

PLANS TO GROW MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAKE HEADWAY > PAGE 5

STILL HUNGRY

**THOUSANDS REMAIN IN
NEED OF FOOD DONATIONS
AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CAMPAIGNS STALL**



People queue for food at the 'Duen Sip' Buddhist festival held in Baan Don, Thalang, last week. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

While the government maintains its focus on efforts to restart any form of tourism to Phuket, thousands of people across the island remain in need of food donations to get by – with no support from any government agencies.

It has been months since local government organisations have handed out food to people in need.

A public relations staffer at Patong Municipality, one of the hardest-hit areas on the island due to the international tourism lockout,

told *The Phuket News*, “The municipality budget to provide food is already gone. The last food handout was on June 20, which provided food to about 10,000 people in need.

“There is no budget to do any food handouts in the near future. We do not know when we will have any budget to help people in this part,” the staffer added.

Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Kavee Tansukhatanon confirmed to *The Phuket News* that Phuket City Municipality has handed out emergency food supplies only twice, in May and June. However, he added that the municipality spent B28 million in doing so.

“We do not have any budget [for food-donation campaigns]. We will do another one when we have the budget and the formal order from the Phuket Governor,” he said.

Wal Brown, a long-term Phuket expat who earlier this year co-launched the Feeding Friends Patong campaign with fellow expat Tony Love Linay, explained that the people most affected in the Patong area have been the Myanmar migrant workers.

“The government is not giving any food support anymore. That free food has come to an end,” he said.

Food donations are still obviously much needed, he added, noting

that long queues for food donations are regularly still seen lining the streets of Patong. A recent donation event, on Sept 6, saw some 300 to 400 people lining Nanai Rd, Wal explained.

Queues for food are regularly seen elsewhere across the island as charity events are held, including the recent ‘Duen Sip’ Buddhist festival celebrated in Baan Don, Thalang. A staffer at Cherng Talay Municipality who asked not to be named explained away those present queuing for food as local Urak Lawoi sea gypsies. Queuing for food was a “cultural thing”, the staffer said. Yet, queue for food they did.

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News



Tourism Minister pins hopes on events > p4

Need for food security bites back

Continued from page 1

PRIVATE EFFORTS

A host of top Phuket artists are to record a version of the classic global charity song *Do They Know It's Christmas* in their efforts to help continue providing food to people in Phuket and on nearby islands.

The project will be co-ordinated by Legend Music Recording Studio in Koh Kaew, owned and operated by producer and composer, and long-term Phuket expat, Gary Crause.

Mr Crause was one of the driving forces behind Phuket artists coming together in June to produce their own version of *Lean On Me* to boost food security relief efforts driven by the Help Phuket Today campaign, also created to help people in Phuket suffering without any form of income during the ongoing crisis.

"So far more than 2,000 Lean On Me Food Packs cost-

ing a total of B500,000 have been paid for by the Phuket community and distributed directly to the families and communities all over Phuket and the adjacent islands that are hardest hit by unemployment caused by the pandemic," Mr Crause explained on Monday (Sept 14).

Most recently just over 400 food packs were distributed through the Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organisation (*OrBorTor*), and 20 packs were sent to Phuket Immigration, he added.

Kath Cumming started Help Phuket Today on April 12, collecting food for the hardest hit communities where families were close to starvation due to losing their jobs and income sources because of the COVID-forced lockdowns. With the help of Yvonne Symons from Villa Market and the Tourist Police, they distribute the food donations directly to the communities



The need for food charity drives continues in Phuket. Photo: Help Phuket Today / Legend Music Recording Studio

that need it to survive.

After learning of their relief efforts, Mr Crause from the Phuket Academy of Performing Arts arranged with Villa Market to have a B250 barcode created for the purchase of the food packs to make it very simple for people to donate to the cause. He also called up many of his musician friends and some students to film and record a version of *Lean On Me* to

help drive the marketing and awareness campaign for the food relief efforts.

"All of those involved in the day-to-day running of the Lean On Me Food Donation and Distribution program know firsthand that it is a very real problem that will impact these families for a very long time," Mr Crause said.

"With the low season in full swing, and the high season looking like it will be a non-event, the current outlook is that the situation will not improve for at least another 12 to 16 months, and is in fact getting worse," he added.

To contribute to the relief efforts, simply scan and pay for Lean On Me food packs at any Villa Market in Phuket, or order the packs online via Villa Market's online shopping portal.

GRAVE CONCERNS

Wal Brown also expressed his serious concerns for the current situation's impact on people's emotional and mental well-being. His concerns coincide with Thailand's Mental Health Department on Sept 10 revealing that 2,551 people had killed themselves in the

first half of this year, up 22% for the same period last year.

Personal problems, depression, economic pressure and alcohol were the reasons leading people to take their own lives, said the department.

The rising suicide rate has reminded public health officials of the 1997 financial meltdown, when the rate leaped by between 20% and 30%, it added.

Department Director-General Kiattiphum Wongrajit linked the increase in the suicide cases this year to the outbreak of the deadly virus and described the trend as "worrisome". His assessment was in line with various studies in Thailand and abroad, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

STRONG MESSAGE

The National Reform Committee on Labour was told at a meeting in Phuket on Sept 11 to issue a moratorium on all outstanding debts, boost efforts to bring tourists to Phuket and provide financial support to unemployed people on the island.

Committee Chairman Charin Chakkaphak and his delegation arrived in Phuket to hear directly the key problems island residents are facing during the current economic crisis. Present at the meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall were Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw, Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong, other officials and local business owners.

V/Gov Phichet explained that Phuket is badly affected by the current crisis, and delivered three requests already presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism: extend the financial support by the Social Security Office

for a further three months; allow workers from other provinces to transfer their house registration to Phuket so the Phuket government can receive more budget funds to provide better care for them; and ask the Ministry of Labour to provide help to at least 1,000 unemployed in Phuket.

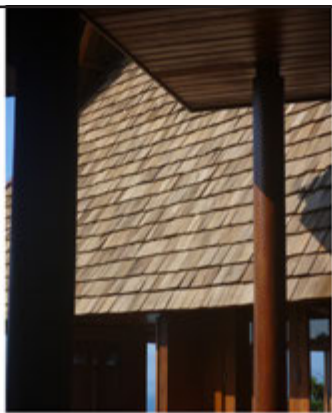
Further requests were presented by the private sector, including representatives from the Phuket Tourism Industry Council, Human Resources Club of Patong, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, among others. The requests presented were: issue a moratorium on all outstanding debts for business owners and employees; relax soft loan conditions so that business owners can actually access the loans; reduce utility bills such as water and electricity; suspend student loan debts for new graduates; and strictly regulate prices of products and services in order to create a good image of Phuket

Other requests presented included one on behalf of Phuket residents for the government to encourage more Thais to travel to the island, and to support local business owners via social security funds and soft loans.

"The central government is paying much attention to Phuket and other places badly affected by the COVID-19 economic crisis, including Koh Samui," Mr Charin said.

All the information received was to be presented to the Cabinet on Tuesday (Sept 15), Mr Charin added.

After the meeting, Mr Charin and his delegation went to meet local hotel operators as well as workers at spa and massage centres in Patong.



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French 'VIPs' allowed through

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Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has confirmed that four French nationals were allowed to land in Phuket and spend 14 days at a hotel designated as an Alternative State Quarantine venue, then allowed to continue their journey to Cambodia.

The confirmation followed reports circulating online that four French "VIPs" were allowed to spend a 14-day holiday in Phuket – despite no foreigners currently being allowed to enter the country via Phuket.

"Four French foreigners were approved by the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration [CCSA], the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand to arrive at Phuket International Airport," Governor Narong said.

"The four French nationals arrived by private jet, then the CCSA designated the four foreigners as a trial group and considered them as a way to test the system [for allowing foreigners into the country]," he added.



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew confirmed the news while reviewing a 'rehearsal' of the processes to allow foreign tourists to be allowed into the country at Phuket International Airport on Sept 8. Photo: PR Phuket

"They went through all the correct procedures and stayed 14 days in quarantine at an ALSQ hotel which was tested in accordance with established systems and measures," he added.

"After that they flew to

Cambodia, without any spread of COVID-19 in Phuket," he said.

Governor Narong declined to explain what reasons were given for allowing the four French nationals special permission to land in Phuket and

spend 14 days on the island while the blanket ban on all foreigners arriving in Thailand via Phuket remains in place – as ordered by the CCSA in Bangkok.

"Testing the system for bringing foreigners into

Phuket is necessary, we must slowly open the door to receive foreigners," Governor Narong said.

"Now our door is suddenly closed," he added.

"Opening the door wide to accepting foreigners coming in without testing the system is impossible. We followed all the CCSA procedures strictly every step of the way," he said.

Governor Narong redirected the issue towards the critical need of allowing foreigners to come to Phuket to help end the financial suffering on the island.

"The efforts to bring foreigners into Phuket is for the benefit of the nation and for Phuket province. Phuket is getting 'sick' now, and the revenue generated from the tourism industry, about B400 billion a year, has all disappeared," he said.

"If we don't do anything and let it continue like this for the next four to five months, or even a year, what will happen to Phuket? How will the people of Phuket survive? Therefore economic recovery is important, as well as taking care of the health of the Phuket people," he concluded.

Governor Narong confirmed the news on Sept 8 while reviewing a "rehearsal" of the processes to allow foreign tourists to be allowed into the country at Phuket International Airport.

The exercise was held as a practice session for the officers involved and to build confidence among the public in the disease-prevention measures, Governor Narong explained.

The rehearsal, which saw 10 actors play the part of foreign tourists arriving and undergoing each step of the testing and verification process for being allowed into the country, was video recorded and will be shared with the public to demonstrate its effectiveness, Governor Narong said.

"Now we have conducted a full rehearsal, we are waiting on Bangkok to decide whether we can receive tourists," he said.

"We are ready and waiting for the central government to approve foreigners to start entering [Thailand through Phuket]. If they do allow Phuket as a port of entry to the country, we are ready to perform the same protocols as practiced at Suvarnabhumi Airport," he added.

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Two more ASQ hotels wait for approval

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Two more hotels in Phuket have been inspected and approved by local health officials to serve as Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) venues, and are now waiting for approval from Bangkok, Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Thanit Sermkaew has confirmed.

Mr Thanit named the two hotels as the Metadee Phuket in Kata and the Phuket Grace-land Resort & Spa in Patong.

The two hotels bring the total number of guest accommodation venues in Phuket officially approved to serve as ASQs to only four.

They join the Anantara Mai Khao Phuket and Trisara Phuket Villas and Residences, altogether offering just 469 guest rooms – despite at least 14 hotels in Phuket applying

for the privilege since late July.

Mr Thanit confirmed two weeks ago that a surge in applications saw at least 82 hotels in Phuket apply to be approved as ASQ venues.

However, some hotel operators have now removed their applications, he said.

“Many of them did not fully understand the extent of changes needed in order to meet the requirements,” he explained.



Phuket health officials conduct a site inspection for COVID-19 prevention compliance in July. Photo: PPHO / file

“We now have about 70 hotels still applying for ASQ approval,” he added.

If approved, Phuket would have 5,000 rooms ready to serve foreign arrivals, Mr Thanit noted.

While Phuket currently has only two approved ASQs, and now two more waiting for Bangkok's approval, there are currently 60 hotels that have been approved to serve as self-quarantine venues – nearly all

of them in Bangkok.

Mr Thanit told *The Phuket News* that one more hotel on the island has been inspected and is expected to also be recommended to be approved as an ASQ.

“We are just waiting on the documents to be processed,” he said.

Mr Thanit maintained that the delay in having hotels in Phuket approved as ASQs was due to operators not fully understanding the extensive requirements needed to be met in order to be approved.

“Many hotels have applied and asked to be inspected, but then we find that they have more adjustments to make in order for us to recommend them to Bangkok to be approved,” he said.

Mr Thanit declined to reveal which hotels in Phuket have applied for ASQ status. “Once they pass the requirements and are approved,

then that information will be revealed,” he said.

Despite the very slow rate of approval, Mr Thanit remained adamant that his office had adequate staffing to cope with the time-consuming inspection process.

“Our team can take this responsibility to check all 70 hotels. I do not need extra officers from Bangkok,” he assured.

However, he admitted, “We have a full schedule to inspect hotels this month already.”

“I am not worried about us conducting all the inspections ourselves because there is no deadline and no urgent date to finish it [the inspections] by Oct 1 anymore,” Mr Thanit said.

“Now I am just waiting for the hotels to be ready so our team can go to inspect them. It takes about half a day to inspect each hotel,” he added.

Tourism Minister pins hopes on events to boost Phuket economy

MINISTER FOR TOURISM and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn has said that he hopes more events will be held in Phuket in order to boost the number of visitors coming to Phuket, and generate more income for residents and businesses on the island.

Mr Phiphat attended several events in Phuket last Friday (Sept 11), including the official opening of the ‘We Run Phuket’ fun run held at Patong Beach.

“At this stage, some businesses are still closed, and people do not have income, so I hope sport events can be a part to stimulate tourism and the economy and make income for local people,” Mr Phiphat said.

Present at the opening ceremony were Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panaphong, Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup, and other officials.

Mr Phiphat explained that the Ministry of Tourism and Sports chose to hold the event in Phuket, as Phuket is the second-highest income generating province in the country and was badly affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

“More than 1,000 runners from 60 provinces applied to



Tourism Minister Phiphat speaks to the press in Phuket Town. Photo: MoTS

join this event. More events will be held in Phuket in order to support local tourism,” he added.

Mr Phiphat last Friday also presided over the opening ceremony of the ‘Amazing Thai Taste @Phuket #Local Food’ event held at Queen Sirikit park in Phuket Town.

The event, organised by the Phuket office of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), was held last Friday and Saturday, featuring local dishes from various communities across Phuket and live entertainment.

Keeping the events theme rolling, the Phuket Surfing Contest 2020 at Kalim beach, north of Patong, began last Sunday. The contest continued through Tuesday.

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Plans to grow medical marijuana start to bloom

The Phuket News
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The Phuket Public Health Office held a workshop last week to raise awareness among people in Phuket looking to grow marijuana for medical and research purposes.

Joining the workshop, held at Phuket Rajabhat University last Thursday (Sept 10), were Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong, PPHO Chief Dr Thanit Sermkaew and University President Asst Prof Dr Hiran Prasarnkan.

The workshop focussed on marijuana cultivation and processing for medical use and research purposes.

PPHO Chief Dr Thanit made it very clear that a permit from the Ministry of Health was required in order to legally grow marijuana for such purposes.

He did not explain whether such permits were already available.

Dr Thanit also made it plain that marijuana remains a Category 5 controlled substance under the Narcotics



Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Thanit Sermkaew speaks at the seminar on growing medical marijuana. Photo: PR Phuket

Act (No. 7) B.E. 2562.

“But the Minister of Public Health has issued a policy to allow people safe access to the use of marijuana and medical herbs,” he said.

Hence the workshop explained the law regulating the growing and production of marijuana and the process of applying for permission to plant, produce and distribute marijuana as a Category 5 drug, he explained.

“This also means safely growing marijuana, and

educating people in how to prepare the planting area to prepare the soil and consider the weather conditions for cultivation for farmers in Phuket,” he said.

Other issues explained were measures to control the quality of marijuana grown and how to test for residues in the soil, such as heavy metals or pesticides.

“We also need to look at dry processing marijuana and producing hemp oil to provide medical and research

benefits,” Dr Thanit said.

Vice Governor Phichet pointed out that the growing of marijuana for medical use could bring much benefit to the people.

“Every aspect of growing marijuana can bring us more knowledge, especially in the medical benefits of using treatments made from marijuana. Further study of its uses can help the future treatment of various diseases and medical conditions,” he said.

Tsunami drill reveals tower needs repairs

THE TSUNAMI-EVACUATION drill conducted in Kamala last week revealed that the speakers on one of the warning towers in the beach resort town needs repairs after failing to adequately sound the alarm during the simulation exercise.

At a review meeting held after the drill, which started at 10am last Wednesday (Sept 9) with the sirens sounding the alarm at four locations in Kamala, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office Chief Sophon Thongsai explained that the main purpose of the drill was to check the readiness of the warning sirens as well as the readiness of local people in responding to alarm.

The simulation itself involved officers being notified of an 8.5-Magnitude underwater earthquake striking some 10 kilometres deep northeast of Great Nicobar Island, an island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago located some 200km west of Phuket.

Phuket Vice Governor Wongsakorn Nunchukan has praised the exercise generally as a success.

However, while V/Gov Wongsakorn noted that the warning tower behind Kamala



The tsunami drill was praised as a ‘general success’. Photo: Kamala OrBorTor

Police Station sounded the warning loudly, he also pointed out that the speakers in the tower near the Samnaksong Charoentham temple were not loud and needed repair.

Mr Sopohon pointed out that the towers and their equipment had been in use “for quite some time”.

“We will inform the DDPM headquarters [in Bangkok] about the broken speakers and other equipment so they can be repaired,” he said.

V/Gov Wongsakorn said, “The overall result of the drill was good, due to the participation from teachers, students, officers and local people. They were ready and followed the plan we made very well.

“It is good that people in risk areas are aware and know what to do when a disaster happens, in order to prevent losing loved ones.” The Phuket News

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Vegan dining gets own awards

Inaugural Thailand Plant-Based Food Awards open for voting

The Phuket News
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Sometimes helping the planet can seem like an impossible task. As individuals, we know that we should use less plastic, we know we should drive and fly less, buy locally and waste less, but the single biggest measure we can take to reduce environmental pollution, water usage and deforestation, is to eat more plant-based foods.

This is the main driving force behind Root The Future, a Thailand-based sustainability organisation that is on a very serious mission to reduce environmental impact by assessing and changing what we eat.

Their aim is to grow the plant-based and sustainability movement in Thailand by producing video content that promotes the diversity of plant-based food.

"Eating plant-based is the single biggest way we can reduce our environmental impact and we want to get this message out to the world," commented Joanna Broomfield, co-founder of Root The Future.

"Our ultimate goal is to save the world by changing what is on our plates. And to create a change within our food systems by advocating for more sustainable business practices," Joanna added.

The group recently launched Thailand's first Plant-Based Food Awards which will include restaurants based in Phuket, Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

The winners will be announced on World Food Day (Oct 16) to coincide with the vegetarian festival and featured in a full page spread in the *Bangkok Post* that same day.

"The winners list will be a great resource for those who want to eat more plant-based food," said Joanna.

"We hope this will expose delicious plant-based food to festival participants that may not have otherwise known about it, maybe even leading to these people choosing more plant-based options in the future."

Voting opened on Aug 30 and runs until Oct 4. The campaign is completely non-profit and free to participate for any business or restaurant in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket that have one or more plant-based options on their menus.

Vouchers worth B5,000 will also be given away to five lucky voters.

The Root The Future awards launch video has seen several prominent figures help raise awareness and spread the plant-based and sustainability message via various social media platforms to their significant legions of followers. This includes: Warattha Imraporn (915k followers), Noon Siraphun (237k followers), Top Pipat (65k followers), Pun Pun (7.4 million followers), Giada (48.2k followers) and Tachaya (414k followers).

More information on the Root The Future's Plant-Based Food Awards and the broader objectives of the organisation can be found at RootTheFuture.com.



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Wild and Crazy Ride



BLAZING SADDLES

Baz Daniel
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We live in crazy times and the wild ride which humanity is currently experiencing is only going to get more severe and unpredictable. We are haunted by not only the horror of COVID-19 and the economic apocalypse it has unleashed, but also the unending deluge of media overload which permeates our every waking moment.

One way to counteract this tide of despondency is to get out into the fresh air and wild country on a sturdy mountain bike and head off-road into Thailand's now largely empty, clean and rapidly-regenerating natural realm in all its present glory.

I planned such an off-road adventure recently and wanted to include some 'wild swimming' too. There's currently a huge groundswell of interest in this outdoor form of adventure due to the fact that no-one wants to go to their local, crowded, swimming pool in the current climate.

So it was that a recent overcast monsoonal morning saw me driving off Phuket, muddy mountain bike strapped to my car's bike-rack, my swimming trunks packed alongside cycling shorts,

plus my rather nervous little dog named "Cutie" coming along for her first up-country adventure.

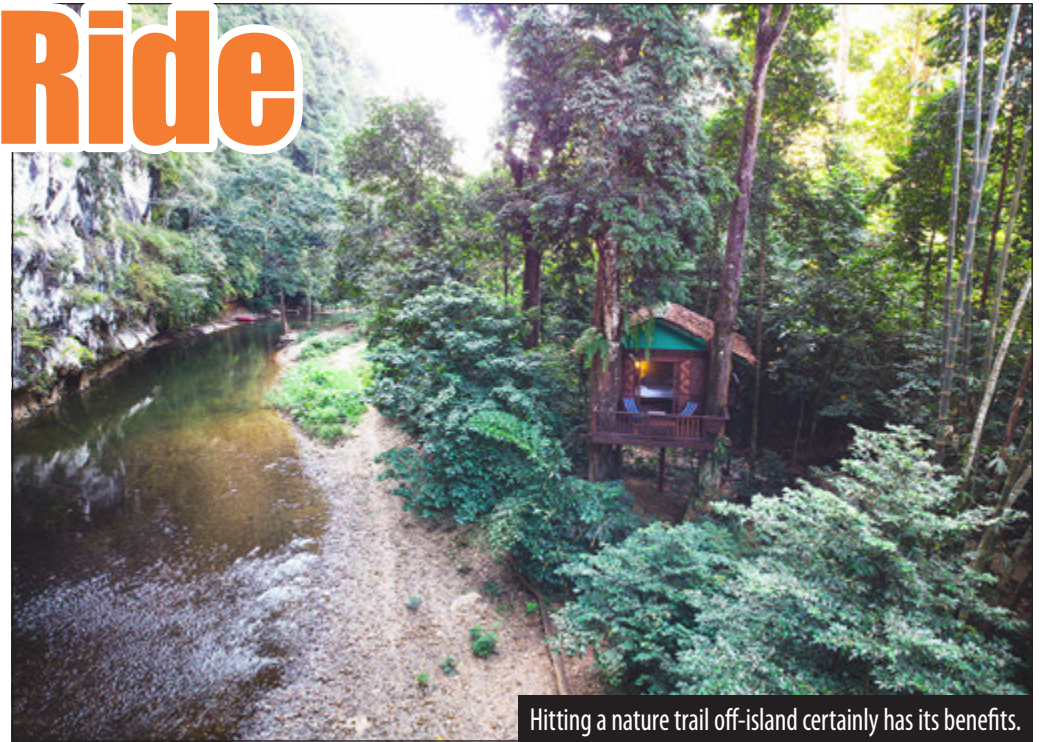
Driving north to our first stop at Khao Lak was a breeze. Not only was traffic light, but fellow drivers actually seemed less stressed and more accommodating than in our 'normal' febrile touristic times.

We drove into a largely deserted Khao Lak by mid-afternoon to the lovely Nangthong Beach Resort, where an air-conditioned cottage right on the eponymous beach cost a bargain B1,300 a night.

As evening cast pink and golden tentacles across the sun-westerling sky, I rode the back lanes and off-road tracks in the area with Cutie in my backpack. We disturbed an insouciant monitor lizard dozing on a little road which would normally be thronged with tourist traffic. All around us birds, butterflies and insects seemed to be celebrating the lack of humanity by their abundant presence and the air was cleaner than I can ever remember.

To complete my wild ride, I took a wild swim in the crashing spume of Nongthon Bay towards the rocky outcrop topped by its little spaceship-shaped lighthouse, as flickers of soft lightning danced within the billowing Cumulus clouds overhead... a fitting end to my first wild and crazy day.

Next morning, we headed up coastal Highway 4 to Takuapa, then east on the 401 across the Isthmus of Kra to-



Hitting a nature trail off-island certainly has its benefits.

wards Surat Thani. As we approached the Khao Sok National Park, it was like awakening in another universe. You know you are in for something special when the scenery becomes at first dramatic and then simply breath-taking with huge limestone cliffs rising sheer from the verdant rainforest floor and towering majestically skywards.

A well-marked left turn from Highway 401 took me onto the little road to one of the world's oldest, most pristine natural rainforests and to our stay at an ultimate wild adventure hotspot, Dick Sandler's iconic Our Jungle House resort on the banks of the Sok River.

Although the main park is open at present, I decided to ride several of the back trails from the resort. I rode on un-

paved tracks through rubber plantations over several big climbs from the resort back towards the main Highway 401.

Atop a crest I came to the small lake which I'd seen on previous visits and it was here I decided to try my first freshwater wild swim. I stripped down to my trunks and took the plunge into the dark depths feeling the still waters temper my sweat-drenched body with a cool embrace.

I swam out into the middle of the lake and floated on my back looking upwards at the surrounding trees, the far-off cliffs and karsts and the first golden traces of the rising moon.

The combination of wild swimming and cycling was most definitely a much-needed way to achieve transcendence in these wild and crazy times.

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POP QUIZ

1. Which Harry Potter actor was stabbed to death while defending his younger brother in southeast London at age 18?
2. Which area of Europe gets its name from the Latin for "on the other side of the woods"?
3. Who wrote the book *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*?
4. In which year did Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th states of America?
5. Katy Perry changed her name to avoid confusion with which Hollywood actress?

Answers below, centre

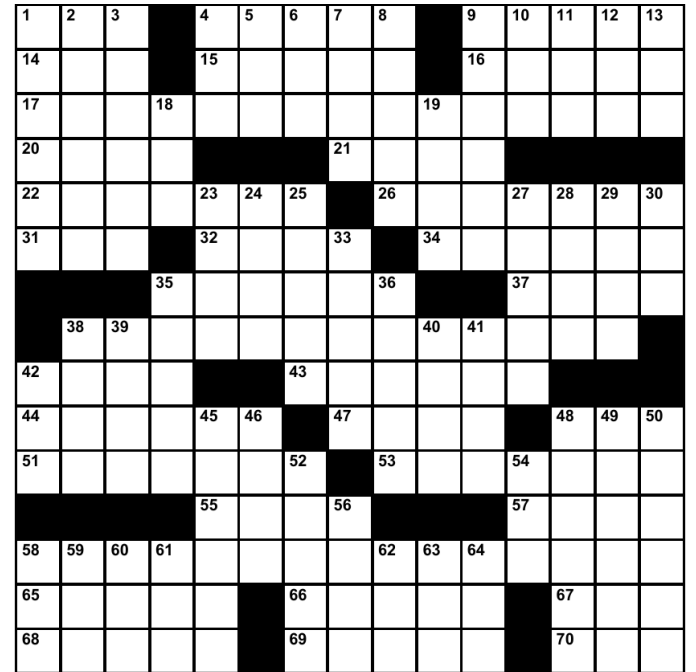
SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Opposite of "gentleman"
 4. Biblical measurement for the ark
 9. Stick to
 14. Attorneys' org.
 15. Visual aid
 16. Lowest amount
 17. Assigning punishment
 20. U.N. flying agency
 21. Killer whale
 22. A neighbor of Libya
 26. Sweet wine
 31. "___ was saying, ..."
 32. Actor B. D. of "Law & Order: S.V.U."
 34. Foundation series writer
 35. In a way
 37. Part of a plane
 38. Where a fair trial is impossible
 42. Info
 43. Whodunit awards
 44. Catches forty winks
 47. Christmas time
 48. GPA part
 51. Catches
 53. Type of printer
 55. M.'s counterpart
 57. Number for one
 58. Reach your own conclusions
 65. Ring-shaped reef
 66. Parasites
 67. ___ a good example.
 68. Don't forget yours truly!
 69. Eight singers
 70. QBs' goals
- Down**
1. Per ___
 2. Old calculator
 3. Bottled water brand
 4. Special effects (abbr.)
 5. Big coffee pot
 6. Burlap ___
 7. ___ jure (by law)
 8. Unit of heat
 9. Nuptial sites
 10. Spelling stinger?
 11. Writer Fleming
 12. Second-highest U.S. Army award
 13. Berlioz's "Les nuits d'___"
 18. "___ lied!"
 19. Final Four grp.
 23. Draft
 24. Center of early Celtic Christianity
 25. Auto pioneer Citroën
 27. Nasal cavity
 28. Love, to a Latino
 29. Island show
 30. Blvd. crosser
 33. "Oh boy!"
 35. Some joints
 36. Become misty like a windshield
 38. Caffeinated tree
 39. Parrots
 40. Telephone
 41. Creme cookie
 42. High-speed Internet inits.
 45. Big citrus fruit
 46. "... to thine own ___ be true"
 48. Immobile
 49. Like a bride
 50. Splices
 52. It helps you see plays
 54. Univ. helpers
 56. Guitar legend Clapton
 58. Wing it, musically
 59. Salt Lake athlete
 60. Top of a semicolon
 61. Shine, in product names
 62. The NHL's Senators, on scoreboards
 63. Formerly
 64. NY time



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Rob Knox; 2) Transylvania; 3) Robert Louis Stevenson; 4) 1959; 5) Kate Hudson

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3.6

kilos of dead skin is shed by the average person each year.

42

years is how long summer lasts on Uranus.

1,700

men are rushed hospital emergency rooms in the US each year due to zipper-related genital injuries.

2,153

billionaires with a total net wealth of US\$8.7 trillion were in the world as of last year, according to the *Forbes* list for 2019.

20 million

tonnes of gold are believed to be lying at the bottom of the world's oceans.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Covid days in Patong. Photo: Michael Lee

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

This week in history

Sept 18, 1988

End of pro-democracy uprisings in Myanmar after a bloody military coup by the State Law and Order Restoration Council. Thousands, mostly monks and civilians (primarily students), are killed by the Tatmadaw.

Sept 19, 1970

The first Glastonbury Festival is held at a farm belonging to Michael Eavis.

Sept 20, 2001

In an address to a joint session of Congress and the American people, US President George W. Bush declares a "War on Terror".

Sept 21, 1937

JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit* is published.

Sept 22, 1991

The Dead Sea Scrolls are made



A view of the Glastonbury site over the park stage, 2011. Photo: Bennydigital

available to the public for the first time by the Huntington Library.

Sept 23, 1909

The Phantom of the Opera (original title: *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*), a novel by French writer Gaston Leroux, is first published as a serialisation in *Le Gaulois*.

Sept 24, 1950

Forest fires black out the sun over portions of Canada and New England. A blue moon is seen as far away as Europe.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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FRI

18
SEP



Mussels night @ Shakers

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SAT

19
SEP



All you can eat BBQ night

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

SUN

20
SEP



All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

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



The Sunday English Family Roast

Join us on the boardwalk of Boat Lagoon at The 9th Degree every Sunday for carvery food from 12:30 - 2pm and live music 12-3pm by Noel Da Silva. THB 750 net per person, kids under 12 half price. Advance reservations required 099 269 6272 or the9thdegree@icloud.com



The Sunday English Family Roast

Let's enjoy our signature brunch with unlimited bubbly, grapes, hops, plates dishes, BBQ meats, fresh seafood, famous roasts & carving stations with dessert buffet. Live music & complimentary pool access. Only THB 2,200 net. Every Sunday 12 pm – 3.30 pm. Reservation, Banyan Tree Phuket, fb-phuket@banyantreephuket.com, 076 372 400

MON

21
SEP



All you can eat BBQ Ribs night

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

TUE

22
SEP



Rotary Club: 'Latest news on re-opening of Phuket'

- The Governor of Phuket Province - Narong Woon-ciew
- Chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) - Dr Thanit Sermkaew
- Chief of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office - Mrs. Napsorn Kakai.
- Agenda : 18:00 - Registration
- Networking with finger food and 2 welcome refreshments included
- 19:00 - Podiums discussion in the conference room. Fees • 300 THB for Rotary Club members • 500 THB for Guests and friends • Finger food and two drink vouchers are included.
- Location • Holiday Inn Resort, Patong. Please park close to the Main Wing entrance to reach the conference area.
- For guests staying over: Special price for THB 1,200 per room per night, including breakfast and all taxes
- Guests can contact the reservations team: reservation@holidayinn-phuket.com
- Questions have to be sent in advance. Please send your questions at least 2 days before the event to secretary@rotarypatong.org. Please spread the word and invite friends...

FRI

2
OCT

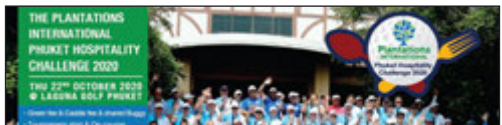


The Grow Boating Networking Evening

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for October 2020 will be held at The Hardstand at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina on Friday the 2nd of October from 5pm onward. Please contact us if you would like to be our drinks sponsor for the evening. Sponsors can display their products and services on the evening and give a 10-minute presentation on their company. They can also benefit from a generous advertising package from Class Act Media including online, print and radio coverage. Khun Bo will be making the food for the evening, we don't know what it will be yet but we know it will be good. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com The Grow Boating Networking Evening is organised by the Thai Yachting Business Association. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThaiYachtingBusinessAssociation/> or our Website www.thaiyachtingbusinessassociation.com/grow-boating-networking-evening Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

THU

22
OCT



Phuket Hospitality Challenge 2020

The Plantations International Phuket Hospitality Challenge 2020. On Thursday 22nd, October 2020 at Laguna Golf Phuket. Early Bird Pricing 16,000 baht (Team of four players). Entry Includes: Green fee, Caddie fee and shared Buggy. Tournament shirt and On-course refreshments. Prize Giving Dinner at Cassia. Sign up before 31st August 2020. Mark Cameron, mark@asean-events.com, 061 486 6736.

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Members of the organisers Asean Events and Fore Management. Photo: Asean Events

Laguna Golf to host charity Phuket Hospitality Challenge

GOLF

Sponsored

Asean Events and Fore Management have confirmed the Phuket Hospitality Challenge charity golf day will take place on Thursday, October 22 and are proud to announce Plantations International Co Ltd as the event's very first Title Sponsor.

The event sees hospitality and service industry professionals from Phuket and surrounding areas come together at the award-winning Laguna Golf Phuket golf course for a fun yet competitive day with teams battling for bragging rights as the best hospitality golfers in the region.

Being the only event of its

kind, it is the ideal networking opportunity for local hoteliers, restaurateurs, landlords, club owners and others involved in the hospitality service industry to convene in a relaxed environment.

Title Sponsor Plantations International see the charity-driven tournament as a great way to partner up with local events businesses in Thailand and give back to the community.

"This year has been especially trying for many companies and individuals in Thailand and it is with great pleasure we have secured the Title Sponsorship of the event by such a well-established international company," commented joint event organisers Mark Cameron of Asean Events and Chris Watson of FORE Management.

"Plantations International is a perfect partner for a golfing event with their agroforestry business model background. As an end product of the event experience, it will be raising funds for local children's charity the Laguna Children's First Fund. It is a great way for them to give back to the community which has struggled this past year."

Plantations International is a multinational plantation and farm management company whose specialty is in providing sustainable agricultural and forestry "agroforestry" management services for its clients. Plantations International has clients ranging from private individuals to large land holders and institutional investors. They place teamwork, innovation, and a

passion for creating "ethical & sustainable capital" at the heart of everything they do.

From the preconceptual planning stage to harvesting and marketing the final products, they strive to go the extra mile to exceed their clients' expectations.

Plantations International currently has two offices in Thailand: its main administrative headquarters are located in Bangkok and its Plantation Management offices are located in Sri Racha, Chon Buri where all plantation management and monitoring take place.

To register your team and/or interest in becoming a sponsor, please email mark@asean-events.com or call +66 (0) 614866736



Magnus Andersson in training. Photo: Helen Tran

Phuket's 'Crazy Viking' aiming for ONE crown

MMA

PHUKET BASED MAGNUS "Crazy Viking" Andersson makes his ONE Championship debut this evening (Sept 18) in the main event of ONE: A NEW BREED III in Bangkok.

The 26-year-old Swede, who fights out of Revolution Muay Thai Phuket gym, is contesting the ONE Featherweight Muay Thai belt against reigning champion Petchmorakot Petchyindee Academy.

Magnus is the current Lion Fight Super-Welterweight World Champion after defeating Petchsanguan Sor Thanasit in Sweden last August. He also holds a Swedish national title and the MX Muay Xtreme Title.

However, defeating

Petchmorakot tonight would be the pinnacle.

"It would mean the whole world to me," Magnus exclaimed. "It is the biggest [title] you can get in the whole sport."

He comes fully prepared having trained under Tim Fisher at Revolution Muay Thai Phuket, which is home to teammates Felipe Lobo and Yurik Davtyan, both of whom are also on the card this evening.

"If I knock him out, that would be the best feeling ever. But in my head, it's more about winning. I just need to win," Andersson says.

"I don't have any idea of how it will happen, but I know I will put on a big war and I want to show everyone how big of a heart I have when it comes to fighting."

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Sport



Crazy Viking makes ONE debut > p11



TAKING A STAND

Albon makes history as first Thai driver to take the F1 podium

Thai driver Alex Albon kept his cool through the carnage to take his maiden F1 podium. Photo: AFP

FORMULA ONE

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Alex Albon made history last Sunday (Sept 13) at the Tuscan Grand Prix by becoming the first Thai driver to take a podium place since the championship started in 1950.

The British-born Red Bull Racing driver, 24, finished third-place behind dominant Mercedes pair Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas in a chaotic race at Mugello.

Albon had to fight for his spot on the rostrum, having lost a total

of five places to bad getaways at the two restarts, but kept his cool through the carnage to take his maiden F1 podium, sealing the deal with a brilliant move around Daniel Ricciardo's outside at turn one.

As has so often been the case this season, the Red Bull Racing driver was ferocious in the race, picking off drivers one by one with some perfectly judged passing to earn the place on merit.

"It's taken a while to get here," Albon told *Sky Sports* post race.

"It was a tough one as well, I had to work for it. I'm really happy. I can breathe. It feels nice to be here," he added.

Albon was also quick to thank his team for their ongoing support: "The team has supported me since day one. It's really good to get a podium, just to show that I can do it."

The achievement was all the sweeter as Albon's seat at Red Bull Racing has been the subject of continued speculation after he traded places with Pierre Gasly last year, with the Frenchman demoted back to Toro Rosso (now AlphaTauri).

'TOO NICE'

Christian Horner, Red Bull Racing team boss, who had stated earlier last week that the team were more than happy with the Thai driver,

said he was delighted for him after last Sunday's result.

"He's weathered a bit of criticism, he's bounced back," Horner told *Sky Sports*.

"To be fair, the last couple of weekends he's been getting stronger and stronger.

"For him to get that podium today, he had to really fight for it. He had to do it the hard way."

On crossing the finish line and securing the third place finish, Albon immediately paid thanks to his team, exclaiming: "Thanks for sticking with me."

Asked to comment on this, Horner stated his driver could be "too nice."

"But once he puts the helmet on, you can see there's a real racer in there. There's a big difference between thinking you can do it and knowing you can do it. I think this podium for him will just give him a boost of confidence and self-belief.

"I think he really will build from here quite nicely," Horner added.

Race winner Hamilton is now one win short of equalling Michael Schumacher's F1 record of 91 career victories.

Bottas' second place finish cost him another eight points to the Briton on the title table to stand 55 points adrift with eight races remaining.

Premier League returns with a bang

FOOTBALL

THE FANS MAY HAVE been absent and the stadia eerily quiet but the drama on the pitch was anything but as the Premier League roared back into action last weekend.

Reigning champions Liverpool had to work very hard against an efferves-

cent Leeds United and had a Mohamed Salah hat-trick to thank for their 4-3 win.

New signing Willian was instrumental as Arsenal cruised past London rivals Fulham 3-0 to boost claims they can challenge for a top-four spot.

Everton oozed class as their three new midfield signings Allan, Abdoulaye Doucoure and James Rodri-

gues dominated in their 1-0 defeat of Tottenham. Spurs boss Jose Mourinho had an excuse sheet as long as his face post-match although the truth was his side were turgid and one-dimensional.

Chelsea's expensively assembled new project eased past Brighton 3-1 and Wolves looked in total control in their 2-0 win at Sheffield United. Expect the 'Old

Gold' to shine this season.

Elsewhere, Crystal Palace edged past Southampton 1-0, West Ham already look like a club in crisis as Newcastle breezed to a 2-0 victory, and Leicester dispatched newly promoted West Bromwich Albion with ease as last season's Golden Boot winner Jamie Vardy scored twice in a 3-0 win.

Ben Tirebuck



Egyptian king Mo Salah. Photo: AFP