expensive, or take a long time to drive to their destination," she added.

Of note, popular tourist destinations within driving distance of Bangkok have reported spikes in tourist numbers over the long weekend.

To help boost travel to Phuket early in the month, the TAT Phuket office offered any person from outside Phuket who booked at least one guest accommodation room in

Phuket for at least one night anytime from Sept 2-9 a B500 voucher to be spent at local restaurants or other local businesses that took part in the campaign. To claim the voucher, tourists only needed to present to TAT Phuket officers evidence of their room booking, Ms Napasorn explained.

The TAT Phuket office this month also will hold a domestic tourism roadshow to other provinces in southern Thailand, including Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Hat Yai in Songkhla, and stage a domestic tourism event in Bangkok on Sept 11-13 to present tour packages to expats working in Bangkok, Ms Napasorn said.

"TAT Phuket is also working with the travel Facebook page 'Sneak out หนีเที่ยว', which has more than 2 million followers, to create content about Phuket tourist attractions and feature budget travel options like B4,000 for a three-day trip," she added.

Meanwhile, the TAT Phuket campaign "Phuket Great Time" continues, providing a free online booking platform for all tourism-related businesses in Phuket to offer discount packages to prospective tourists.

"We hope that all campaigns we have conducted will stimulate the economy and attract more Thais to Phuket," Ms Napasorn said.

TAT vows to end dual pricing

EXPATRIATES MAY NOT be able to join tourism stimulus packages, but the government pledges to end dual pricing as soon as possible.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the We Travel Together stimulus campaign is funded by a budget issued under the Loan Act, which has terms that make it hard to include foreigners, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

But the TAT will discuss stopping dual pricing for expatriates with the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation



The move will allow expats to spend more, said the TAT Governor. Photo: PR Patong

Department, as well as popular tourism sites.

Mr Yuthasak said the move will let expats save money, allowing them to spend more as a key target to boost domestic tourism.

The agency wants to introduce an identity card to

verify expats' status, helping to distinguish them from tourists so they will be charged the same price as locals.

The expat travel card would be issued by the TAT. The agency hopes to sign a memorandum of understanding with each department that owns tourist attractions to fix a standard local price for card holders permanently, not just during the pandemic.

"The key factor is we have to treat expats like locals, without discrimination or a negative attitude towards foreigners," he said. *The Phuket News*



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Businesses in Phuket are gearing up to receive tourists amid 'Travel Bubble' discussions

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To redress the financial impacts of COVID-19, the Thai Government has been in talks with a handful of low-risk countries around the world over setting up 'travel bubbles' to rebuild its economy, which would allow passengers from those select countries to travel to Phuket and other parts of Thailand as tourists.

While the local government has not made any official announcements on when the 'travel bubble' agreements will be in effect, many businesses in Phuket, an island whose economy is heavily reliant on tourism, are gearing up to welcome tourists.

The Best Western Plus The Beachfront Hotel in Phuket, developed by one of the leading real estate developers in Thailand, Blue Horizon Developments, is one such business that has been taking strict measures to increase travelers' safety.

"In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, travelers around the world are not just de-



The Best Western Plus The Beachfront Hotel is confident it can provide the high level of safety guests deserve. More details at: bwplusbeachfront.com

manding safety, but they have come to expect it like a basic right, as they should," says Claude Baltes, the hotel's General Manager.

"At Best Western Plus The Beachfront Hotel, we

have always practiced high standards of hygiene and cleanliness, and we have now taken our commitment to travelers' safety up a notch."

Best Western Plus The Beachfront Hotel has recently received the COVID-READY Certificate by Hotel Resilient, the world's only scientific benchmarking and certification body for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation of hotels and resorts. The certification is based on the verification of key documents and is awarded to hotels and resorts

that pass with a promising score of 80% or above.

"After being certified COVID-READY, we now have peace of mind knowing that our hard work and efforts have essentially been a step in the right direction," said Baltes. "We are confident that we can provide the high level of safety our guests deserve."

Best Western Plus The Beachfront Hotel has also been actively engaged in community activities. Baltes organized a donation drive and received generous donations from private donors in

Luxembourg. Using the funds raised, the hotel recently carried out its fourth distribution of 200 dry food bags, which consisted of rice, cooking oil, salted eggs, and Chinese sausages among other necessities, to the needy in Rawai.

In addition, the hotel's different teams clean the beaches around Phuket together with Blue Horizon Development's staff members and have removed a few hundred kilos of trash so far.

"We want to present Phuket in all its glory to travelers," says Baltes.



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Villagers protest new 'unnecessary' shipyard

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Some 200 people from Phuket's fishing industry gathered at a public meeting last Thursday (Sept 3) to protest the government's support for a new shipyard to be built on government land on Koh Siray.

Marsan Public Company Limited held the public hearing to gain feedback on the project, which will see a new shipyard and boat repair yard built on 66 rai near Phuket Fishing Pier belonging to the Phuket Fishing Pier Fisheries Organization.

Marsan has been selected to develop the project.

Led by Somyot Wongboonyakul, President of the Phuket Fishermen's Association, the 200-strong group of protesters held banners denouncing the project, accusing it of being conducted only for personal gain and claiming that Phuket's fishing fleet did not need another shipyard.

The group urged the government to stop supporting the project, and asked for the shipyard to be built elsewhere.

Phatthawin Chongwisarn, Chief Executive Officer of Marsan Public Company Limited, explained that the shipyard was to support the building and repair of fishing boats, cruise ships and yachts from the tourism industry.



The villagers voiced their concerns at a public meeting last Thursday (Sept 3). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The aim of the project was to have more vessels built and repaired in Phuket, instead of going outside the country to have shipworks completed abroad.

"In the past, our company has developed quality systems and certified standards in all aspects. Therefore, in developing a part of the area at the Phuket Fishing Port to become a shipyard and ship repair facility, we can be confident that we will be able to manage the project efficiently and provide quality work, and not affect the environment, and uphold the necessary occupational health and safety standards," he said.

"The company has assigned Innovation Consultant Co Ltd to prepare a report on the study of measures to prevent and correct the impact on the quality of life of local residents, protect

the environment and uphold the safety of the project required in order to apply for a factory business license. If the villagers still do not agree, this will be further reviewed," he said.

The project was one of the complaints presented to MP Rangsiman Rome, who is spokesman of the House of Law, Justice and Human Rights committee, during his visit to Phuket last month.

Also of note is that the project is to be built in Moo 1 Rassada, where local villagers have already held a protest calling for an investigation into allegations of corruption against village chief Maitri Duangchan.

"For 10 years as the village head, he has never held any public hearings about anything that affects us," villager Suthon Pontha said during the protest last month.

Nai Harn faces dog ban

RAWAI MAYOR AROON Solos will ban people from walking their dogs along Nai Harn Beach, enforced by a fine of up to B2,000 for whoever violates the ban.

The move follows a report that one visitor to the beach was set upon by two dogs that another visitor had brought to the beach, but allowed the dogs to roam free.

"We will post signs to explain that dogs are not allowed to be brought onto the beach. They will not be allowed on the sand, but they will be allowed on the grass area near the beach from 7am to 7pm every day," Mayor Aroon told *The Phuket News*.

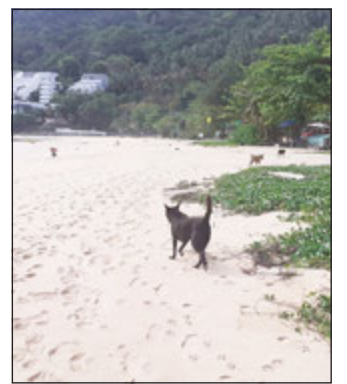
"The sign will also show that whoever violates the rule will be fined up to B2,000," he added.

Rawai Municipality officials would further discuss the rule and the fine later, Mayor Aroon added.

Mayor Aroon added that the number of stray dogs at the beach was also a concern.

However, he added that he had never received a report that anyone at the beach had been attacked by the stray dogs there.

"I have been informed that many stray dogs are in the area, and some of these dogs



People will be banned from bringing their own dogs onto Nai Harn Beach, but the strays will stay. Photo: Phuket Lifeguard Service

have scared some visitors at the beach, but I have not heard of anyone being bitten or attacked by these dogs. I think they are not aggressive and have not tried to bite anyone," he said.

"If a dog does attack any visitor, I will send officers there to have the dog removed," he added.

Mayor Aroon noted that many of the stray dogs at the beach tend to be well cared for.

"Some people take food to give to them at the beach, while others give them food at the temple [nearby]. The dogs do not get food from trash at the beach, as the trash is cleared from Nai Harn beach every day," he said.

The Phuket News

Taxi drivers launch review app

A NEW SCHEME AIMED to improve taxi efficiency standards and service across the island has been launched, which will include an app for passengers to rate their experience by scoring the driver and service provided. In doing so it is hoped the standards of service will not only be raised but maintained.

Phuket Land Transport Office Chief Banyat Kantha and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Run-grote Thakurapunya-siri led more than 300 public taxi drivers to join the "Hello Taxi



Taxi drivers at the launch of the new scheme. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Happy Phuket" project at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) last Friday (Sept 4).

"All of the 300 drivers that signed up to the project will adopt the same standards by offering a clean, courteous, safe service with fair prices

and clear and transparent rates," said Mr Banyat.

"The motivation for the driver to uphold these high standards is the customer scoring system which will determine their overall level of service," he added.

Mr Banyat noted that as Phuket is a top tourist attraction, it is therefore very important that the public transport facilities are upgraded and maintained, especially when tourists start returning to the island when restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

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Following his appointment last September, British International School, Phuket is delighted to welcome Neil Crossland to the school in his position as Principal of the Secondary School. He becomes the sixth Secondary Principal since the school was founded in 1996. Neil was formerly the Deputy Head Teacher at Dulwich College Shanghai and will be joined at BISP with his wife, Rachel, and their two daughters. We spoke to Neil about his professional journey and the personal values that have motivated and guided him throughout his career.

Could you tell us a bit about your teaching background?

This is my 28th year in the teaching profession and my journey has been rich and rewarding. I initially held leadership responsibilities in the UK state sector working in three different schools, each with a unique culture and ethos. In 2012, I was appointed Vice-Principal of St Joseph's Institution International in Singapore – a high-performing International School that has a unique license to educate Singaporean students within an exclusive expat market. It was here that I was first introduced to the IB Diploma and the value that it has in developing the intellectual, social, emotional and physical wellbeing of students. I joined BISP from Dulwich College Shanghai, where I held the position of Acting Head whilst the school navigated through a period of re-organisation. I then reverted to the role of Deputy Head with responsibility and oversight of the holistic development of students. I



I am excited to join BISP as Principal of the Secondary School and look forward to further developing the excellent reputation that our school has in the region.

What values do you hope to bring to your role at BISP?

It is without a doubt that the values we uphold as a family transpose into my professional life, but I endeavour to bring integrity to the way I lead and relate to others in the workplace, which is largely built upon trust and respect.

It is popular and right today for any school leader to espouse 21st-century values. It is equally important to look back and look within before projecting forward.

I recently shared with staff the educational values and beliefs that have resonated with me since entering the profession. They are not particularly sophisticated, but each has certainly held true over the years. I am committed to providing an education where: Students are safe, happy and healthy; Students are academically stretched and challenged; Students are able to follow their passions and interests; and Students are 'good' people.

In today's educational world we would probably consider these ideals to encompass wellbeing; rigour in teaching and learning; enrichment; and character development; and I am lucky enough to inherit a school that has a fine reputation in each of these areas. I also believe that these ideals are pertinent to the situation we have all found ourselves in this year.

When has it ever been more important to address our own wellbeing, to adjust to new styles of learning, or find purpose in our lives to come through the challenges with a deep sensitivity for those around us?

What are you looking forward to most as you settle into school life?

At the start of any new role, one is excited to discover the quality of the provision we offer to our students and the wider community. I am looking forward to working with the incredible coalition of minds that make BISP operate so effectively. It is already apparent that BISP's success is not superficial, but is based on real substance and a sense of mature compassion for students. As I adjust to island life, I hope to work with colleagues and the wider community to add further value to the programmes we offer here.

What advice would you give to students, staff and parents as we embark on a new school year?

The last six months have reminded us that nothing is certain in life and that we should grasp each day as if it were our last. I would say the same to students, families and staff, but in grasping each day we should also aim high in order to 'live a life well lived'.

Lastly, there is always room for kindness in any school and we should always be the person who makes others feel valued and included. On this note, I would like to thank the BISP community for the warm welcome it has offered my family and I since arriving in Thailand.



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Shakers in the south



THE CULINARY DETECTIVE

Chris Watson
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Following the easing of domestic travel restrictions, I am now back to my regular schedule of monthly trips to Phuket. I truly enjoy these short jaunts, discovering hidden gems, both new and old, near my residence in the quaint village of Rawai.

Despite the implications of the recent crisis, sadly still with us, I have been particularly struck by how this coastal suburb continues to grow, attracting a number of burgeoning new restaurants, yet still maintains its wonderfully rustic foundation. Rawai has always been a popular destination for foreigners seeking to settle, slightly more price friendly than the more exclusive west coast and still far enough away from the booming nightlife of Patong. My only sadness is that I am only able to visit for a week or so every month.

On my visits, I almost always have a tight schedule with little opportunity for flexibility. I must confess that I have driven past today's venue for lunch many times on the winding road to Nai Harn beach and whilst it has been on my list to visit, I had never managed to squeeze it in. That is until now.

Fortuitously, Olivier, the proprietor of Shakers, reached out to me and I now find myself heading there for a long overdue lunch. I am warmly welcomed by Olivier himself, a Belgian national and long-term resident of the island. Shakers has actually been around in Phuket since 2003 when it opened its doors in Patong. After establishing a loyal following, relocated to its present site in 2014. The name, perhaps a nod, to Olivier's former skill as a specialty barman; he previously won many awards including the highly prized, golden shaker.

Seated on the terrace, I am pleasantly surprised, particularly in the current climate, to find the restaurant fairly well occupied despite the time of day and encouraged to overhear several of Olivier's compatriots, ordering without even looking at menus, indicating their regular patronage.

My partner and I choose a number of dishes from the truly lengthy menu which covers both Thai stalwarts and Western favourites, including meatballs in tomato sauce, chicken schnitzel, pizzas and pasta. There are also a number of daily specials scribed on a wall mounted blackboard indicating the offering, dependent on the day; all you can eat BBQ, ribs and unsurprisingly, mussels and fries. Of course, Sundays feature roast meats served with all the trimmings. If you can't find something to satisfy your appetite on this menu, I really don't know where else you would go!



Olivier and his team at Shakers.

I survey the surroundings, which whilst simply furnished, are cosy, the terrace bright and airy, the restaurant slightly more formal. Pool, darts and live sport are evidently popular. My partner has chosen from the Thai dishes on offer, a Tom Yam Kung and a Spaghetti Khee Mao with prawns. I have selected a Patong pizza and a burger; we share all. The Tom Yum, spicy with juicy prawns, the noodles equally tasty. My burger hits the spot, tender and perfectly cooked; the pizza, a thin and crispy achievement with onions, salami, cheese, and tomato.

To end, the dessert menu does not disappoint, continuing the trend of offering many choices. Whilst tempted by Belgian waffles, I fear I will be unable to do them justice, so choose a crème brulee. It is lusciously creamy with a crunchy topping. I thank Olivier for his hospitality and as I depart, I reflect. When I do finally relocate to Phuket



Spaghetti Khee Mao

full time, I will certainly be returning to Shakers, perhaps even becoming one of those regulars!

Chris is a former Michelin Guide Inspector who following an international career in hospitality spanning 30 years in both the Middle East and Asia, has now settled in Thailand and contributes a monthly restaurant column.



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POP QUIZ

1. How many islands does Indonesia have?
2. What was the Ranger's name in the Yogi Bear cartoon series?
3. Where was Elvis born?
4. What is the more common name for the patella?
5. American mathematician, anarchist and domestic terrorist Ted Kaczynski is also known as the what?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

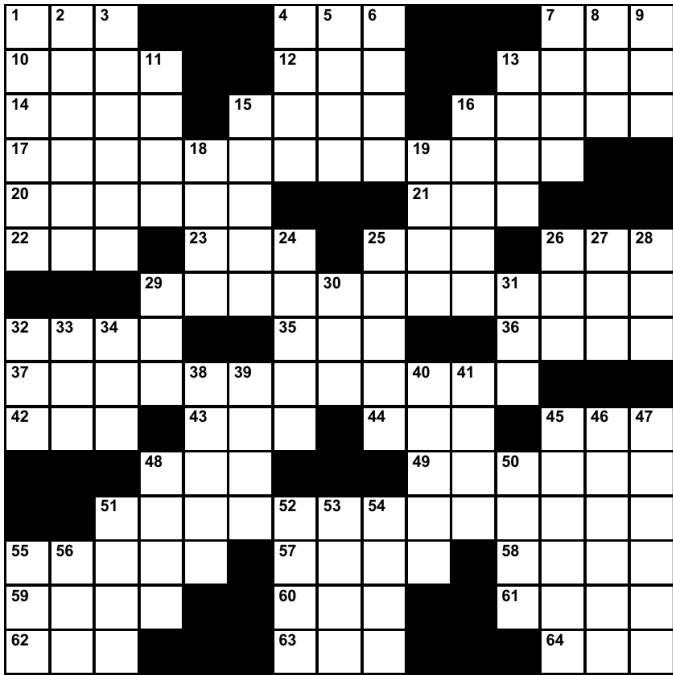
	3		6				5	
			3			2		
1		2	7					6
				9		8	7	
		6				9		
	5	7		1				
6					8	3		9
		9			4			
	8			7		6		

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Logos and the like, abbr.
 4. D.J.'s stack
 7. Kind of agent
 10. Costa ___ (Nicaragua neighbor)
 12. Copper or bronze
 13. One-eighties
 14. What skunks are known for
 15. Unloading site
 16. Unexpected sports outcome
 17. Halftime features, sometimes
 20. Hangs, in a way
 21. Longtime Chinese leader
 22. Med. drama sites
 23. Place to relax
 25. "___ out!"
 26. Pkg. deliverer
 29. String quartet's offering
 32. Porgy and bass
 35. Technology giant
 36. Brother of Cain and Abel
 37. Where you could see Led Zeppelin
 42. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
 43. A whiskey
 44. New, in a way
 45. Victoria Secret offering
 48. Fannie ___
 49. They may wake you up
- Down
1. ___ l'oeil
 2. Any point in a trapeze artist's routine
 3. Boos
 4. Mint
 5. Remnant
 6. Balkan citizen
 7. Admit all, with "up"
 8. Exiter's exclamation
 9. Follower's suffix
 11. Parentheses, essentially
 13. Beehive, e.g.
 15. Maid of honor at William and Kate's 2011 wedding
 16. Make less dangerous
 18. Theater admonition
 19. From CA, say
 24. Alkaline
- compound
25. Nation on the Red Sea
 26. Play for a sap
 27. Place for an orchestra
 28. P.T.A. meeting place, abbr. .
 29. Chess abbreviation
 30. "Monty Python's Flying Circus" producer
 31. Navy ship intro
 32. Italian monk title
 33. Saturn model
 34. Biol., e.g.
 38. Mania
 39. Court officer command
 40. Doesn't work
 41. "Beloved" author Morrison
 45. Slows down
 46. Ease off
 47. Subjects to chemical analysis
 48. S.A.T. section
 50. "Metamorphoses" author
 51. O.K.
 52. Centers of attention
 53. "Take It From Me" author Brockovich
 54. Government lending groups
 55. Org. famous for cookies in America
 56. 18-wheeler

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Not known, anywhere from 17,508 to 18,307 islands; 2) Ranger Smith; 3) Tupelo, Mississippi; 4) The kneecap; 5) The Unabomber



Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

2.65

was the high school GPA achieved by Steve Jobs.

9

milligrams of cocaine is estimated to have been in each glass of Coca-Cola under the original formula created by John Pemberton.

600

minutes of sitting and taking only 1,500 steps each day is the common average activity of a person who is obese.

1,000

kilometres is how far an average Dutch person cycles each year.

10,000

cases of muscle spasms and 1,700 sprains were treated by paramedics at a 2016 marathon in Qingyuan, China.

1.7 million

children in the US live with unlocked, loaded guns; 1 in 3 homes with kids have guns.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Early morning view at Wat Chalong. Photo: Jeffrey Ephreim Villanueva Villegas

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

This week in history

Sept 11, 1609

Henry Hudson discovers Manhattan Island and the indigenous people living there.

Sept 12, 490 BC

Battle of Marathon: The conventionally accepted date for the Battle of Marathon. The Athenians and their Plataean allies, defeat the first Persian invasion force of Greece.



Sept 13, 1985

Super Mario Bros. is released in Japan for the NES, which starts the Super Mario series of platforming games.

Sept 14, 1917

Russia is officially proclaimed a republic.

Sept 15, 1440

Gilles de Rais, one of the earliest known serial killers, is taken into custody upon an accusation brought against him by Jean de Malestroit, Bishop of Nantes.

Sept 16, 1959

The first successful photocopier, the Xerox 914, is introduced in a demonstration on live television from New York City.

Sept 17, 1908

The Wright Flyer flown by Orville Wright, with Lt Thomas Selfridge as passenger, crashes, killing Selfridge, who becomes the first airplane fatality.

Source: Wikipedia

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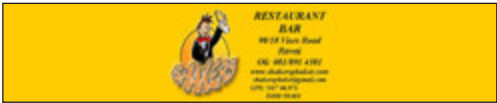
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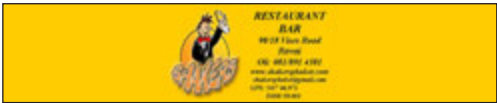


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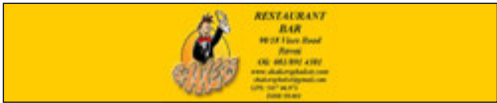
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SAT
12 SEP



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
13 SEP



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.

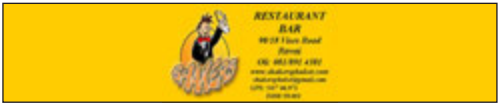


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MON
14 SEP



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.

FRI
18 SEP



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham
AustCham Thailand is delighted to invite members and guests from AustCham and partner chambers to join our Phuket Sundowners to be held on Friday 18th September, 2020, at the Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. Baht 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. Baht 900 for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

THU
22 OCT



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Pierre steps on the gas in Italian thriller

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Pierre Gasly is the first Frenchman to win a Formula 1 race in 24 years after claiming his maiden victory in a thriller at the Italian Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 6).

The 24-year-old Alpha-Tauri driver beat McLaren's Carlos Sainz and Racing Point's Lance Stroll to the flag after inheriting the lead from poleman Lewis Hamilton, who served a stop-go penalty for a tyre change while pit lane was closed.

But Hamilton wasn't the only frontrunner to hit trouble, with a slew of problems creating a perfect storm to deliver the unpredictable podium.

Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas failed to make any ground on his championship deficit, clawing back only a single point from fifth place after a shocking start dropped him from second to sixth on the first lap.

Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen withdrew from the race with a power unit problem and his teammate, Thai driver Alex Albon, languished near the back of the field with damage from the first lap.

Neither Ferrari finished the race, with a brake failure putting Sebastian Vettel into retirement and Charles Leclerc



Gasly became the first French driver to win an F1 race in 24 years after victory at Monza. Photo: AFP.

crashing out of the race in a high-speed shunt at Parabolica.

That crash defined the day, requiring a suspension to repair the barriers and dividing the race into two distinct parts.

Gasly had been mired near the back of the back early in the race, but a well-timed safety car before the red flag catapulted him up to third on the restart grid. With all the frontrunning drivers bar Hamilton out of action and the Briton due to serve his penalty, he was the defacto leader when the race resumed from a standing start on lap 28.

He scythed past Stroll, who restarted from second but

was suffering on cold tyres, to build a lead, but further back McLaren's Carlos Sainz had designs on the top step of the podium.

Sainz moved into second place on lap 35, but with the best of his tyres worn it took him another 17 laps, the penultimate tour of the grand prix, to close to within a second of the leading car.

But Gasly, having been managing his pace, had time to consider his defence. He was flawless out of the chicanes to ensure Sainz could slipstream him down the straights to beat him to the chequered flag by less than half a second.

It was AlphaTauri's second

win – the first coming at the hands of Sebastian Vettel at the same circuit in 2008 when the team was named Toro Rosso – and Gasly paid credit to the Italian squad.

Stroll took his first podium finish since 2017, Lando Norris finished fourth ahead of Bottas, with Renault's Daniel Ricciardo close behind in sixth.

Hamilton recovered impressively from 30 seconds behind the field after his stop-go penalty on lap 28 to finish seventh with a bonus point for fastest lap.

Esteban Ocon finished eighth for Renault ahead of Daniil Kvyat's AlphaTauri and Racing Point's Sergio Perez rounding out the top 10.



The Tokyo Olympics will go ahead as planned. Photo: AFP

Tokyo Olympics to go ahead 'with or without COVID-19'

OLYMPICS

TOKYO'S POSTPONED Olympics will go ahead next year regardless of the coronavirus pandemic, IOC vice president John Coates said on Monday (Sept 7), saying they would be the "Games that conquered COVID".

The Olympics have never been cancelled outside of the world wars and Coates was adamant that the Tokyo Games will start on their revised date.

"It will take place with or without COVID. The Games will start on July 23 next year," said Coates, who heads the International Olympic Committee's Co-ordination Commission for the Tokyo Games.

"The Games were going to be, their theme, the Reconstruction Games after the devastation of the tsunami," he added, referring to a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in

northeastern Japan in 2011.

"Now very much these will be the Games that conquered COVID, the light at the end of the tunnel."

"Before COVID, (IOC president) Thomas Bach said this is the best prepared Games we've ever seen," Coates added.

In an historic decision, the 2020 Olympics were postponed because of the global march of the pandemic and they are now set to open on July 23, 2021.

But Japan's borders are still largely closed to foreign visitors and a vaccine is months or even years away, feeding speculation about whether the Games are feasible at all.

Japanese officials have made clear they would not delay the Games a second time beyond 2021.

A recent poll found just one in four people in Japan want them to go ahead next year, with most backing either another postponement or a cancellation. *AFP*



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Sport

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Sensational Gasly win at Monza > p11

KICK OFF!

New Premier League season to be played in front of empty stadiums

Games will be played in stadiums without fans as the new season kicks off tomorrow (Sept 12). Photo: AFP

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

After the shortest post-season in living memory, the Premier League returns to action this weekend as the 2020/21 campaign gets underway.

The usual pre-season excitement has been tempered somewhat as a slew of COVID-19 induced restrictions will impact the game, most prominently the continued absence of fans inside stadiums.

Liverpool are for many still

the team to beat, their eventual 18-point finish over Manchester City last season suggesting a serious gulf in class.

However, like a wounded animal, Pep Guardiola's side will be champing at the bit to gain revenge. Talk of Lionel Messi arriving left many commentators salivating and, despite it proving unfounded, City still have more than enough in their locker and should be considered serious title contenders.

Outside of the two frontrunners, Chelsea have spent big, attracting over £200 million (B8.2 billion) of talent, and, assuming all the parts

gel, could well pose a threat. The young German pair of Kai Havertz and Tino Werner in particular will prove explosive additions to Frank Lampard's exciting side.

Arsenal have shown signs of real progress under Mikel Arteta, evident in their dual Wembley triumphs in the FA Cup and Community Shield last month. They will be targeting a top-four finish, confident that their new found robustness can result in a successful campaign.

Manchester United will be looking to maintain the fine post-lockdown form they exhibited

although questions around the form of goalkeeper David de Gea and the high-profile off-field antics of skipper Harry Maguire are not ideal preparation.

The always entertaining, often controversial Jose Mourinho show will continue to roll at Tottenham. A lot will rest on Harry Kane and a top six finish looks to be their maximum aim.

Leicester City and Wolves will look to emulate or better their stellar showings last term, Sheffield United will be aiming to avoid the dreaded "second-season syndrome". James Rodriguez has landed at

Everton and much is expected from Carlo Ancelotti's troops.

All eyes will be on newly promoted Leeds United, back after a 16-year absence under the watchful gaze of the mercurial Marcelo 'El Loco' Bielsa.

Expect fellow newbies Fulham and West Brom to struggle, likewise Aston Villa who avoided relegation by the skin of their teeth and have yet to reinforce for this campaign.

A detailed team-by-team preview with predictions can be found at thephuketnews/sport-world

Ashburn in as Phuket Vagabonds captain

RUGBY

DAN ASHBURN HAS been voted in as the Phuket Vagabonds team captain for the next year and will lead the team in the upcoming Thailand national 7s Championships.

The Vagabonds will compete in the Southern

region playoffs in Ranong province next weekend (Sept 19-20). Should they win the tournament they will then play in the national 7s finals in Bangkok at the end of the year.

Dan will also lead the team into the 2021 Anantara Mai Khao Phuket Villas International Rugby 10s, a tournament where he was

instrumental in helping the side to their first ever Cup win in 2015 before injury limited his appearances for the last few years.

After a couple of back operations and some hard work in the gym he is now back to his most destructive self and looking forwards to taking the Vagabonds forwards in any upcoming challenges.

This will be Dan's second stint as club captain after successfully helping to rebuild the club during a period of decline and helping to set the platform for the successes that followed in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket tournaments.

The club is confident that under his leadership the club will go from strength to

strength and continue to be a major player on the Thailand rugby scene for many years to come.

Dan will be ably assisted by Vice Captain Dave Walker and President Anthony Van Sleenwen as everyone associated with the club looks towards a bright and successful future.

The Phuket News



New Phuket Vagabonds captain Dan Ashburn. Photo: Phuket Rugby 10s