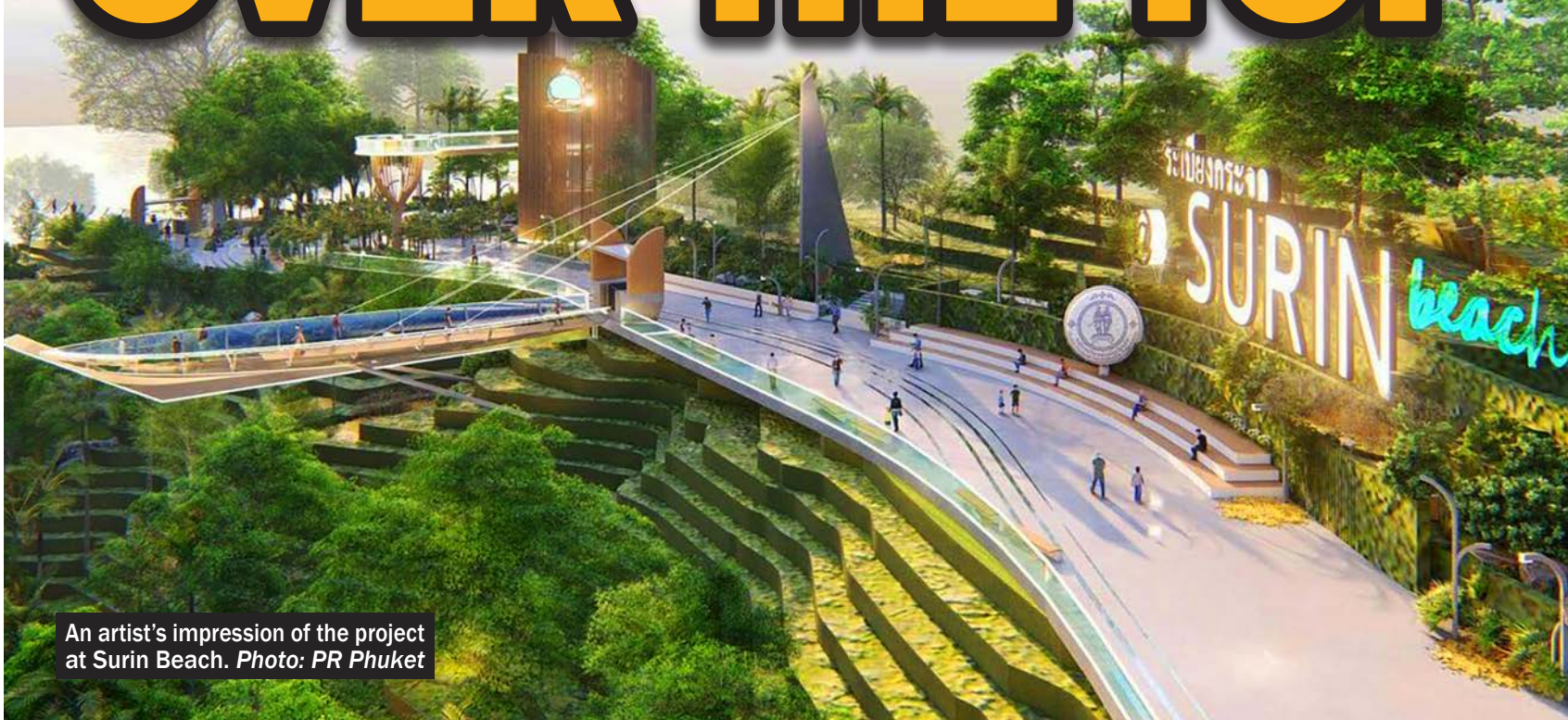


MASSIVE PROPERTY SURGE AT BANG TAO > PAGE 6

OVER THE TOP



An artist's impression of the project at Surin Beach. Photo: PR Phuket

CONSTRUCTION OF B198MN 'GLASS TERRACE' AT SURIN UNDERWAY

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An official ceremony was held last week to commemorate the laying of the foundation pillar of a B198 million "Glass Terrace" view point overlooking Surin Beach. The construction on the island's west coast, which local officials say will become a major tourist attraction in time, is expected to take two years to complete.

Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), inaugurated the ceremony on Nov 9 and was joined by various executive members

from the PPAO and the Cherno Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor).

Mr Rewat was joined by project officials as the first pillar of the construction was laid at the site, the Thai tradition that is the equivalent of the laying of the 'foundation stone' of a building in Western countries. Also present were several monks to conduct a ceremony to bestow blessings and good luck on the project.

The construction will provide a walkway and viewing platform for local residents and tourists alike to take in the scenic views at Surin Beach and is hoped to become a major attraction in future, Mr Rewat said.

Construction consulting company Pisut Technology Co Ltd has been officially engaged to undertake the project which will occupy an area of nine rai in the green forested hills to the north of Surin Beach.

There will be actual two view-points built at the site. A 'glass terrace' walkway will extend approximately 40 metres from the cliff and 50m above sea level, and offer a 360-degree viewing experience of the local area from an observation tower.

A second viewpoint will extend around eight metres from the cliff and will be around 20m above sea level, and will offer views onto the sea and be especially appealing to

take in sunsets, officials said.

SOUTHERN VIEW

The construction of the terrace at Surin Beach is part of a project that will also see an elevated lookout built at Promthep Cape in Rawai.

The lookout, also to be made of glass and currently branded as the "Sky Walk Khao Daeng", was proposed during a meeting on July 20 held to receive public opinion feedback, which was wholly positive.

The Promthep structure will extend about 10m from the side of the cliff and is estimated to cost B250mn, Mr Rewat said in July.

Pisut Technology Co Ltd have also...

NEWS PAGE 3

Brazilian caught in Patong Hill road rampage



LIFE PAGE 9

Youngsters get to grips with writing comp



SPORT PAGE 16

Triathlon help for forgotten furry friends



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lile-itTM

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Patong readies
for return of
carnival > p5



Image: CIB

Hotel staffer charged for attempted murder

AN EMPLOYEE AT A hotel in Karon has been arrested for “joint attempted murder” for his part in a gang attack on a rival in Phuket Town in August.

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) reported the arrest of the man, in front of a hotel in the area of Karon, on Monday (Nov 13).

The man, referred to only by the name “Mr USA” in the report, was wanted for his part in a gang attack in Phuket Town on Aug 19 in which a member of a rival gang was seriously injured, the CIB reported.

The victim was riding through “the area of a public park in Talad Yai subdistrict of Phuket Town” with friends when they encountered ‘Mr USA’ and his gang – a gang they had encountered before, the CIB report explained.

Then Mr USA and a group of three people used

a knife to slash the victim’s head, causing serious injuries, the report continued.

The victim suffered a fractured skull and had suffered more than 10 wounds in total before the group of attackers fled, the report said.

Phuket City Police gathered evidence and Phuket Provincial Court issued a warrant for Mr USA’s arrest under the charges of “jointly attempting to kill another person and taking weapons into towns, villages, or public roads openly or without reasonable cause.”

Officers from Crime Suppression Division Region 5 joined the investigation and learned that the suspect had fled to work at a hotel in Karon, where he was taken under arrest.

The man was taken to Phuket City Police Station to face legal proceedings, the report concluded.

The Phuket News

Beach umbrella vendors appeal to Governor for help

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A group of people who previously worked as beach bed umbrella vendors at Karon have appealed to the Phuket Governor for help in being allowed to return to the sands.

The group, calling themselves the ‘Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group’, led by Phusita Massuwan, submitted their formal appeal for help to Governor Sophon Suwannarat at Provincial Hall last Friday (Nov 10).

Currently, only one group of vendors have been allowed to operate in the “10% zone”, Ms Phusita said, causing problems for those no longer allowed to work on the beach.

The “10% zone” refers to the area where beach vendors may provide services for beachgoers, which by provincial policy is not allowed to exceed 10% of the total beach area.

The formal request listed nine issues, first and foremost that there was a need to form a ‘Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group’.

“This is because local leaders and the original umbrella operator group did not properly inform villagers in Karon Subdistrict about the establishment of beach bed umbrella groups in public areas,” the request said.

The Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group wanted to work as a beach bed umbrella operators by having proper permission, the request added.

“At present, the Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group has suffered from the duties of village headmen, administrative divisions and municipal officials who seized umbrellas and beach chairs and issued fine notices,” the request noted.

Further, because local leaders did not



Photo: PR Phuket

allow the installation of umbrellas and beach chairs, the members of the group now had no income, the request noted.

“At present, the old group of beach bed umbrella operators do not set up the beach bed umbrellas themselves. They have hired foreigners to do it instead,” it added.

“Due to the problems mentioned above, the Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group would like to ask for help from the Governor of Phuket Province to urgently solve the problems of the villagers so that the villagers can continue to have income-generating jobs to support their families,” the request appealed.

“The Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group had never received consideration from local leaders, despite their requests being valid. They were also not given the opportunity to be informed of the agenda [of the meeting where current beach operators were approved], which in the past was only acknowledged by the brothers and sisters of the local leaders,

thus becoming the only group allowed,” the group alleged.

The move allowed only certain people to operate as beach bed umbrella operators at Karon, despite the members of the ‘Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group’ being local people who had made a living on the beach “for generations”, the request continued.

“Local leaders have never provided assistance to the Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group in terms of providing information, receiving requests for permission to operate or accepting complaints from the local residents. It usually takes a long time to process, but without a point of contact for enquiries, it just disappears. The Multi-Coloured Umbrella Group hopes to receive kindness, assistance, and sympathy from the Governor of Phuket Province,” the request concluded.

Governor Sophon formally received the request and said he would assign relevant agencies “to investigate the facts and ensure fairness to all parties”.

As viewpoint launched, Surin Beach management comes under fire

Continued from page 1

...been engaged to manage the project, although no official updates have so far been forthcoming.

DIFFERENT VIEWS

Following the announcement that construction of the viewpoint overlooking Surin Beach had begun, the irony was not lost on people commenting online that the current view of Surin Beach, even from the elevated view points to be built, is the full length of Surin Beach now covered by sunbeds and umbrellas.

Many comments online



A view of Surin Beach from above where the viewpoint will be built. Photo: PR Phuket

pointed out how dilapidated the beach has become. At one time, Surin beach was rated among Phuket’s finest and

most preferred by tourists and long-term expats on the island’s central coast.

Today, ramshackle struc-

tures line the road beside the beach while vendors continue to flout the law and serve tourists right on the beachfront in makeshift restaurants with plastic tables and chairs that are removed each day. The tourists dine right alongside the multi-million-baht seawall built to stave off coastal erosion at Surin which is now collapsing in chunks of concrete onto the sand.

Others commented online of the dangerous rip currents at both ends of Surin Beach, which often see lifeguard rescues of tourists in distress. Tourists at the new viewpoint will have a bird’s-eye view of

the rescues being carried out – some successful, others just body recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, the view of the beach will be dominated by the lines of sunbeds stretching off into the distance, despite all beach vendor activities being banned at Surin Beach after the Army cleared the beach of vendors in 2014.

Beach operators were banned by provincial order following the army-led action as the beach was to remain pristine in honour of King Bhumol and Queen Sirikit visiting the beach in person in 1959.

Beach vendors have re-

turned time and again over the years, and have never faced legal action for doing so.

As reported in *The Phuket News*’ page 1 story last month (Oct 13), vendors at Surin Beach have yet again filed a formal request to have the provincial order banning them, this time submitted to new Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

Meanwhile, while waiting for official permission to operate at Surin Beach, they continue to serve tourists on the beach with no action taken against them by any Phuket officials.

Drunk Brazilian arrested after hill road rampage

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A Brazilian man has been arrested after a dangerous drunk-driving high-speed pursuit resulted in multiple collisions, including one that overturned a passenger van carrying foreign tourists on Patong Hill.

The road rampage and high-speed pursuit began after officers were notified at 8:30am on Nov 9 that a pickup had crashed into a car near the Government Savings Bank Intersection in Patong and fled the scene.

Witnesses described the offending vehicle as a white four-door Toyota pickup with the last two licence-plate digits 46.

Officers nearby spotted the pickup and gave pursuit. They managed to get the driver to pull over in front of Wat Patong, but as they approached the parked pickup, the driver – later identified as Brazilian national Marcelo da Conceicao Nascimento – revved the engine and sped off. As he raced up the hill, he narrowly avoided colliding with other vehicles.

By the time the Brazilian reached the Patong City sign on Patong Hill, he had collided with one Hyundai van and a yellow-plate passenger van carrying eight foreign tourists.

The impact with the passenger van resulted in the van being forced off the



Photo: Patong Police

road and into the uphill embankment. The van flipped onto its side, with somehow only the driver reported as suffering injuries.

The Brazilian continued his dangerous rampage down Patong Hill, narrowly missing more vehicles as he descended the hill towards Kathu at high speed.

He drove the pickup into Soi Bang Thong, with the police still in pursuit. However, by this time the officers had the full licence plate of the pickup, NW-9646 (GorChor 9646) registered in Trang, and radioed ahead for Kathu Police to block his escape with a checkpoint.

Still trying to avoid arrest, da Conceicao Nascimento entered Bang Thong

village, where he struck a motorbike carrying a Thai man and a woman, who suffered minor injuries. He turned around and sped off, then abandoned the pickup at a golf cart repair shop and fled on foot.

Officers gave pursuit through the nearby golf course, and soon had him under arrest.

Officers took da Conceicao Nascimento to Kathu Police Station, where a breathalyser recorded his blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at 202 (in some countries read as 0.202; the legal limit in Thailand is 0.05).

At time of press police had yet to confirm the full extent of charges against him.



Photo: PR Phuket / file

Air-sea rescue exercise to highlight safety initiative

OFFICIALS WILL HOST a safety exercise drill at Patong later this month to put on show emergency rescue services and to give emergency responders the opportunity to put the training to use.

The exercise is part of an initiative called “Safety Phuket Island Sandbox” that will be held at three locations on the island on Nov 26, said an official report of a meeting held at the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) last week.

Dr Niti Hetanurak, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Disease Control chaired the meeting, on Nov 6, joined by Thanit Sermkaew, Public Health Supervisor of the Government Inspection Area 11 office.

PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon and Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapi-

las, along with representatives of other government agencies, also took part in the meeting.

On Nov 26, at Patong Beach there will be a live air-sea rescue demonstration, which will be broadcast live, noted an official report of the meeting.

Meanwhile, at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town there will be an event promoting the vaccination and sterilisation of cats and dogs.

Also in Phuket Town, at the and Lard Yai Walking Street, there will be an exhibition highlighting ‘Street Food Good Health’ and the awarding of such signs to vendors along the Walking Street to promote that those vendors comply with PPHO health and hygiene requirements.

No further details of the event were reported.

The Phuket News

National Tourist Police chief tours Bangla

TOURIST POLICE COM-missioner Maj Gen Saksira Phueakam has toured the tourist-popular Bangla Rd in Patong to help promote the new security and safety campaign for the upcoming tourism high season.

The tour followed Pol Maj Gen Saksira launching the Strong Tourism Community (STC) project with a mass assembly of Tourist Police and officers from supporting law-enforcement and tourists assistance agencies in Phuket Town on Nov 8.

The visit to Bangla Rd was just one of 10 tourist attractions where the STC project is to be piloted, explained a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department.

The STC project was launched in accordance with the government’s policy to urgently stimulate the tourism economy, Maj Gen Saksira said.

“And the Minister of Tourism and Sports has placed emphasis on building confidence in providing safety to tourists,” he said.

“Therefore, the Tourist Police has launched the Strong Tourism Community project to take care of the safety of



Photo: PR Phuket

tourists by piloting [the project in] 10 important tourist attractions all over the country, of which Soi Bangla, Patong, Phuket, is one of the 10 tourist attractions,” he added.

“The Strong Tourism Community project must increase the potential to provide safety for tourists in all dimensions, in traffic safety, accidents, and acts of violence against bodies, lives, and property. We must raise the standard of safety for tourists both in the short and long term in a stable manner in order to create truly sustainable tourism,” Maj Gen Saksira said.

The initial stage of the project requires cooperation from local people, business operators and network partners in all sectors, he explained.

“A joint meeting has already been held to brainstorm ideas for maintaining tourist safety and promoting the tourism industry on Soi Bangla, Patong, an important tourist destination with a large number of popular tourists, including an entertainment area where safety must be taken care of,” he said.

“It starts with training security guards who must have the skills to take care of tourists’ safety. They must be ready to stop incidents and provide effective initial assistance,” Maj Gen Saksira noted.

“This will strengthen the image of being a safe international tourist city, and help to develop and promote sustainable tourism,” he concluded.

The Phuket News

Phuket officials investigate Russian carsharing occupying public parking

OFFICIALS FROM THE Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) office arrived in Patong on Nov 8 to investigate an ‘Anytime’ car occupying a parking space reserved for green-plate taxis and tourist rental vehicles.

The inspection was reported earlier that day by the Phuket Info Center, which noted that the PLTO, police and other relevant agencies were conducting an inspection of “rental vehicles occupying public parking spaces.”

Photos included with the post showed officials inspecting and photographing an Anytime car sharing vehicle parked on the Patong beach road.

The PLTO and Patong Municipality have yet to comment on the inspection, reported *The Phuket News’* Russian-language sister newspaper *Novosti Phuketa* at the time.

There have previously been no complaints about car sharing in Phuket, but complaints about rental vehicles on sidewalks, roadsides



Photo: Phuket Info Center

and public parking spaces are heard regularly on the island, the *Novosti Phuketa* report said.

Questions are also often raised regarding tuk-tuk drivers, who with their cars occupy scarce parking spaces in Patong. Over many previous years, officials have carried out inspections to streamline parking along Patong beach road in time for the high season. This year the topic has not yet been raised.

The ‘Anytime Carsharing Thai’ lists the Phuket company Vend Land Asia Co in Moo 7 Srisoonthorn as the operator.

The company was formed in October 2019. The Department of Business Development (DBD) lists the company as engaging in real estate transactions and vehicle rental, with the director of the company listed as Russian national Igor Maleikin.

The Phuket News

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI NOVEMBER 17



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT NOVEMBER 18



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN NOVEMBER 19



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON NOVEMBER 20



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOVEMBER 21



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 22



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 23



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Officials eye integrated CCTV

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Island-wide closed-circuit television (CCTV) could well become a reality as part of the Phuket Smart City project, officials announced last Friday (Nov 10).

A meeting overseen by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat was held to set urban development goals which would see widespread implementation of innovative technology, including CCTV cameras across the island.

Governor Sophon explained that numerous agencies will need to align and work together in order for the project to become a successful realisation, including the Phuket Provincial Police, Southern Region Digital Economy Promotion Office and local government.

Collectively, they have



Photo: PR Phuket

been requested to plan work on best-practice connectivity which would include establishing a central command centre to oversee all services and activities in Phuket as part of the Smart City initiative.

A key component of this is the use of CCTV, which officials said is a convenient and efficient way to manage safety measures for citizens and tourists by being able to

use facial recognition software and associated systems to capture and analyse car licence plates.

Pracha Asawatheera, Director of the Digital Economy Promotion Agency, Southern Region, commented that the Smart City initiative is driven by the vision of "Livable city, happy people, for sustainable tourism" and is supported by various Smart

City promotional zones in Phuket, including: the Phuket City Municipality Smart City Project; Patong Smart City Project; Srisoonthorn Smart City Project; Prince Tinikon Valley Project by Phuketpiwat Co Ltd; and Mai Khao Wellness City Project by Anuphas and Sons Co Ltd.

Additionally, Mr Pracha explained that there is a co-operation agreement project known as the Phuket Smart City Technical Assistant Package, which sees collaboration in important infrastructure, technology and communications issues between the Digital Economy Promotion Agency and the United States Trade and Development Agency.

Amorn Suksawat, Chief Marketing Officer of Chalong-based Finstable Capital Co Ltd, then confirmed that his company is organising an international seminar between

Dec 6-8 that will focus on "digital tokens and national blockchain infrastructure".

The seminar, supported by the National Office of Economic Promotion, will focus specifically on the implementation of a digital wallet initiative in Phuket, a key component of the Smart City project, Mr Amorn explained.

Finally, Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai reiterated the importance of the white housing project for foreigners whereby notification of residence whilst on the island is mandatory as per Section 38 of the Immigration Act.

Pol Col Thanet said the scheme had so far proved a success with 411,312 registering their residence whilst in Phuket and that it is an initiative that is soon to be extended across the whole of the country.

Smart Bus apologises for ambulance obstruction

THE PHUKET SMART BUS Company has issued an official apology after one of its drivers was found guilty of obstructing an emergency vehicle on the road.

The incident happened at 12:42pm last Saturday (Nov 11) when the bus, licence plate 10-1152, was travelling on the Baan Don Rd in Chergn Talay on its way to the airport.

The Emergency Service Vehicle was behind the bus but had to wait over two kilometres until the latter gave way and allowed the ambulance to pass.

It was not confirmed in reports whether the ambulance had its lights flashing and sirens sounding or whether any patients were aboard.

However, a clip went viral on social media which brought the incident to the attention of the Phuket Smart Bus Co, who were quick to respond.

"We checked CCTV footage of the incident and discovered that the driver did eventually give way to the emergency services vehicle but not within the ideal timeframe," a spokesman for the company told the Phuket Info Center.

"It was 2km before the driver yielded, which is considered much



Photo: Phuket Info Center

later than expected," the spokesman added.

"The company has issued an official warning to the driver in question and will review the rules for safe road use to ensure all our drivers strictly follow the rules.

"It is vitally important that all our drivers be considerate on the road at all times to ensure that everyone can use the Smart Bus service with peace of mind."

The spokesperson added that the company is willing to accept all comments criticising the behaviour of the driver and that it simultaneously extends apologies for any inconvenience his actions may have caused.

The company will improve and be diligent to ensure no repeat behaviour is witnessed again, it said, adding that any impolite driving witnessed by its drivers can be reported via LINE @pkbsb. *The Phuket News*

More cables to go underground in the heart of Phuket Town

PHUKET CITY MUNICIPALITY has signed an agreement to expand its project to have power cables moved underground along sections of three key roads in Phuket Town.

Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas announced the news on Monday (Nov 13), saying the project is to help improve safety and the aesthetics of Phuket Town, and to improve the lives of local residents.

Phuket City Municipality and the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to jointly carry out a project to improve the electricity distribution system with underground cables along Thepkrasattri Rd, Dibuk Rd and Phuket Rd, Mayor Saroj said.

The work will be carried out along Thepkrasattri Rd (from Wat Kosit Wihan to Tua Pho Intersection); along Dibuk Rd (from Lok Thian Intersection to Tua Pho Intersection); and Phuket Rd (from Phra Aram Bridge to Bang Neow Intersection).

The project, covering a total distance of 2.8 kilometres, will start this month, Mayor Saroj added.

Advance Information Technology Public Company Limited has been contracted to complete the work under a budget of B115,565,350. The company has 360 days to complete the project.

The Provincial Electricity Authority is responsible for the electrical



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

cal system, and will oversee a 33kV high-voltage power supply cable being installed underground, along with low-voltage cables and the required transformers being installed, Mayor Saroj said.

"Before work begins, Phuket City Municipality will publicise the project to people in the construction area and the people who travel back and forth through the area so they are informed, and so that the construction can proceed smoothly and have the least impact on residents," he said.

"Installing electrical wires and cables underground will make the electrical system more safe and the power supply more stable, as well as making it orderly and beautiful with good scenery. It helps to create an image of Phuket Municipality as a Smart City, a landmark that attracts both Thai and foreign tourists.

"And most importantly, it creates a livable urban landscape and supports the growth of the tourism business in the future," he added. *The Phuket News*

Patong Carnival set to mark new season return

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The annual Patong Carnival held to mark the official start of the tourism high season will return from Dec 8-10 with EDM dance parties, live concerts and a host of other entertaining events under the theme 'Time of Happiness'.

The dates for this year's carnival, the 37th year the event has been held, were announced by Patong Mayor Chalernsak Maneesri at the Jungceylon shopping mall on Nov 8.

Joining Mayor Chalernsak for the announcement were Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum.

The '37th Patong Beach Phuket Tourism Season Opening Festival', this year called the 'Phuket Carnival at Patong 2023', will mark that Phuket was ready to welcome tourists to Patong, the "city of happiness", Mayor Chalernsak said.

"The tourism season opening festival for the year 2023 will promote Patong Beach



Photo: PR Phuket

tourism to both Thai and foreign tourists, and to build confidence and strengthen the new image of Patong Beach.

"We are ready to welcome tourists who come to Patong Beach from all over the world, and generate income to stimulate the economy in the area. The event promotes cooperation and integration between the government, private sector and local residents in holding events," he added.

The events will be held at the traditional site on Patong Beach near the end of Bangla Rd, from 10am onwards each day.

The annual grand parade through the town will include floats from Jungceylon shopping centre, Central Patong shopping centre, Phuket Fantasea, Carnival Magic, Simon Cabaret, the Andamananda Water Park in addition to the entries from community groups and business operators in the Patong Beach area, Mayor Chalernsak noted.

"There will be free concerts by famous artists such as Tong, 2P, SOUTHSIDE. There will also be many light and sound shows on stage, EDM performances from famous DJs every night, and booths selling

food and drinks throughout the event," he added.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum addressed safety as a concern. "A meeting of the subordinate units was called and measures and personnel were put in place to take care of safety, including traffic, accidents and various events, by integrating with various sectors to be ready to provide maximum safety to local residents and tourists," Maj Gen Sinlert said.

Governor Sophon said that tourists were "ready and waiting" to come to Phuket, and enjoy events such as the Phuket Carnival at Patong.

"Therefore, we are confident that the opening of the Patong Beach tourism season this time will bring income back to Phuket similar to 2019, with all parties being ready to take care of conveniences, in terms of traffic and safety and other every dimension..."

"We invite people to come. Local residents and business operators are ready to be good hosts and ready to welcome you," he said.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Lifeguards save American tourist at Surin Beach

LIFEGUARDS CAME TO the rescue of a stricken American tourist last Friday (Nov 10) who came close to drowning in the waters off Surin Beach.

The lifeguards were alerted to the situation around 1:13pm by a group of jet-ski operators based at the popular beach on the island's west coast.

The individual was approximately 150 metres offshore when he encountered difficulties, prompting the jet-ski operators to alert the lifeguards who rushed to help.

They managed to rescue the man, who it transpired was unconscious, and bring him ashore before performing basic CPR on him.

The lifeguards were able to revive the 72-year-old man although he remained unconscious and in a precarious state.

A vehicle from Thalang Hospital's Advanced EMS Unit then arrived on the scene and rushed the man to Thalang Hospital before he was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

No official comment has been made on the status of the American tourist's state of health at time of press although it is believed he was fully revived and is recovering at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Police confirmed that from initial reports the tourist had gone swimming with two male friends in the water off Surin Beach before the incident happened.

Police made no mention of the man's friends and their involvement during the unfortunate incident, however.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Koh Maphrao residents want a bridge

LOCAL RESIDENTS ON KOH MAPHRAO have formally requested the Department of Rural Roads to build a bridge to connect the small idyllic isle to Phuket. So far, without a bridge, the island, off Phuket's east coast, has remained unmolested by rampant commercial construction.

Phuket MP Somchart Techathavorncharoen, MP for Phuket District 1, revealed the news through a post online last week.

The post showed Mr Somchart's formal request addressed to the Phuket branch of the Department of Rural Roads, supporting the island residents' call for the Department of Rural Roads to at least evaluate the need, and economic impact, of having the bridge built.

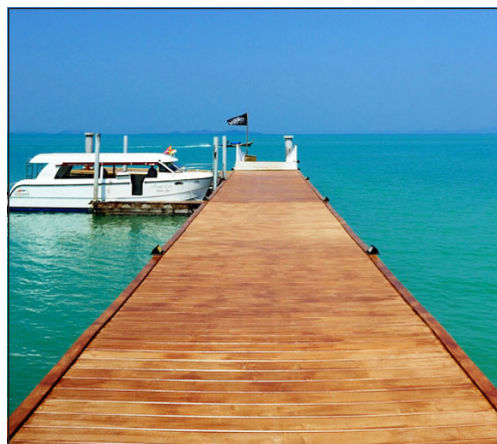
The letter was addressed directly to Mongkol Duchanee, Director of Mukdahan Rural Highways District Office, but is also currently serving as Acting Director of Phuket Rural Roads District Office.

Mr Somchart noted that he had received multiple complaints from residents on Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island) about the difficulty they have travelling to and from Phuket, even though Koh Maphrao at its nearest point is less than 500 metres from Phuket.

"Laem Hin cannot be accessed by boats during low tide, and local residents have to waste time waiting for the boat to be full of passengers," he wrote.

"Local residents want to build a bridge from Phuket to Koh Maphrao for ease of movement and development as a tourist attraction. We ask that the Ministry of Transport set a budget to study this bridge project in time for allocation of the budget during the fiscal year 2024," he added.

Mr Mongkol replied directly, confirm-



Residents on Koh Maphrao want a bridge to their island, but concerns remain about what impact it would have on the entire island. Photo: File / Courtesy The Village Coconut Island

ing that the Department of Rural Roads will consider the project.

A map provided by Somchart showed that such a bridge connecting Phuket with Koh Maphrao would be 848m long.

"It has been determined that the project is beneficial to Phuket Province and the people on Koh Maphrao, but because the project is large, it will use a large budget for construction," Mr Mongkol wrote.

"Therefore, the matter was submitted to the Rural Roads Office No. 14 (Krabi) to please consider the said project," he confirmed.

When the prospect of building a bridge to Koh Maphrao was raised in 2017, the key concerns were the environmental impact the bridge would have on mangroves in the area, and the impact the accessibility for construction companies to move in would have on the nature of the whole island. *The Phuket News*



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE AT THE SALA BEACH BAR

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WEEKEND WITH SOME BRILLIANT LIVE MUSIC! THE LIVEWIRES PLAY AN ECLECTIC SELECTION OF CLASSIC POP AND ROCK HITS TO THE INFECTIOUS BEATS OF FUNK, SOUL AND REGGAE.

GUEST CAN ENJOY A WEEKLY SELECTION OF SPECIAL SATURDAY LIVE DRINKING AND DINING PROMOTIONS.

SATURDAY NIGHTS IN MAI KHAO ARE BEST SPENT AT THE ALL NEW SALA BEACH BAR.

THE LIVEWIRES BAND
FROM 6.30PM TO 8.30PM

076 33 8888

events@salaphuket.com

www.salaphuket.com

Property surge at Bang Tao

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

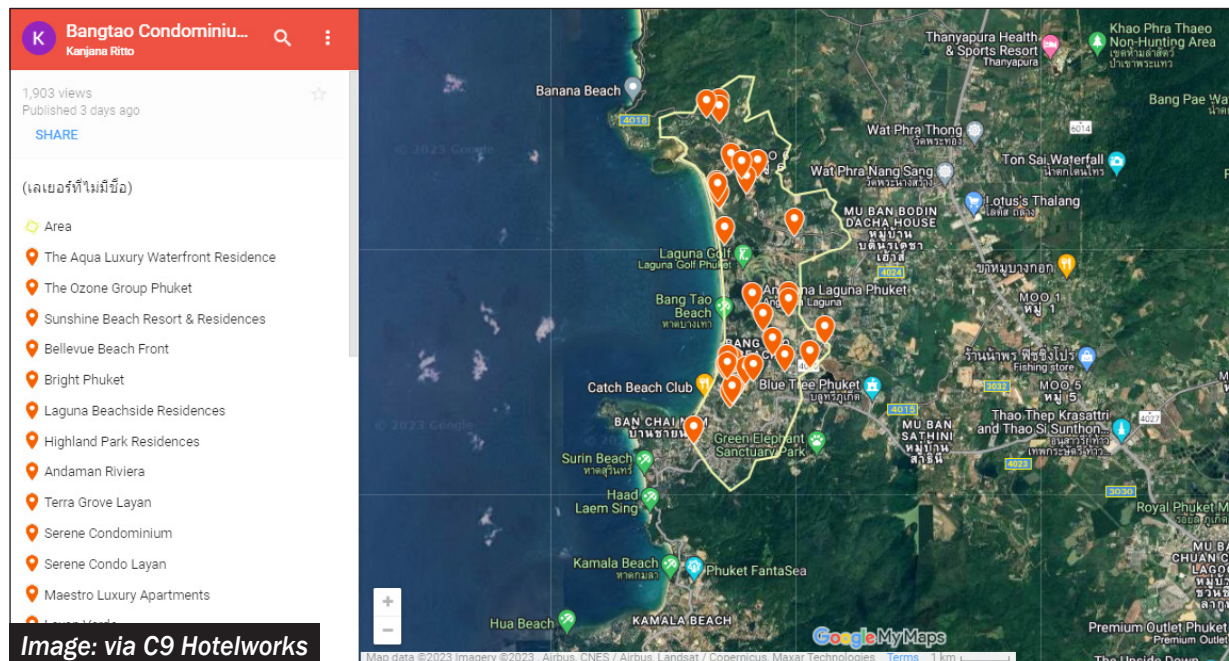
Phuket's once-quiet beachside west coast community of Bang Tao is experiencing an unparalleled surge in real estate development. According to new research from C9 Hotelworks, there are currently 7,842 condominium units. Added to the supply influx are just over 2,400 upscale and luxury homes, which equate to a pipeline of more than 10,000 residential units in the market.

In what is a fragmented neighbourhood of Bang Tao, Laguna, Cherng Talay and Layan, these areas traditionally formed what is a tourism-oriented district. All of this is now changing, and the influx of real estate projects looks to recast the area as Phuket's 'Gold Coast' in what is an emerging metropolitan area, reports C9 Hotelworks Managing Director Bill Barnett.

Despite a methodical pace of property growth over the past two decades, the post-pandemic inward migration onslaught of expatriates has been nothing short of phenomenal. Inland land prices in the area have more than tripled over the past 24 months, where land that had been B8-10 million a rai is now B25-30 million.

One of the key triggers of the property boom has been the Russian-Ukraine conflict, which has supercharged what was already a growing geographic source of business for tourists and real estate. Russian buyers now account for the lion's share of properties, though there continues to be diversity in broader terms. Coupling with the incoming Eastern European growth is a steady stream of lifestyle buyers who are jumping onto the urban flight trend to work from home and focus on quality of life away from highly populated cities.

There is a rapid rise in new residents from the US, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Europe. Key to the migration storyline has been the widely popular Thailand Elite long-term visa program as well as



the government-initiated retirement visa. A secondary demand generator has been the strong growth of international schools, which are now in double digits in size and expanding. These offer access to dependent and/or guardian visas.

Moving back to the makeover of Bang Tao from a tourist area into an international community, there is an escalation of residential properties in size versus hotels. C9's research shows there are 2,837 rooms/key of international standard properties in the expansive area. These are now being dwarfed by property development, which creates challenges and a potential problem of unlicensed tourism accommodation.

Thailand's Hotel Act, as it stands now, makes it difficult and in many cases impossible for residential condominiums or villa estates to obtain hotel licences. For condominiums, the conversion from residential use to commercial use that is required for a hotel licence has been stymied at local approval levels and remains a contentious issue.

What is apparent with over 10,000 new properties coming up is that not all buyers will be end-users or owners of holiday/second homes. In many cases, residential buyers have expectations of high rental yields from a flourishing Phuket tourism market, yet they might face problems

in the future as projects lack hotel licences. For the traditional hotel sector, there is concern over unfair competition from the informal rental market.

Realistically, the lack of a licensing mechanism for residential properties is putting the government at a substantial tax disadvantage, and funds that could be earmarked for badly needed infrastructure are an opportunity missed. Safety in non-licensed accommodation should also be a critical area of concern.

As to who is developing the upcoming projects, these comprise three main groups. Laguna Phuket remains the largest land bank in the Greater Bang Tao area, and it has shifted focus from tourism to real estate as an economic necessity. With more projects within the main destination resort area, the company will also push into a new mixed-use community north of Laguna Village.

On the Thai development front, post-COVID-19 has seen Bangkok developers active, such as CPN (Central Pattana), One Origin, AssetWise and Sansiri. Local groups include Boat Pattana, Botanica and Anchan. Given the escalation of land prices, the current state of play favours mid-rise condominiums as the only way developers can make an economic case with underlying land costs.

For the third group, Eastern European, or mainly Russian developers have flocked to the Bang Tao area as market sentiment is at its highest level. These projects account for at least half of the total condominium units coming to market, due to the greater density of development. At the end of the day, rising land acquisition costs are spurring this trend.

Another change for Phuket property is the escalation of commissions which remain unstandardized. In many of the new Bang Tao properties that lack brand or strong customer bases, commissions have risen to 7-10%. In certain cases, even a cash bonus of up to B100,000 has been added to the incentive.

Whereas more traditional projects would have seen lower commissions and higher marketing costs, developers are now becoming massively reliant on a growing brokerage base. A growth spurt of Russian and Eastern European agents now sees projects chasing them for prospective buyers. Certainly, brokerage has taken centre stage for the moment, though there remain questions as to the depth of their customer base longer term. One good example of underlying growth in brokerage is the leading portal FazWaz, which has established a strong base for online buyer generation.

Lastly, larger property groups are

closely watching the formation of new Phuket development regulations. This is regulated by the Phuket Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning together with the Bangkok-based Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which oversees Environmental Regulations.

In C9's discussions with experts on the draft plan which is expected to formalise in 2024, there will be a greater alignment to Bangkok-type rules that focus on FAR (floor area ratio) and higher minimum-road width for mid-rise development. It's likely that given Phuket's growth, certain areas will be zoned for high-rise development.

These changes, while needed, will come too late to address growing traffic concerns. The addition of over 10,000 new residential properties to the Bang Tao area will see an uptick of large construction vehicles, a large-scale growth in private vehicles, and is a serious situation that has to become a government priority. Sadly, there is no blueprint structure for an expanding Bang Tao metropolitan district that crosses many local jurisdictions. The most glaring immediate need is a traffic study and action plan by the municipality and highway department.

As a final point, one missing link in the growth of residential units is the lack of diversification of larger demand generators such as a full-service hospital, central parking structures, commercial buildings, international convention centre, public parks and pedestrian-friendly access. This, of course, is at odds with sky-high property prices that dictate highly dense projects to make economic sense. What is desperately needed is a Phuket Master Plan and acceleration of transportation infrastructure.

Bang Tao's journey into a metropolitan, 'Gold Coast' community is well underway, and we do expect cyclical growth to continue into the high season, but there is also a tendency to wonder: when does the market peak, and what comes next?

Article by Bill Barnett, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks.

First visa-free visitors from India arrive

THE ISLAND WELCOMED the first visitors from India under the new visa-free travel policy last Friday (Nov 10), as two flights from the country touched down at Phuket International Airport.

The first, an Indigo Airlines flight number 6E1071, arrived from Mumbai with a total of 220 passengers on board.

The second flight, also Indigo Airlines, flight number 6E1073, was from Delhi, although there was no of-

ficial report on the number of passengers on board.

Monchai Tanode, The General Manager of Phuket International Airport confirmed that the airport will receive two flights daily from India, the same level as it was prior to the visa-free travel policy coming into effect.

Mr Monchai added that it is expected a total of 650 passengers will arrive each day between the two flights.

The Phuket Airport GM also confirmed that presently no direct flights are scheduled

into Phuket from Taiwan although this will change from Jan 1, 2024 to correspond with the tourist high season, where one flight per day is anticipated to bring 180 passengers per flight.

The Cabinet approved the visa-free travel policy on Oct 31, permitting visitors of both Indian and Taiwanese nationality to stay in Thailand for no more than 30 days without any visa requirements. This policy will run for six months until May 10, 2024 and is expected to help boost tourism

and consequently the national economy.

Mr Monchai explained that currently Phuket International Airport is welcoming approximately 1,500 arrivals per hour during peak hours, while the capacity is in excess of 2,400 people per hour.

He also confirmed that more flights are arriving daily and that the maximum number of arrivals is expected to be reached very soon.

Mr Monchai concluded by stating the airport had full cooperation from the local



Photo: PR Phuket

police at Sakhu Police Station, the Tourist Police and Immigration police to ensure safety measures are in place for all

tourists visiting the island to make sure they have a safe and enjoyable stay.

The Phuket News

No need for Chinese police on Thai streets

BANGKOK

Bangkok Police

National police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukwimol has denied that Thai police have sought Chinese counterparts' patrols in the country, saying that such a move would raise security issues.

Pol Gen Torsak voiced his stance on Monday (Nov 13) in response to earlier reports that authorities planned to invite Chinese police to patrol in popular tourist areas such as Bangkok and Phuket to boost confidence among Chinese visitors who formed a major source of tourism-related income.

It was reported last Sunday that the Royal Thai Police (RTP) had found Chinese tourists were afraid they could be targeted for attack by Chinese criminals while visiting Thailand.

The RTP was therefore of the opinion that the presence of Chinese police in Thailand would give the tourists visiting from China more confidence



An officer of the Royal Thai Police surveys the scene on Sukhumvit Soi Nana, Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post

that they would be safe while in the kingdom, adding that the Chinese police could provide their Thai counterparts with information to enable effective operations against Chinese criminals.

However, Pol Gen Torsak said on Monday that the RTP did not in fact make the proposal and he thought there was a misunderstanding on the issue.

He said he disagreed with the idea of inviting Chinese police to take care of Chinese tourists in Thailand, saying that would breach Thai sovereignty. The RTP were already

able to protect both residents and visitors, he explained, adding that the RTP presence and database on Chinese criminals would enable Thai police to work effectively enough.

Pol Gen Torsak said he was aware that Chinese police officers had been deployed in Italy, where there were communication problems. "But there is no such problem in Thailand," he stated.

The police chief said relevant officials had discussed a coordination centre where Thai and Chinese officials could jointly handle criminal issues concerning China.

"It is necessary to exchange information about culprits and crimes. The coordination is continuing," Pol Gen Torsak said. "Officials were assigned for the coordination and usually they are Chinese police officers who supervise the Chinese embassy in Thailand."

The idea to invite Chinese police to jointly conduct patrols with Thai counterparts in tourist destinations was raised during a meeting of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin with representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Central Investigation Bureau, the Immigration Police and Tourist Police.

The Prime Minister chaired the meeting at Suvarnabhumi airport last Sunday before leaving for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco.

Officials discussed the idea because it was implemented in Italy and they expected the idea to help promote Thailand as a popular destination for Chinese tourists.

Thai death toll in Israel rises to 39

BANGKOK

FIVE MORE THAIS working in Israel have been confirmed dead, raising the total number of fatalities to 39, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed last Saturday (Nov 11).

Citing the Thai embassy in Tel Aviv, the ministry said that Israeli authorities had completed the identification of the victims and verified that five of them are Thai nationals.

It took the number of Thai workers killed to 39 with 19 others injured and 25 taken hostage. Of the injured, four are still in hospital.

Pannabha Chandraratna, the Thai ambassador to Israel, and Sakdinart Sonthisakdiyothin, an inspector with the Social Security Office, visited three of the injured last Friday (Nov 10).

The workers, who are at Sheba Tel-HaShomer Medical Center and Shamir Medical Center (Assaf Harofeh), are making a good recovery, the foreign



Thai workers returning from Israel land in Bangkok on Oct 26. Photo: Royal Thai Air Force

ministry said, adding that officials are making plans to visit the other injured person.

According to Thai officials, there were about 30,000 Thai workers in Israel before the Oct 7 raids by Hamas. Some 8,000 have since been repatriated and over 20,000 Thai workers have chosen to stay despite the worsening conflict.

Efforts to secure the release of those held captive are still ongoing. Foreign Affairs Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara said last week that the Thais held hostage are expected to be among the first of some 250 hostages to be freed as they were being held in relatively safe areas. Bangkok Post

Ministry eyes new 4am venue rules

BANGKOK

THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH will propose that nightspots wanting to open longer hours conduct an alcohol breathalyser test on their customers before they leave, if they appear too drunk to get home safely.

It also proposes they find them transport services if need be.

The ministry has set up a working group to support the government's policy to spur the economy by extending the opening hours of nightclubs and bars, while also protecting public health, said Public Health Minister Cholnan Srikaew last Sunday (Nov 12).

It was trying to strike a balance and hit upon the idea of having nightspots step in before customers go home.

Some Western countries have adopted similar interventions to ensure patron safety and that of the public at large.

When longer opening hours start on Dec 15 in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri and Phuket as planned, outlets can sell alcohol until 4am in special designated zones.

In response to public concerns over rising road accidents caused by drunk driving, he said the ministry will come up with measures to address the issue.

The working group will submit its proposal to the government soon.

If approved, the ministry will then exercise its authority under the 2008 Alcoholic Beverages Control Act to issue ministerial regulations, including a requirement for nightspots to conduct an alcohol



Khao San Rd in Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post

breathalyser test on customers who appear drunk, he said.

If the test shows the level of blood alcohol content exceeds a legal limit of 0.05%, the pubs must not allow customers to drive, he said.

The law also prohibits the sale of alcohol to people who are heavily intoxicated.

Selling alcohol to extremely drunk people carries a penalty, as the ministry is authorised under the law to protect the health and safety of both drinkers and those who don't drink, he said.

That is why the ministry is also considering encouraging all nightspots in the zones to find proper transport services for customers so they won't end up driving while under the influence, he said.

No details were available as to penalties that non-compliant nightspots might face.

Bangkok Post

WE PROUDLY SERVE STARBUCKS® COFFEE



We look forward to welcoming you at Sunset Café' from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (Entrance via Lagoon Ticketing)



BLUE TREE PHUKET
OPEN DAILY

Starbucks and the Starbucks logo are used under license by Nestlé.

bluetree.fun
+66 (0) 76 602 435
info@bluetree.fun



Joining the fight against HPV

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) has launched its part in the national campaign to vaccinate 1 million young women against human papillomavirus (HPV) within 100 days.

The first group of 200 female students were vaccinated for HPV at Plookpanya School in Phuket Town on Nov 8, as PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon launched the local campaign under the banner 'Save our School Children'.

HPV is the name given for a very common group of viruses. They do not cause any problems in most people, but some types can cause genital warts or cancer, explains the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.

HPV affects the skin. There are more than 100 different types, the NHS adds.

"Many types of HPV affect the mouth, throat or genital area. They're easy to catch. You do not need to have penetrative sex. You can get HPV from: any skin-to-skin contact of the genital area... HPV has no symptoms, so you may not know if you have it," the UK health agency notes.

"You do not have to have sexual contact with a lot of people to get HPV. You can get HPV the first time you have sex," the NHS warns.

The HPV vaccination campaign "kick off" across Thailand on Wednesday was under the theme, "Knowledge, prevention, early detection and treatment. Safe from cancer", explained Dr Kusak.

At the event on Nov 8, joined by Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Supachoke La-ongphet, the national "Comprehensive Cancer" policy aimed to vaccinate women in Phuket between the ages of 11 and 20 years old.

"Cancer is an important public health problem in Thailand. and is likely to increase. In particular,



cervical cancer is the second most common disease in Thai women under 45 years of age," Dr Kusak explained.

"In the past five years, approximately 6,500 new cases were found per year [nationwide], with 2,000 deaths per year," he added.

"In Phuket, from 2018 -2022, we found an average of 10 cervical cancer patients per year. The cause is the Human Papilloma Virus, or HPV, through direct contact or sexual intercourse," Dr Kusak explained.

"It can be prevented with the HPV vaccine, which is effective in preventing cervical cancer in people who have not yet been infected," he added.

The HPV vaccine was 93-95% effective in preventing transmissions, he said.

"Thailand has had a nationwide policy to provide HPV vaccination to female students in Grade 5, or

when they are 11 years old, since 2017, but has faced a global shortage of HPV vaccines in recent years," Dr Kusak explained.

"This affected our ability to procure the HPV vaccine to cover the target group. From 2019-2022, Phuket Province was able to provide the first dose of HPV vaccine to a total of 3,456 students," he said.

In 2023, the Ministry of Public Health has a plan to accelerate HPV vaccination among women between the ages of 11-20 years old, both within and outside the education system, Dr Kusak said.

"Under the Quick Win 100 Days 'Comprehensive Cancer' policy, the goal is to administer 1 million doses of HPV vaccination within 100 days," he added.

JUST FOR TEENS

Meanwhile, the PPHO has announced that the Department of Health, under the Ministry of Public Health, has launched its official 'TEEN CLUB' Line group as a channel of communication to enhance health literacy and reproductive health among youths.

The Line group is to "provide correct knowledge and understanding about sexuality education and solve the problem of unplanned pregnancy", said the announcement.

"Based on confidentiality and privacy, TEEN CLUB will be a center for various knowledge that teenagers are curious about but don't dare ask anyone about," the PPHO said.

"It also makes it easier to access birth control services. You can check your rights to receive birth control services, search for birth control services, and there is a menstrual recording feature to help check your menstrual cycle," the PPHO added.

TEEN CLUB also has a hotline service 1663 and a chat bot to answer questions especially for teenagers. People can join the LINE 'TEEN CLUB' at https://line.me/R/ti/p/@teen_club



THAI
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with
Thai Residential
and Increase Your Chances
of a **Successful** Sale.

PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130



HeadStart students enter Young Writers Awards

ADVERTORIAL

Two of HeadStart International School's most creative Year 11 Literature students - Baikao Udomkiratak and India Smuthkochorn - have submitted their pieces of creative writing to the prestigious Bennington Young Writers Competition 2023-24 in Vermont, USA.

Bennington College has a unique literary legacy, including 12 Pulitzer Prize winners, three US poet laureates, four MacArthur Geniuses, countless New York Times bestsellers, and two of Time magazine's 100 most influential people. In celebration of this legacy, Bennington launched the Young Writers Awards to promote excellence in writing at the high school level. Their goal with this competition is to recognise outstanding writing achievement by high school students. Each year, students in the 9th-12th grades are invited to enter in one of the following categories: Poetry, Fiction and Nonfiction. A first, second, and third place winner is selected in each category.

Below is the Nonfiction piece from India Smuthkochorn. Head of English at HeadStart International School Phuket, David Pollicutt explains:

"India Smuthkochorn has always been a student with a flair for English. She also happens to be a student with a wry sense of humour and keen observational eye. Thus, when I became aware that Bennington College Vermont was running its Young Writers Awards Competition again in 2023, I strongly earmarked her as being someone who'd be interested in entering this prestigious event. And make no mistake, entering it is no breeze; especially when considering that India is in the second year of two year IGCSE curriculum, committed to organising her time to both the varied demands of all her subjects and her extracurricular passions here at HeadStart. Finding the time to reflect, consider, plan, write, discuss and edit a 1,500-word original piece is a significant commitment, one which I am delighted she made.

"Reading all our entries gave me joy, a joy that there is still time and room for literary artistry and creativity in our increasingly frantic world; joy that a young person can find utility, pleasure and even catharsis in the act of writing.

"I have chosen to share India's piece as I found especially touching. I like in particular the intimacy of the portrayal of a real family doing real things, in a way which reveals an endearing vulnerability on the part of the writer. India paints a picture which allows us to feel like an extra guest at her family meal but without us ever feeling as if we are in any way transgressing. We are always looking to develop student writing both in and out of the classroom at HeadStart and I hope you enjoy this piece."



India Smuthkochorn and Baikao Udomkiratak with David Pollicutt and their submissions.

Saturday Night Party "How's school?"

My uncle Ton mechanically mumbles to me, as we sit with our faces drowned in blue light from our phones. It's really impossible to escape the topic of learning isn't it? I make an effort to look up and prepare myself to speak; I've heard this question before and already have an answer. I guess it's my duty to assume the role of the 'hard-working student' even at family dinners.

"Well its-", I get interrupted. My mom calls me over to the dining table and plops plastic bags of Som Tam and Larb Gai into my hands. She watches as I struggle to undo the tightly spun-around rubber bands pinching the bags closed. Finally succeeding in opening one bag and squeezing the Som Tam into pastel-coloured plates, my mom snatches the rest of the bags, sighing as she does so. She finishes the rest herself, laughing at how quick she was. I retreat quietly back to my seat.

It's Saturday night and we are back at my Aunt Pook's place for the family's weekly dinner together. It's weekly dining unless cancelled by my grandfather. He sits at the head of the table, sporting his striped pyjamas. Always muttering "I'm already full from lunch.", to which the rest of us respond by awkwardly laughing.

I have a choice whether to go or stay home and always pick the first option; otherwise I'm met with deadly glares from my mom and feel wrecked with 'oh so much' guilt afterwards.

My uncle doesn't try to start another conversation and afterwards we all sit down at the dinner table. I sit next to my older cousin Keamen, who is 17, half-white, and surprisingly enjoys these parties. He says he likes having people around because he only sees his mom's face during weekdays. His mom jokingly snaps back on how she has to stare at his ghostly white complexion all day long which the rest of us find hilarious. Keamen always complained about how he felt too white with us and too Asian with his friends in England. Funny enough, even though he can't understand some of the jokes or eat some of the food prepared with us, I'd say he's more included in the dinners than me. Unless you count the dozen several times Uncle Ton asked me if school opened yet. He knows - he just wants to tease me about it because I'd rather stay home. I mean who wouldn't?

Today Keamen has six sausages on his plate and nothing else.

I fill my plate with Khao Pad and Gai Tod. We start eating and the grownups begin to talk. My aunt-in-law (also called) Pook turns to my mom. My dad gets off

his computer and tries to joke with Keamen, who stabs his fork into a sausage. I reach for the mild Som Tam. If I were to make my mom proud without the use of school achievements, it'll be if one day I could eat spicy food at the same level as her.

Keamen laughs as I examine the Som Tam, trying to scan for any hidden chilli pieces. "Good luck", he smirks, taking a sip from his cup. It's his second glass of milk this evening.

I scoff at his words when my mom places a bowl of edamame beans in front of me. I grab a handful, piling them up on my plate. My uncle points a finger and laughs out loud, snatching the bowl and asking if anyone else wanted some. The adults laugh, Keamen flashes an 'I understand your pain' face to me and my grandfather holds back a smile. It's his first main interaction this evening.

Scraping his fork into the salad bowl, older Cousin Au, 24 years old, searches for a good looking piece of lettuce. Serving spoons are but a mystery to him. His twin sister Auy scrolls through Instagram reels as she chews on a stale Gai Tod wing; she sadly asked for pork this evening. She deems the conversation boring when my mom starts talking about my grades and extracurricular activities to my Aunt, who nods, agreeing that it's important for a good future. Quickly, she flashes a look to Keamen who tensely avoids her stare. The youngest cousin Pete sits opposite me, his face barely visible as he sits crossed legged on his chair. Pete is probably 10 years old - no one really knows his age as he's small but with a smart chattering mouth.

He announces his presence by getting up and grabbing a bowl, filling it with water.

(Pete has several different ways of getting our attention):

- 1) Running around before tripping and crying loudly.
- 2) Standing on his chair before aggressively twerking and singing some Thai Country Rap.
- 3) Making a strange joke or comment on one of the adults.
- 4) Or this time..

He sets his bowl of water on the table, and dips a spoonful of Som Tam in. His tiny fingers grab at the washed Som Tam and grin. He's found a way around the spiciness and can join in on the excitement. Everyone applauds and continues eating.

Wouldn't that just wash away all the flavour? Keamen finishes off his 9 sausages and gulps down his milk.

"I hope there's cake today." He smiles rubbing his belly and stands up. He

leaves the table then comes back with more sausages. I wonder if it's possible to steal one without him noticing.

"Is there any more meat?" Keamen asks his mom. She gets up and starts frying chicken for him because he doesn't eat any of the Thai food placed around the table. I offer him a plate of Khanom Chin and hot crab curry. He gives me a hard "No thank you" and takes his mom's chicken. Keamen says his 'white people' tongue won't be able to handle it as he watches the others devour it down like it's their last meal. I grab some Khanom Chin for myself, making sure not to pour too much curry into the bowl otherwise it'll be too spicy for me.

"Are you sure you don't want any Khanom Chin, I swear it actually tastes really good aside from the spice." He shakes his head and smiles. "I'm not here for the food. I'm here for the company and the cake."

My grandfather suddenly looks in my direction and he dramatically points behind me. He looked as if he'd just had an epiphany.

"We made your favourite soup today, it's on the stove, I think". The dramatic music fades away from the background. Well I have to eat it now, no choice.

I grab a bowl of Tom Som Pak from the counter, making sure to get as many vegetables as I can. Keamen flashes a look of disbelief. His mom just forced a bowl of green peas into his hands and he takes slow, sad bites. After dinner, soft-baked cookies are served. The homemade cookies baked by cousin Auy are 90% chocolate and 10% dough.

"So, have you thought about what you want to do in the future yet?" My grand-aunt asks because strangely, people like asking personal questions about topics they know we don't have. For example: after dating someone for 1 week - when are you getting married? Or after getting married - when are the children coming?

I shake my head quickly, trying to smile as the adults sigh. Personally, I don't think it's that shameful, with me being 15 and not knowing what I want to do with my life yet. Besides, even if I mentioned what job I had in mind, they'll probably talk about a better, more prestigious job.

Afterwards, the cousins disperse in random directions from the table, occupying seats in the living room. I sit between Pete and Keamen on the sofa. Pete turns on a Thai horror movie, Pee Nak. He laughs loudly at the movie, shouting how stupid the ghosts look before asking someone to kindly accompany him to the toilet.

My grandfather turns on his phone and loud music blasts out. I see my mom and Aunt Pook open their mouths to say something, before stopping and continuing with the conversation. My aunt's beagles, Elle and Phik Thai, bark outside at the commotion; they didn't get an invitation to the party because they both smell like wet grass.

Keamen tries to watch the movie with Pete, reading along with English subtitles. Much to Pete's frustration, Keamen replays specific scenes more than four times to figure out what the actors were saying. It's a funny joke in Thai but the English subtitles translate to something different, what a scam. Keamen finally laughs triumphantly.

Uncle Ton grabs his tablet and takes a seat near us, poking Pete who screams and whines at him. He turns to me and thinks of something to say again.

"How's school?"

POP QUIZ

- 1. Sacha Baron Cohen's 'Admiral General Aladeen' was the dictator of which fictional republic?
- 2. The three orders of classical architecture are Ionic, Corinthia, and which other?
- 3. Which city, located in southern India and the highest of India's major cities, is nicknamed the 'Silicon Valley of India'?
- 4. What was the middle name of Hunter S. Thompson?
- 5. Which battle against Roman rule in southern Britain ended with the defeat of Queen Boudica?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

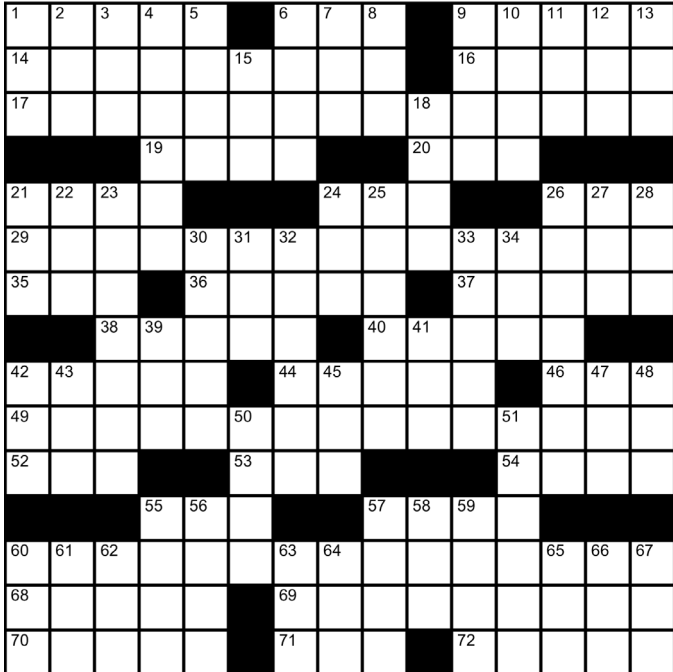
- Across

 - 1. Deep cavity
 - 6. The Company
 - 9. Blubbers
 - 14. Some salesmen
 - 16. Clear
 - 17. Flees
 - 19. Shoestring
 - 20. Part of T.G.I.F.
 - 21. Final notice
 - 24. Bolivian export
 - 26. "When We Were Kings" subject
 - 29. Flees
 - 35. Everyday article
 - 36. Band section
 - 37. Lowest deck on a ship
 - 38. Pancakes served with sour cream
 - 40. Accustom: Var.
 - 42. Delicate
 - 44. Popular mints
 - 46. Grazing locale
 - 49. Flees
 - 52. Formal vote
 - 53. Big Apple inits.
 - 54. Sailed through
 - 55. Excuse
 - 57. Recipe abbr.
 - 60. Flee
 - 68. Block house?
 - 69. Soap ingredient
- Down

 - 1. 20's dispenser
 - 2. Support system?
 - 3. Jabber
 - 4. Slender
 - 5. City near Phoenix
 - 6. Give up
 - 7. Kind of contribution
 - 8. Chucklehead
 - 9. Fabric
 - 10. "Aeneid" figure
 - 11. Cup handle
 - 12. Kind of particle
 - 13. Firm
 - 15. Varnish ingredient
 - 18. Help for the stumped
 - 21. Legendary Giant
 - 22. Cousin of "Phooey!"
 - 23. Japanese art of flower arrangement
 - 24. Freight weight
 - 25. Supplement
 - 26. Relating to a pair of genes
 - 27. Neighbor of a Vietnamese
- 28. Trickster
 - 30. Decoy
 - 31. Cyclotron bit
 - 32. Complicated
 - 33. Put up
 - 34. Blunder
 - 39. Sue Grafton's "____ for Lawless"
 - 41. Extreme
 - 42. Zap
 - 43. Wish undone
 - 45. Common Market: Abbr.
 - 47. Chemical suffix
 - 48. Kick in
 - 50. Captivated by
 - 51. Yellowstone sight
 - 55. Pervasive quality
 - 56. Area 51 conveyances?
 - 57. The one over there
 - 58. Vereen
 - 59. Synagogue
 - 60. Greetings
 - 61. It may need massaging
 - 62. Miss. neighbor
 - 63. Dashboard abbr.
 - 64. Mad Hatter's drink
 - 65. Chop off
 - 66. Collagen target
 - 67. Canny

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Republic of Wadiya; 2) Doric; 3) Bangalore; 4) Stockton; 5) The Battle of Watling Street (in AD 60 or 61)



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

solitary cracker that survived the sinking of the Titanic sold for nearly \$23,000 in a 2015 auction.

18

percent of drivers fleeing the Los Angeles Police manage to escape arrest.

400

dollars was the littering fine the Western Australian government issued NASA in 1979 when pieces of Skylab fell on the region.

385,000

babies are born around the world each day, according to UN estimates.

3.7 billion

people under age 50 worldwide are infected with the herpes virus.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Laem Promthep from up on high. Photo by Ajinkya Tatkare

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

This week in history

Nov 17, 1558

Elizabethan era begins: Queen Mary I of England dies and is succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I of England, the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Nov 18, 1928

Steamboat Willie, the first fully synchronised sound cartoon is released, featuring Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse. This day is considered by Disney to be Mickey's birthday.

Nov 19, 1994

In the United Kingdom, the first National Lottery draw is held. A £1 ticket gave a one-in-14-million chance of correctly guessing the winning six out of 49 numbers.

Nov 20, 1947

Princess Elizabeth marries Lt Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey in London.

Nov 21, 164 BC

Judas Maccabeus, son of Mattathias of the Hasmonean family, restores the Temple in Jerusalem. The event is commemorated each year by the festival of Hanukkah.



Tyson v Berbick, 1986. Photo: AFP

Nov 22, 1986

Mike Tyson from Brooklyn, New York defeats Trevor Berbick by TKO in the second round to become the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history at age 20.

Nov 23, 534 BC

Thespis of Icaria becomes the first recorded actor to portray a character onstage. Source: Wikipedia

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS
VERTIGOVideOProductions.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

HIGH ELECTRICITY BILL ???
WE WILL TELL YOU WHY
AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.
FIRST CONSULTANCY
FREE OF CHARGE

SAVE ENERGY BY
SMART MONITORING
YOUR CONSUMPTION.
FREE CONSULTANCY.
COMMERCIAL AND
RESIDENTIAL

HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR
PHUKET - 20 YEARS**

Solid wood floors and engineering.
Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

 /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand
 Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tile-e-it™
PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

MASTERCRAFTSMAN
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

Plumber
German Water Team Ltd.Part
We repair what your husband fixed

094 594 8868 (THAI)
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d.west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

- ✓ 100% Chlorine Free
- ✓ Water Parameters Check
- ✓ Salt Chlorinator Installation
- ✓ Electric System Check
- ✓ Pump Room Installation
- ✓ Filtration Check

MARINE SERVICES

**Marine Engineering
Specialists**

C & C MARINE®

YANMAR mtu

C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507
Email: holmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

**WANT TO TALK TO
PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

WINDOW ON PHUKET
 The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский
 Where to eat in PHUKET
 LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI 17 NOV

SUN 19 NOV

TUE 21 NOV

SUN 26 NOV

SHAKERS

STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket

SHAKERS

STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket

Friday Mussels Night

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

Sunday Roast

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

SAT 18 NOV

MON 20 NOV



Bamboo Siamensis Exclusive Loungewear Collection Launch

Siamese Dreams and The Pavilions Phuket invite you to an exclusive event celebrating the launch of our Bamboo Siamensis Loungewear Collection. Date: Saturday 18 November 2023, 6:00 pm until late Location: ALTO Italian Restaurant & Cocktail Bar DRESS CODE: BLACK & GOLD Limited Spaces Reservation is Essential fb.bookings@pavilionshotels.com

SHAKERS

STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket

Monday BBQ Night

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

WED 22 NOV

SHAKERS

STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket

Wednesday BBQ Night

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

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Part Time Fitness Coach

Female fitness coach required End of October for busy business man staying in Surin Beach Must arrange diet, food, workout and massage during his stay. Please email experience and availability by October 21st. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846w

JOB

URGENT

Personal Assistant

Looking for a Personal Assistant to help a British Business man who intends to buy a property in Phuket where he will live part of the year. Duties to include arranging viewings, help organise maids, housekeepers, masseuses, gardener, chef. Arriving October 29th, 2023 and staying in Surin Beach, Phuket. Please email with photo. Phil Solomons: sirround-sound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846

BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE



FISHING BOAT

This is a 2015 20ft X 6ft fishing skiff (6m. X 1.75M). Has bimini, anchor with 150 m. of 1/2" rope, navigation lights, fishing lights, house lights, dual batteries, auto bilge pump, solar panel, steering console, fire extinguisher, 4 life jackets, fenders, engine washing cup, everything you need. Powered by a 40HP 2015 Yamaha Enduro, low hours, with 10 micron fuel filter/water separator, 2 spare 8L tanks, 30 liter main tank. Comes with a 10ft tender, and boat trailer with spare tyre. Price 180,000 Baht. Contact Magdi Myrtoglou on 66 98 874 9522.



The family-friendly yacht

Luxury SeaLine Yacht (51 ft). Fully renovated in 2022. Family-friendly. Features movable swimming platform, spacious flybridge. 3 bedrooms. Engines and generator overhauled. +66986709078 (Phone and WhatsApp)

PROPERTY FOR SALE



Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale

72 SqM Unfurnished One bdrm bath kitchen. 1 Air cond 25 mtrs to beach 4th floor Cattareya Condo Swimming Pool Fitness Parking 24 hr security CCTV. Panadda Sathaisong, 089 635 7311, mypinellasmall@gmail.com



RPM by owner

Unique luxury condo 2 bed, 2 bath, 155sqm. Foreign FREE HOLD. Architect remodel in tropical white. Jacuzzi. All round beautiful views. Completely furnished to a high standard. Only toothbrush needed. Very motivated owner living in Phuket. Onsite restaurant, gym, Tennis court, swimming pools and new Russian consulate. Available to agents. Contact Brian (Owner) - bggvirgo@gmail.com

CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE



Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8

Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8 4WD Wagon. 2021. 48,xxx km. Turbo charged Supercharged 407 hp. Plug-in Hybrid - Gas - Full Electric. Black Onyx Metallic. Contact LINE ID: pma97139 Mr. Philip, Rawai

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Land for sale near Mission Heights

Nice plot of land, just over one Rai in small, very quiet private estate, no monthly fees. 10 min to international school, 15 min to airport. Ideal to build 4 rental units. Reduced to 4.2MB. Contact owner direct - 063 743 8595.

CLASSIFIEDS

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL
081 895 4763
help@aaphuket.org

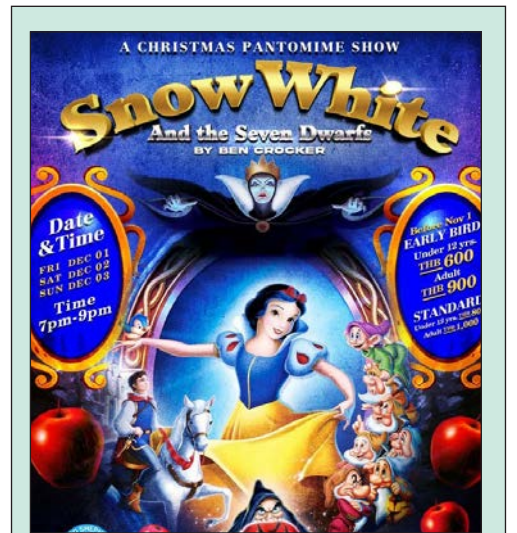
Google www.aaphuket.com



Rotary Club Patong Beach/CanCham Charity Golf Outing

Rotary Club of Patong Beach/CanCham Thailand is holding its first annual charity golf outing at Aquella Golf Club on Sunday, November 26th, 12pm shotgun start. Individual stableford competition using system 36 scoring. 3,000 THB includes green fee, caddy, cart and 1 tray of driving range balls, Tournament and lucky draw, Premium dinner buffet & 1 complimentary drink. Come join us to raise funds for Rotary Club of Patong Beach (RCoPB) for their Save a Child Swim program. The Swim program, originating in Patong, now extends its reach to over five schools annually, offering a vital 10-week curriculum that imparts essential swimming skills and water safety knowledge to children. Over the past five years, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has proudly supported more than 1,000 students through this life-saving initiative, fully funding the program's operations. Justin Hooke, 157/12 Moo 9, Limdul Road, Thai Muang, Thai Mueang District, Phang-nga 82120, Thailand, snowbirdsgolf@gmail.com, +66 (0) 83 451 7340

FRI 1 DEC



SNOW WHITE - CHRISTMAS CHARITY PANTO SHOW

"SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS" Christmas Charity Panto Show Our 4th annual production... Last year, we had 420 attendees at 3 SELL OUT SHOWS! DON'T MISS the FUN! Location: Junkyard Theatre, Bypass Road Ticket Donations: phuketcharity@gmail.com More info on Facebook Page: Phuket Christmas Panto phuketcharity@gmail.com, 0898742942

FRI 8 DEC



Christmas Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon

Join us on the boardwalk at Lagoon Quay of Phuket Boat Lagoon from 6pm on Friday December 8 for an evening of Christmas fun. For more information call 093 781 1188 or email customer@phuketboat-lagoon.com

Where to **eat** in PHUKET

November/December 2023 issue



Out now in over
600 locations

 wheretoeat-phuket.com

Semi-final time in cricket World Cup

CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND WRAPPED up their place in the Cricket World Cup semi-finals last Saturday (Nov 11) after Pakistan failed to overhaul them during their concluding group game against England.

Pakistan, the 1992 champions, needed to beat England by 287 runs in Kolkata to squeeze into the semi-finals at the Kiwis' expense on net run rate.

However, Pakistan's fate was sealed when they faced with the impossible task of scoring over 300 runs by the 40th ball of their reply to England's 337-9.

New Zealand were set to face undefeated hosts India in the first semi-final in Mumbai on Wednesday (Nov 15) with Australia and South Africa clashing in Kolkata 24 hours later.

The Kiwis, runners-up at the last two World Cups, finished fourth in the 10-team table with 10 points after five wins and four losses.



New Zealand were the final team to make the semi-finals. Photo: AFP

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets when they met in the group stage at Dharamsala.

Daryl Mitchell made 130 and Rachin Ravindra scored 75 in their team's total of 273 all out.

However, Virat Kohli's 95 saw India reach their target with two overs to spare.

South Africa crushed Australia by 134 runs in their round-robin clash at Lucknow four weeks ago.

Quinton de Kock made 109 and Aiden Markram hit 56 as the Proteas piled up 311-7.

In reply, five-time champions Australia were shot out for just 177 with more than nine overs to spare.

AFP

PM pledges support for Thai sports development

ALL SPORTS

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has pledged further support to help develop the country's sporting stars after handing over financial rewards to athletes who competed in both the recent Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

Mr Srettha said sporting matters are an important focus for him in his role as prime minister because he likes and plays sports and the backing of sporting talent is therefore a key focus.

"The government is ready to seek funds to support sports and those who bring good reputation to the country," said Srettha, a devout fan of sports in general and football in particular.

He promised to push for higher financial incentives for both normal and disabled athletes.

The Thai medallists at the recent Asian Games and Asian Para Games, as well as their coaches and associations, received more than B350 million in financial rewards from the government at an official ceremony on Nov 7.

Prime Minister Srettha handed over a total of B353.925mn at the ceremony at Government House.

At the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Thailand won 12 gold, 14 silver and 32 bronze medals to finish in eighth place overall.



PM Srettha Thavisin donates a cheque to Trakraw Association of Thailand President Thana Chaiprasit (third right) during the Nov 7 reception. Photo: Bangkok Post

At the fourth Asian Para Games in the same city, the Kingdom claimed 27 gold, 26 silver and 55 bronze medals and finished seventh overall.

Under the National Sports Development Fund's (NSDF) bonus scheme for the Asian Games, a champion receives B2mn, a silver winner B1mn and a bronze medallist B500,000.

The coaches and associations of the medallists also get separate monetary incentives. In all, they received a total of B244.20mn.

Led by its new president Thana Chaiprasit, the Takraw Association of Thailand was the country's most successful association at Hangzhou with four gold medals. They therefore deservedly received the biggest share of B86.80mn in bonuses.

Without a single gold medal, the

Rowing and Canoeing Association of Thailand, its athletes and coaches received B44.45mn.

The Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, whose athletes bagged two golds, got B8.25mn.

Golfers, who won two gold medals in the women's team and individual events, and their association and coaches received B18mn. The squad also claimed the silver medal in the men's team competition.

Also with two golds, the Taekwondo Association of Thailand received B7.5mn.

Thailand also won a gold medal each in windsurfing and e-Sports.

A gold medallist at the Asian Para Games receives B1mn, a silver medallist B500,000 and a bronze medallist B250,000.

In all, the Asian Para Games contingent received B109.725mn from the NSDF.

Child Protection Mini Marathon a hit

RUNNING

THE 20TH CHILD PROTECTION Mini Marathon took place last Sunday (Nov 12) to raise funds to support and protect the welfare of youngsters in Phuket.

The event, created by the Child Watch Phuket Foundation in association with the local government and several private sector entities, saw competitors both walk and run the custom made course at Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus to raise funds for the worthy cause.

Vice Governor of Phuket Amnuay Pinsuwan oversaw the opening ceremony for the race and was joined by Dr Supalak Kanchanamethakul, President of the Child Watch Phuket Foundation.

"The Child Watch Phuket Foundation has been helping underprivileged and vulnerable children in Phuket for more than 26 years," said Mr Amnuay.

The work of Child-Watch Phuket encompasses the safeguard and protection of impoverished, socially



Photo: PR Phuket

deprived, homeless children whose parents are prison inmates, and abused children of all types as listed in the Child Protection Act 2003.

Dr Supalak explained that funds raised during the event will be used to help children across several projects the foundation supports, such as the Baan Lung Phithak project, the Home Scholarship Program, the Mobile Teacher project, the Health Kids Care project, and several projects focused

on child fostering.

Dr Supalak thanked all those that supported and competed in the event as well as the public and private sector organisations that made the event possible.

Among those praised for their efforts were Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus; Hanuman World; Andaman Pearl Running Club; Wichit Municipality; Dibuk Hospital; and Mission Hospital Phuket.

The Phuket News

Registration open for Kathu half marathon

MARATHON

ORGANISERS HAVE CONFIRMED that this year's hugely popular Kathu Half Marathon is scheduled to take place on Sunday, Dec 10.

The 26th edition of the event will feature four separate race categories, including a walk and run, a fun run, a mini marathon and a half marathon.

The walk and run category will cover a distance of 2.5-kilometres and is open to all ages for both male and female competitors. The entrance fee for this event is B200 per person.

The fun run covers a distance of 6km and is divided into several age-specific groups for both male and female runners. The entry fee for the fun run is B200 per person.

The mini marathon covers a distance of 10.5km and is divided into several age-specific groups for both male and female runners. The entry fee for the mini marathon is B250 per person.

The half marathon covers a distance of 21km and is divided into several age-specific groups for both male and female runners. The entry fee for the mini marathon is B350 per person.

There will be cash prizes and trophies up for grabs across the categories as follows:

Competitors finishing between first place to 10th in the men's and women's fun run competition will receive a trophy and the top five finishers cash prizes of B1,500 for first place, B1,200 for second, B1,000 for third, B800 for fourth and B500 for fifth.

The top 10 finishers in the mini marathon



Photo: Kathu Municipality

in both the male and female categories will each receive a trophy and the top five finishers cash prizes of B1,500 for first place, B1,200 for second, B1,000 for third, B800 for fourth and B500 for fifth.

The top 10 finishers in the half marathon in both the male and female categories will each receive a trophy and the top five finishers cash prizes of B2,000 for first place, B1,500 for second, B1,200 for third, B1,000 for fourth and B800 for fifth.

There will be no trophies or cash prizes for those taking part in the walk and run competition. However, all finishers in every class will receive a commemorative medal of the occasion.

Entry fee payments for the races can be made via bank transfers, QR CODE or credit/debit card.

None carry a fee and SMS confirmation will be sent to verify the payment on all types once completed.

Race shirts can be collected on Dec 8-9 between 9am and 6pm from the Kathu Municipality office.

For more information on the event please call Kathu municipality on 076-321073 # 9 or Khun Beam on 087-6252481.

The Phuket News

Chelsea, City share epic draw

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City remain top of the Premier League going into the international break despite being thwarted by Cole Palmer's 95th minute penalty as Chelsea salvaged a 4-4 draw from an incredible clash last Sunday (Nov 12).

A share of the spoils at Stamford Bridge leaves City one point ahead of Liverpool, who beat Brentford 3-0, and Arsenal at the top of the table.

Palmer came back to haunt his former club as City three times let the lead slip against the Blues.

Erling Haaland opened the scoring from the penalty spot before Thiago Silva equalised then Raheem Sterling netted against his former club.

Manuel Akanji headed in Bernardo Silva's cross before Haaland scored again for his 17th goal in 18 games this season.

Nicolas Jackson then scored for Chelsea before Rodri's deflected effort on 86 minutes looked to have finally settled the game in the visitors' favour.



Thiago Silva scores for Chelsea during the pulsating 4-4 draw with Manchester City at Stamford Bridge last Sunday (Nov 12). Photo: AFP

However, Ruben Dias was penalised for fouling Armando Broja in added time and Palmer showed no sign of nerves as he hammered home the spot-kick.

'SPECIAL PLAYER' SALAH

City face Liverpool in their next match after a two-week international break and a Mohamed Salah-inspired Reds made sure that is a top-of-the-table clash by maintaining

their perfect record at Anfield this season.

Salah became the first player ever to score in each of Liverpool's first six home league games of a season when he slotted into the far corner to open the floodgates on 39 minutes.

"In that moment, the composure for the first goal is insane," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

"There is no doubt when the ball is in that area, in the end you see it on the

scoresheet. A pretty special player," he added.

Salah was then left unmarked to head in Kostas Tsimikas' cross to the back post on the hour mark for his 12th goal of the season before Diogo Jota fired in the third as Liverpool made it nine wins and 27 goals from nine games at Anfield in all competitions this season.

Aston Villa are also unstoppable on home soil of late as Unai Emery's men

beat Fulham 3-1 for a 13th consecutive win at Villa Park in the Premier League, with goals from John McGinn, Ollie Watkins and an Antonee Robinson own goal.

Tottenham suffered a shock injury time loss against Wolves last Saturday, despite scoring through Brennan Johnson in only the third minute and maintaining their lead until Pablo Sarabia bagged the equaliser in the first minute of stoppage time and Mario Lemina scored the winner in the 97th minute.

Arsenal took advantage of Tottenham's stumble as they beat Burnley 3-1 to move one point above their north London rivals into third place.

Leandro Trossard opened the scoring with Arsenal's 1,000th goal at the Emirates Stadium since their move from Highbury in 2006 before strikes from William Saliba and Oleksandr Zinchenko settled the game.

UNDER PRESSURE

Elsewhere, Newcastle also crashed to a shock defeat as Dominik Solanke's double took Bournemouth out of the relegation zone in a 2-0 win.

An injury-ravaged New-

castle have now failed to win half of their 12 Premier League games this season and remain seven points off the top down in seventh.

Manchester United eased the pressure on under-fire boss Erik Ten Hag with a nervy 1-0 win against Luton Town thanks to Victor Lindelof's second-half winner.

United had suffered five defeats in their previous 10 home games this season, their worst start to a campaign at Old Trafford since 1930-31 as the heat was turned up on Ten Hag.

"It is a good day. We needed the win and we got it, but we could make life more easy by scoring early on and getting a second," Ten Hag said.

Everton climbed away from the relegation zone with a 3-2 win at Crystal Palace. Vitaliy Mykolenko, Abdoulaye Doucoure and Idrissa Gueye scored for the Toffees, who move eight points clear of the bottom three.

Elsewhere, West Ham snapped their streak of three consecutive league defeats with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest, while Brighton drew 1-1 with strugglers Sheffield United.

Phuket to host IWF World Cup

WEIGHTLIFTING

PHUKET HAS BEEN CONFIRMED to host the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup next year.

The Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association (TAWA) is collaborating with Phuket Province to host the event at Phuket Rajabhat University between Mar 31 and Apr 11, 2024.

It is estimated that over 1,500 people, including athletes, coaches and associated staff members, will attend the event, which Phuket officials said will provide a significant boost to the local economy.

The occasion takes on even greater importance as it will offer the final opportunity for aspiring athletes to accrue the necessary points to ensure qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics in July and August next year.

The announcement was made at a press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall on Nov 9 where Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat appointed Thawan Phetsuk, Head of Phuket Provincial Office, to oversee and manage the project.

Also present at the press conference were: Major General Intharat Yodbangtoey, TAWA Honorary President; General Wisut Dejsakul, TAWA Secretary General; and Damrong Chaisena, Director of Sport Association of Thailand Phuket Office.

Most of those involved with the competition will travel to Phuket in advance and remain throughout the duration, said Mr



Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

Thawan, meaning a huge financial boost for local hotels on the island, as well as for many smaller businesses.

Additionally, while not competing, athletes and their teams can enjoy the island by sightseeing and shopping, which will provide a further boost to Phuket's image as a top tourist destination, Mr Thawan added.

During the competition itself there will be a significant focus on the importance of "clean sport", with several campaigns emphasising anti-doping.

This comes after Thailand was banned from international weightlifting competition on Mar 7, 2019 after eight of the association's weightlifters – including 2016 Rio Olympic champions Sukanya Srisurat and Sopita Tanasan – tested positive for banned substances at the 2018 world championships.

After appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) allowed Thailand to return to international competitions after June 18, 2021.

The event will receive extensive media coverage and further details around the competition will be released closer to the date, officials confirmed. *The Phuket News*

Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors

087 061 7631

@nathan Upvc brown

pvcphuket.com

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



**Weightlifting
World Cup for
Phuket > p15**

TRI-HELP FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

TRIATHLON

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

This weekend's Laguna Phuket Triathlon takes on additional purpose for Phuket resident Robin Wilson above and beyond physical determination and achievement – he is using the event to raise funds to help many of the island's stray and stricken animals.

Kind-hearted Robin, a veteran of many triathlons and taxing physical pursuits in the past, is dedicating his efforts to raise money that will be donated to the Thalang Animal Hospital.

On Sunday (Nov 19), Robin will be among over 1,200 competitors from over 30 countries as the 29th edition of the hugely popular Triathlon gets underway. Robin will be competing in the Sprint event, comprising a 500-metre

swim followed by a 20km bike ride and a 6km run.

"I won't be trying for a fast time, I'll just be happy to get round in one piece – and even happier if I manage to raise a substantial sum to help the animals," Robin said.

Having adopted a dog himself a while back, Robin finds the cause behind his fund-raiser close to his heart. "Countless stray and abandoned cats and dogs live in the shadows of Phuket so I hope this endeavour can help them by raising funds to support the wonderful work the team at Thalang Animal Hospital do," he explained.

The Thalang Animal Hospital offers medical care to stricken animals, as well as conducting treatments and administering sterilisation. They also receive animals in need brought in by various volunteer-led groups across the island to treatment, including sterilisation.

A SNIP IN TIME SAVES 2 MILLION

"Pivotal to the work of the hospital and the various volunteer groups is the ongoing sterilisation programme – vital to break the cycle of more and more unwanted kittens and puppies being born on the streets," Robin explained. "To put the need for this in perspective, it is estimated that just one pair of unsterilised cats running rampant can multiply into more than 2 million unwanted cats in just eight years!

"These various volunteer groups not only help prevent more unwanted cats and dogs being born into misery on the streets but also transform the lives of those already there," Robin adds. "One example of many is orange-and-white cat Chi Chi, rescued from the street as a tiny kitten by one particular volunteer group. Chi Chi was blind with chicken pox infections in his eyes

and was in a desperate state. However, after being rescued, he underwent a dedicated treatment programme and a long recovery process until he finally regained his sight. Chi Chi was then fostered and subsequently secured adoption into a loving home where he's now living his best life."

There are countless other similar examples, Robin explains, but funding is often the true Achilles heel. It is why he is calling on kind-hearted readers of *The Phuket News* to dig into their pockets to donate whatever they can, as even the smallest amount makes a difference and can help the stray dogs and cats of Phuket achieve a healthier and happier life.

To donate to the cause please visit the campaign page www.weeboon.com/en/campaign/help-phuketsquos-forgotten-cats-and-dogs



Robin at a previous Laguna Phuket Triathlon. Photo: Supplied



British
International School, Phuket



ARTHIT OURAIRAT
INSTITUTION

SCORE PROMO!
BISP PLACEMENT FEE WAIVER

UP TO 250,000* OFF

In celebration of Soccer 7s, BISP is offering a placement fee waiver to families applying for a place for January 2024 entry!

- PROMOTION APPLIES TO BISP YEAR GROUPS 5 AND 6.
- PROMOTION ENDS ON DECEMBER 31ST.
- BISP ENTRY REQUIREMENTS APPLY

APPLY NOW

Contact us
+66 (0) 76 335 555
info@bisphuket.ac.th
bisphuket.ac.th

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY





