

ROAD SAFETY FEARS RISE AHEAD OF NEW YEAR > PAGE 2



The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has praised the efforts of local officials that saw Phra Baramee Rd over Patong Hill fully reopen to vehicles of all sizes in both directions ahead of Christmas and in time for New Year celebrations.

Kathu Municipality was the first to announce the full reopening of the road, Route 4029, through a post on Facebook late on Dec 19. Noting "Kathu-Patong Road, the road of effort and patience", Kathu Municipality urged motorists "to use the route with caution".

However, Provincial officials did not announce the full reopening of the road until late the next day (Dec 20), through a post on Facebook by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The reopening of the road followed Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew inspecting the repairs to the road and the embankment on the evening of Dec 19, said the PR Phuket report.

At the time, repairs to the embankment and the road were nearly 100% complete. "Just a little more work... Only a few details of the work remain," the report added. By the following Thursday (Dec 22), the final sections of guardrail had been installed and the construction equipment removed from the site.

The barriers separating the lanes were removed to return the road to its previous state before the Oct 19 landslide that brought all traffic travelling over the hill to a shuddering halt. The only traffic barriers left in place were those at the bottom of the hill so that trucks could access the hillside where the last of the surface concrete was still being applied to the

section of hillside repaired.

Completing the project made travel for local residents and tourists convenient, the PR Phuket report said, "because this period is during the festivals, including the New Year festival and is considered the high season of Phuket, in which there will be more tourists traveling in Phuket", "People who drive on the roads in the area are asked to drive carefully and strictly follow the traffic rules," the report concluded.

The reopening of the road to all traffic followed Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob inspecting the work underway on the hill on Dec 2, when the work was reported to be 70% complete.

Following Mr Saksayam's visit, Phuket officials announced that the goal was to fully reopen the road by Christmas Day.

Governor Narong last week also

praised the efforts of nearby landowners for creating the extra access road up the hill, built under a project by the Patong Development Foundation.

He also praised the patience of motorists and other people living in other areas of the island affected by the Patong Hill road being closed.

Immediately after the road was closed for safety reasons on Oct 19, all traffic was diverted to two alternative routes: one through Kamala to reach Patong from the north, the other through Chalong-Kata-Karon to reach Patong from the south. Areas along both routes suffered heavy traffic while the repairs were being carried out.

Official reports openly marked that the reopening came on the 62nd day after the landslide, with the repair project itself taking only 45 days through a Kathu Municipality budget of just over B21 million...

NEWS PAGE 3

Nong Proud, 3, honoured as organ donor



LIFE PAGE 7

Baz reveals the three 'Ps' of good living in Phuket



SPORT PAGE 12

Dojo Phuket round off successful year



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Patong Hill road has fully re-opened. Photo: PR Phuket

Christmas comes early

Continued from page 1

The collapse of the road, at about 3:20pm on Oct 19, directly affected more than 500 metres of the vital road to Patong. As the repairs continued, officials took steps to allow what traffic they could, starting with creating a walking path up the hill to a small bus in front of the Patong City sign to ferry people to and from Patong.

Officials then allowed motorbikes up and down the hill, then allowed cars only down the hill. When it was deemed safe to do so, cars were allowed up the hill, passing closest to the edge where the landslide had ripped the edge of the road away. Then in the later stages 10-wheeled vehicles were allowed down the hill, and soon after 10-wheeled vehicles were allowed up the hill.

Geologists from Kasetsart University continually monitored the soil for water content and stability while the work was being carried out, and were consulted in making any decisions to allow vehicles up or down the hill while the

repairs continued.

Under orders from Kathu Mayor Chainanan Suthikul, the repairs began on Nov 8, with workers reinforcing the embankment with large rocks then soil which was compacted and mixed with cement to provide structural stability to the hillside. Pipes were embedded into the side of the hill "terrace style" to allow excess water in the hillside soil to flow out.

The side of the hill was covered with lattices of steel-reinforcement bars (rebar), which were covered with a layer of cement. The final touches were the resurfacing of the road with asphalt and the installation of new guardrails along the outer edge of the road.

"The success of the repair of the Kathu-Patong road was accomplished because of the cooperation from all departments, which worked together to achieve success. Even though there were obstacles to overcome, every department exercised patience and worked towards success until the road could be re-opened fully," Governor Narong said.

Road safety hits agenda for New Year celebrations

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials have expressed concern over the rising number of people injured in motorcycle accidents as the island heads into the New Year holiday period.

The Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation's (PPAO, or OrBor-Jor) emergency patrol team provided assistance to two Thai and two foreign victims of motorcycle accidents on Dec 22 and five Thais and two foreigners on Dec 21, the PPAO reported on Dec 23.

Meanwhile, the number of fatalities in Phuket road crashes since Jan 1 has already reached 103 – 45% higher than the death toll for 2021.

DAYS OF DANGER

The annual 'Seven Days of Danger' road-safety campaign for this coming New Year festival will be conducted from Dec 29 through Jan 4.

The standard three-stage strategy will be followed this year, Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam explained at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Road Safety Committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on Dec 20.

The so-called 'pre-intensive control period' was conducted on Dec 22-28, and will be followed by the actual seven days of anti-accident efforts from Dec 29 through Jan 4, ahead of the final stage of 'intensive control' from Jan 5-11, he said.

Among the strategies to be employed by officials to improve road safety, is



First responders provide assistance to a road accident victim before Christmas. Photo: PPAO

the prosecution of violators of traffic laws to receive the maximum penalty so that motorists obey traffic laws, Vice Governor Anupap noted.

Among the strategies to be employed by officials to improve road safety during the period is the prosecution of violators of traffic laws to receive the maximum penalty so that motorists will obey traffic laws, especially with regards to making crosswalks safe, the report said.

Other strategies included:

- Marking lines on the road for motorists to reduce speed before crosswalks;
- Making traffic markings on the road surface to be clear;
- Making warning signs and symbols clearly visible to drivers and pedestrians so they reduce speed "in a tight situation", where there is busy traffic or there is an obstruction, a common way, a junction or a crosswalk;

• Having people actually use crosswalks; and

• Raising awareness of the loss that may arise from undisciplined driving and not obeying traffic rules.

According to the national Thailand Road Safety Committee (ThaiRSC), it took Phuket this year only nine months and a half to record 72 deaths in road accidents surpassing the number for the whole year of 2021.

By Dec 23 the number of road deaths in Phuket accidents reached 103 cases, the number of hospital admissions hit 16,689 cases (compared with 71 deaths and 13,134 hospitalisations for 2021).

According to ThaiRSC, over 75% of Phuket accidents with deaths and hospitalisations involved motorcycles. There were no specifically dangerous days, while in terms of time of day, over 93% serious accidents took place between 6am and 10pm. Accidents at night added only 7%.

Five-year MoU inked to keep Patong Beach clean

THE DIRECTOR OF THE Phuket Natural Resources and Environment Office (MNRE Phuket) has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 15 local organisations, including the Patong Development Foundation, to keep Patong Beach clean.

The agreement was marked by an event at Loma Park on Dec 22, with Phuket Vice Governor Danai Sunantarod presiding over the formalities. Preechawude 'Prab' Keesin was present as Advisor to Patong Development Foundation, noted an official report of the event.

By coincidence, and not mentioned in the official report, is that Mr

Preechawude is also President of the Patong Beach Bed Umbrella Community Enterprise, which is the organisation that coordinates the operations of the sunbed rental operators on Patong Beach. Beach vendors have long been known to keep their own areas on the sand clean.

The event promoted the campaign "Phuket White Sand and Clean Sea".

MNRE Phuket Director Wattanapong Suksai noted, "The MoU marks a collaboration of a network of volunteers to protect natural resources and the environment of Phuket villages and the first generation of high-level natural resources and environmental administrators.

"There are also support-



A five-year MoU to keep Patong Beach clean was signed at Loma Park on Dec 22. Photo: PR Phuket

ing agencies consisting of government agencies, local government organisations, educational institutions, and private and public networks, with the goal of organising activities and campaigns to

clean beaches, canals and mangrove forests in Phuket four times with financial support from Patong Development Foundation and local government organisations in the area," he added.

"This is in response to the government's policy on keeping the city clean and the policy of Phuket to maintain clean urban areas and public beaches beautiful and pleasant to look at, as well as to raise awareness among youths and the public to help take care of, keep clean and reduce littering in public areas, and for the network of people and all sectors in the area to express their power and participate in the maintenance of cleanliness and restoration of natural resources and the environment in their locality," he added.

Mr Wattanapong pointed out five beach cleanups had collected 700 kilogrammes of garbage, which was separated into recyclable waste, general

waste, organic waste and hazardous waste. A further two cleanups had been held in canals and mangrove forests, collecting in total 152kg of garbage.

"Today, the Phuket Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Office marks its cooperation with local government agencies, private organisations and the public through community networks to jointly organise an exhibition to disseminate knowledge about the environment and climate change, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in organising such activities for the next five years," he added.

The Phuket News

Girl, 3, honoured as organ donor

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Family, friends and staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital have all paid tribute to a 3-year-old girl who was taken off life support and her eyes and kidneys donated to the Thai Red Cross organ donor programme.

The girl, Pitsana 'Nong Proud' Charoen, was taken off life support at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Dec 21. She was just three years and two months old.

Services for her are being held at Wat Karon (Wat Suwan Khirikhet) over three days (Dec 21-23). Her remains were cremated on Christmas Eve.

Nong Proud was rushed to hospital after she collapsed while playing. The reason for her collapse remains unclear. However, she never regained consciousness and remained on a ventilator at the hospital.

"She just collapsed while she was running and jumping around. Shock lost consciousness," her father, Atip Charoen, 34, told *The Phuket News* on Dec 23. "She had no congenital diseases," he added.

"She was always a playful child," said Nong Proud's mother, Suthathip Nadon,



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

39. "She was the heart of the house. A lovely child, a very sweet child..."

"She was cheerful and liked to play with her grandma. If grandma was tired, she would go in and kiss her left and right cheeks and forehead several times. She loved her grandmother the most," she added.

Ms Suthathip explained that it was the grandmother, Manee Nadon, 59, who came up with the idea for Nong Proud to become an organ donor.

"She came home from the hospital on Sunday night... I didn't know that this was what she was thinking. We talked about it, and we all agreed in order to help other children," Ms Suthathip said.

"Although Nong Proud is

gone, her eyes are very beautiful. So I thought they could be useful to others. I want others to see that I don't want to be in the news. We only thought that we wanted our girl to be an angel in heaven," she said.

"I feel that those who have donated organs to the Thai Red Cross Society are a blessing," Mr Atip said.

"I spoke with my mother about this, and we just wanted to do a good thing for other children, and for our young one to receive merit by helping others," he added.

"I am still grieving the departure of our little one. I still can't get over the events that happened too quickly. She was a bright, cheerful child, loved by everyone," he concluded.

Foreigners answer call for blood donations

SCORES OF FOREIGNERS TURNED out to donate blood at a major blood donation drive held at the Central Floresta shopping mall on Dec 22.

The blood donation drive, organised by Phuket Immigration and Vachira Phuket Hospital, was held to help replenish much-needed blood reserves, with heightened emphasis on donating rare blood types.

The drive followed Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO), making an urgent call for foreigners to donate blood following a slew of road accidents in Phuket involving foreigners.

Mr Rewat's call for donations was for Rh-negative blood types, which are not common among Asians, but are more common among foreigners, and critically needed for providing to Rh-negative foreigners in urgent cases in Phuket.

Present for the blood donation event at Central were Phuket Immigration Chief Col Thanet Sukchai, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Weerasak Lorthongkam, Phuket Vice Governor Danai Sunantarod and Wandee Woonciew, President of the Phuket Red Cross Society and wife of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Dr Weerasak noted that Vachira Phuket Hospital provides about 33,000 units of blood per year, with about 77% going to general patients, but the remaining 23% being required during urgent surgeries to treat injuries sustained in accidents.

"As a result, the demand for blood for treatment continues throughout the year and tends



Photo: PR Phuket

to increase continually," Dr Weerasak said.

"Donations of special blood groups is still a major problem. Among Thai people, only a very small number have special blood types [Rh-negative blood]. Only about three in 1,000 Thai people, or about 0.3%, have special blood types, which are more common among foreigners from Europe, where about 15% of people have [Rh-negative blood]," Dr Weerasak said.

"Reserves of special blood groups are insufficient and cannot meet the needs of [Rh-negative] patients, because people with Rh-negative blood type can receive only Rh-negative blood," he said.

Dr Weerasak thanked all people involved in making the blood drive on Dec 23 a success.

"I would like to thank all sectors who have cooperated in pushing this Phuket Blood Donation Drive project to happen in order to campaign for more blood donations, especially for rare special blood groups. This will result in having enough blood reserves to take care of patients, whether they are Thai or foreigners, both in Phuket and nearby provinces," he said. *The Phuket News*



Soul of Asia is closing after many years in Phuket as the leading art gallery in Thailand. Everything has to go. Come and make an offer.

Artist: Andy Warhol and Dali Lady Godiva



Contact tel. 084 246 5999 • www.soulofasia.com
The Plaza Surin • Porto de Phuket (Opposite food hall 19/1, 19/2 Porto de Phuket, Bandon-Cherntalay Rd., T.Cherntalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110)

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

Class Act Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket 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 DECEMBER 30



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT DECEMBER 31



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JANUARY 1



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JANUARY 2



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE JANUARY 3



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JANUARY 4



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU JANUARY 5



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

More domestic flights needed

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The number of domestic flights to Phuket is stifling the number of international visitors arriving on the island, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew told a meeting of top-brass of Phuket tourism and hospitality figures last week.

The capacity is lower than needed not only on direct flights from abroad, but also on flights from Suvarnabhumi delivering foreign tourists who come through Bangkok, he said.

The issue came to national attention when Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha welcomed the 10 millionth tourist to arrive in the country this year at Suvarnabhumi airport on Dec 10.

The couple, Hetham Almdlj and Njood Alkhuwaiter, arrived together at Suvarnabhumi Airport on Saudi Airlines flight SV846. They were welcomed with gifts and souvenirs by businesses and tourism operators, then continued their journey to spend 10 days in Phuket.

"The number of domestic flights in November was only 77% of the number of trips in November 2019, while the demand for international travelers traveling via Suvarnabhumi airport to Phuket has rapidly returned," Gov Narong said at the meeting on Dec 24.

The short supply had resulted in increased prices of air tickets to the island, he noted.



Staff at Phuket airport spread some Christmas cheer. Photo: AoT Phuket

Governor Narong called on THAI Airways to resume its pre-COVID number of flights from Bangkok to Phuket.

The call for more flights came as Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn last week announced that foreign arrivals to Thailand in 2022 were expected to reach 11.5 million – exceeding the government's target by 15%

The revised figure was being fuelled by the increase in the number of arrivals from Europe and the United States accelerating during the last days of the year, Mr Yuthasak said.

Total tourism revenue – including both international and domestic markets – is expected to reach B1.5 trillion, which is around 50% of the

pre-COVID level, reported Bloomberg.

It was only three months ago, when Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the Minister of Tourism and Sports, said Thailand could expect 12mn visitors in 2022, but only if Chinese tourists resumed travel before the end of the year.

China has yet to reopen, but the actual arrivals are now closer to 12mn, which Mr Phiphat expected with Chinese travelers, rather than 10mn, which he expected without.

The Kingdom had already recorded 10.9mn foreign visits from Jan 1 through Dec 20, according to Mr Yuthasak. The top markets at the national level were Malaysia, India, Laos, Cambodia and Singapore.

In Phuket, the top markets cur-

rently are Russia, India, Singapore, Australia and the UK, according to the Phuket office of the Immigration Bureau.

The highest post-pandemic number of arrivals to Phuket was recorded on Dec 16 when 13,448 international passengers passed through passport control at Phuket International Airport.

Last week government spokeswoman Tipanan Sirichana said that from Jan-Oct 2022 Phuket had been the top destination in Thailand in terms of both tourist arrivals and earnings. The resort island had welcomed two and a half times more foreigners than Pattaya and earned 10 times more.

The top three destinations in Jan-Oct were:

- Phuket – 2.4mn foreign arrivals – B127 billion in earnings;
- Chonburi – 975,026 arrivals – B13bn in earnings;
- Suratthani – 606,812 arrivals – B7bn in earnings.

For the tourism high season from Nov 1 through Dec 23 this year, the island welcomed 475,654 foreign visits. The top-10 markets are as follows:

- Russia – 130,016 visits;
- India – 53,934;
- Singapore – 29,483;
- Australia – 25,475;
- UK – 25,390;
- Kazakhstan – 19,515;
- Germany – 19,473;
- Malaysia – 18,025;
- South Korea – 13,380;
- USA – 12,467.

Class Act Media wins two APAC Insider awards

CLASS ACT MEDIA AND IMAGE asia have been bestowed two accolades at this year's UK-based annual APAC insider awards.

Image Asia/Class Act Media was bestowed 'Most Outstanding News & Information Business - Phuket' while *The Phuket News* was awarded 'Leading Provider of Digital News & Information - Southern Thailand'.

The Phuket News, and its sister newspapers Thai-language *Khao Phuket* and Russian-language *Novosti Phuketa*, are published by Class Act Media, in print and online.

The Class Act Media house is also home to the popular Live 89.5 radio station broadcasting across the island and JP Mestanza's *Phuket News TV* 'Phuket Xtra' video reports. The IMAGE asia brand, under the same media ownership, produces the popular *Window on Phuket* magazine and the *Where to Eat in Phuket* dining guide.

In announcing the awards, awards co-ordinator Dean Taylor said, "As we start to transition into the post-COVID world, industries throughout the APAC region are starting to



emerge and report the first signs of growth, proving that we are on the path back to normality! The steps may be tentative at first, however, there are sure-fire signs of irreversible growth for the region's key industries, and that is down to the sheer amount of perseverance and effort from everyone involved.

"GDP growth has also proved readily stable throughout the pandemic, with the Asian economy contracting by only 1.5% in 2020, compared to the overall global economy shrinking by 3.2%... Expectations are high for the economies in this region, which are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

"At the same time, the disrupt-

tion caused by COVID has brought lasting effects in the forms of hybrid work set-up and rapid digitisation, prompting organisations to rethink their strategies," he added.

The APAC Business Awards 2022, hosted by APAC Insider, aims to showcase and secure selected businesses' positions as true leaders and trend-setters throughout the region, as well as informing potential clients and colleagues that they are providing an award-winning service, said a release announcing the awards.

"The APAC Insider team gathers information independently from a variety of publicly accessible sources, assessed alongside any material supplied by a nominating party or the nominee themselves. Final judgement is cast based on various criteria such as: business performance, longevity, expansion and any significant innovations or feedback," the release added.

Class Act Media & IMAGE asia General Manager Jason Beavan commented on receiving the awards, "Once again we are honoured by these awards. They show how resilient our

team has been over the past few years. I take my hat off weekly to them for how tremendously positive they have been and the way they keep striving to be the best. Thank you team."

Earlier this year *The Phuket News* was recognised for its news service by being awarded the 'Best Online News Platform 2022' in APAC Insider's 'South East Asia Business Awards'.

In 2021, Class Act Media and IMAGE asia were recognised in the annual APAC Insider Business Awards by being bestowed the accolade 'Most Outstanding Small Local Business - Phuket'.

Also to win an award this year was Tiger Marine Charter, which won 'Best Private Yacht Charter Service Provider 2022 - Phuket'.

APAC Insider has a circulation of 161,000 leaders and decision makers. With 22% of the circulation being from the South East Asia region, APAC Insider acts as an invaluable resource that informs its readership of all major developments in this vibrant and plentiful location, APAC Insider noted in its release. *The Phuket News*

Khao San Rd festivities will be 'toned down'

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The New Year countdown on Khao San Rd has been cancelled out of respect for Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati, who is still in hospital after collapsing due to a heart condition on Dec 21.

Sanga Ruangwattanukul, president of the Khao San Business Association, said last Saturday (Dec 24) authorities have asked for New Year celebrations this year to be toned down to show respect to His Majesty The King's eldest daughter. So the association decided to cancel countdown parties along Khao San Rd, a popular destination among revellers in Bangkok's Phra Nakhon district.

However, on New Year's Eve, visitors can still celebrate by taking selfies with giant balloons and watching live broadcasts of countdown events from around the world as venues along Khao San Rd will remain open, he said.



The New Year countdown on Khao San Rd has been cancelled. Photo: Bangkok Post

In fact, the number of visitors that day is expected to remain high despite the cancellation of the countdown event, he said.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) says New Year celebrations will still be carried out in 50 districts across the capital.

Deputy Bangkok Governor Tavid Kamolvej said the BMA had stepped up measures to ensure safety in and around event zones.

"District offices have coordinated with business operators to ensure safety

measures," she said.

"Police from the Metropolitan Police Bureau (MPB) and volunteers will be sent to each spot to limit [crowds] at each venue.

"Entertainment venues, including pubs and bars, will also have to comply with BMA's safety measures," she added. Inspections have been held regularly since August as per Governor Chadchart Sittipunt's instructions.

The BMA also worked with various agencies to prepare for any mass crowding and to provide emergency exits

at each event zone, she said.

MPB commissioner Pol Lt Gen Thiti Saengsawang said event organisers should avoid igniting fireworks.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has developed a new heart problem after having earlier recovered from a period of abnormally rapid heartbeat, the Royal Household Bureau said in a statement issued last Sunday.

The princess had earlier been admitted to King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital on Nov 21 after complaining of abnormally rapid heartbeat. She underwent a radiofrequency ablation on Nov 22.

She was discharged and returned to Sa Pathum Palace on Dec 4, to rest.

The medical team providing treatment for the princess reported that she had since developed a new type of irregular heartbeat, but the symptoms would be temporary and she would soon recover by herself.

The princess has been advised to suspend her royal engagements for a period, pending a full recovery.



Customers on Khao San Rd, Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post

New Year alcohol measures stay

BANGKOK

THE NATIONAL ALCOHOLIC Beverage Policy Committee has continued its campaign to promote safe driving and to reduce the number of accidents caused by drunk driving over the coming New Year holidays.

Deputy Public Health Minister Sathit Pitutecha, in his capacity as the chairman of the committee, said on Dec 22 that the committee did not agree on the proposal requested by night entertainment venues to extend the selling of alcoholic drinks to 4am in popular tourism destinations to stimulate economic and tourism.

They also requested that the committee scrap the restricted alcohol sale hours between 2pm and 5pm and extend the selling hours from midnight to 2am.

"Many researchers have found that extended alcohol selling hours can lead to higher

consumption of alcohol, which potentially results in a higher risk of violent crimes. Therefore, the National Alcoholic Beverage Policy Committee agreed to maintain the existing measures," said Mr Sathit.

The existing measures are allowing the sale of alcoholic drinks between 11am to 2pm and 5pm to midnight, he said, adding that the sales hours will not be extended even during the New Year.

Dr Tares Krassana-irawiwong, director-general of the Department of Disease Control, said that during the "Seven Dangerous Days" during the New Year last year, there were 2,707 road accidents nationwide with 2,672 casualties and 333 fatalities.

According to data from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, road accidents caused by drunk drivers accounted for 29.51% of the cases. Bangkok Post

Search for sunken Navy vessel crew continues

PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

THE SEARCH FOR THE REST OF the missing crew of the sunken HTMS Sukhothai continued on Sunday (Dec 25) with a team of 53 divers and medics combing the seabed around the ship's wreckage, according to Capt Phongsak Ramnut, director of the Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Division under the Naval Ordnance Department.

The divers and rescuers did not enter the wreckage, about 40 metres below the surface, as it was considered unsafe to do so due to strong tides and the state of the ship, he said.

Navy spokesman Adm Pokkrong Monthatpalin said on Sunday that three more bodies had been found, meaning 11 others are still missing.

The search operation will continue via air, land and sea in a target area divided into 20 sectors, he said.

Foot patrols are being conducted along the surrounding coastal areas where more bodies or survivors are likely to be found.

The corvette HMTS Sukhothai sank on Dec 18 with 105 people on board as it was patrolling the rough seas off Prachuap Khiri Khan's Bang Saphan district.

Of the 105 crew members, 76 were rescued while 18 others have been found dead since, said Adm Pokkrongl, adding



HTMS Sukhothai in March of this year. Photo: Bangkok Post

that 11 of the crew remain missing, at time of press.

Of the 18 victims, seven have been formally identified while others are being identified via markings on their bodies. A total of eight bodies were discovered and retrieved last Saturday.

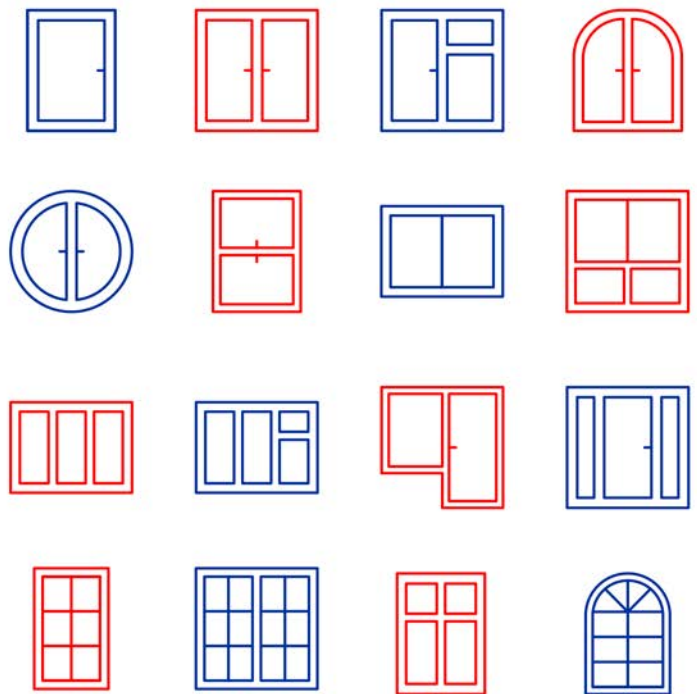
On Monday the body of a man wearing a shirt with the words "ROYAL THAI NAVY" printed on it was found washed ashore near a village in Sathing Phra district.

The body was found about 3:20am by residents of a local village, police confirmed. He had not been identified and the body was taken to Sathing Phra Hospital.

Police confirmed the dead man's shirt was navy issue, but it was not known if he was a missing member of the crew of the HTMS Sukhothai. Bangkok Post



Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 @nathan Upvc brown pvcphuket.com

POP QUIZ

1. In which year was *The Phuket News* first published?
2. What is the capital of Turkey?
3. Which of the planets is closest to the Sun?
4. In which year was the first *Toy Story* movie released?
5. "Ask me no questions, and you'll be told no lies" is a line from which Dickens novel?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

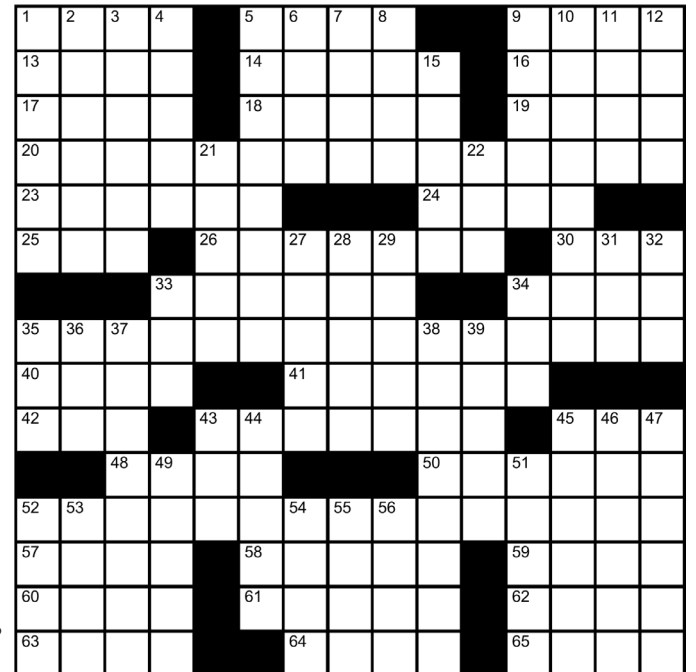
- Across

 1. Felt dizzy
 5. Catchall abbr.
 9. Seaweed substance
 13. Wear down
 14. Concealed, casually
 16. Closing act?
 17. View from Catania
 18. Milan's La ____
 19. Bound
 20. Early Ma Bell services
 23. Equivocate
 24. "My Name Is ____"
 25. Antiquity
 26. Branson or Crenna
 30. Accelerator bit
 33. More like evergreens
 34. Fellow
 35. Early viewing choices
 40. Multitude
 41. The Muses, e.g.
 42. Slip
 43. Knock
 45. Extinct flightless bird
 48. Express
- Down

 1. Treeless tract
 2. Besides
 3. Historian Toynbee
 4. Denoted
 5. Erratum
 6. Victim of Pizarro
 7. Lasting effect
 8. Stallion, once
 9. Buzzing
 10. More graceful
 11. On the quiet side?
 12. Roulette bets
 15. More cheerful
 21. Chill-inducing
 22. Sprout
27. Catlike critter
 28. Middle Eastern tree
 29. Don't exist
 31. Pin ____
 32. Fraternity letters
 33. Zip
 34. Physique, informally
 35. Nice hot drink?
 36. "____ Town Too" (1981 hit)
 37. Curiosity
 38. London snack time
 39. No-cal drink
 43. Scale notes
 44. Met expectations?
 45. Doc
 46. Willows
 47. Conciliates
 49. Sweater style
 51. Arab porter
 52. Fall follower
 53. Exceptional
 54. Coaster
 55. Bind
 56. Auditory

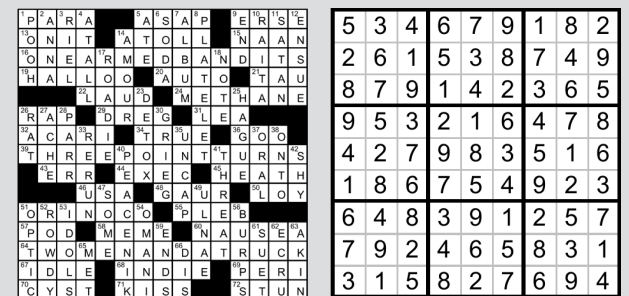
Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 2011 (Mar 4); 2) Ankara; 3) Mercury; 4) 1995; 5) *Great Expectations*



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

years is how long an alligator can live without food.

40

percent of a cow is used for antifreeze, insulin, blood thinners, toothpaste and lipstick.

60

percent of that cow is used for food.

200

galaxies exist for every person on Earth.

6 billion

US dollars is lost by Netflix each year by people who share their passwords.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Promthep sunset. Photo by Jupit Donoso

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

This week in history

December 30, 2006

Former President of Iraq Saddam Hussein is executed. He ruled from July 16, 1979 to April 9, 2003 before being deposed by US forces.

December 31, 1879

Thomas Alva Edison demonstrates incandescent lighting to the public for the first time, in Menlo Park, New Jersey. He famously said "We will make Electric Light so cheap only that only the wealthy

will burn candles."

January 1, 1912

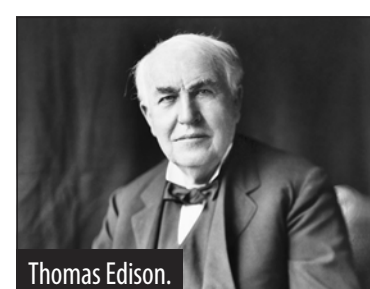
The Republic of China, is established.

January 2, 1959

Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the Moon and to orbit the Sun, is launched by the Soviet Union.

January 3, 2019

Chinese spacecraft 'Chang'e 4' makes the first soft landing on



Thomas Edison.

the far side of the Moon, deploying the Yutu-2 lunar rover.

January 4, 1948

Burma gains its independence

from the United Kingdom becoming an independent republic, named the Union of Burma, with Sao Shwe Thaik as its first President and U Nu its first Prime Minister.

January 5, 1066

Edward the Confessor, one of the last Anglo-Saxon kings of England, dies childless, sparking a succession crisis that eventually leads to the Norman conquest of England.

Source: *Wikipedia*

Peddle, paddle, pain au chocolat



BLAZING SADDLES

Baz Daniel
baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com

One early morning last week, I discovered the meaning of life and also the secret of eternal youth, which is not a bad morning's work for what started as a routine bike ride in southern Phuket.

As this year's extended rainy-season showed signs of dissipating we've been blessed with some gorgeous mornings following nights of relentless rain and this particular Wednesday was one of them. The world was asparkle with the remnants of the previous night's deluge and at 6:30am the sun was rising with diamondiferous intent as if wanting to paint everything it touched with a magical, silvery glow.

I jumped – or as I recently turned 74, “gingerly climbed” is probably more accurate – onto the saddle of my Italian road bike and headed south from Chalong and on to Rawai beachfront. Ramshackle elegance seemed to poke from every corner of this slightly down-at-heel waterfront enclave, with a small Armada of beached long-tails languishing on the silty littoral, while a cluster of ciggie-smoking boaties skulked under the palm fronds, possibly celebrating the recent return of the legions of tourists.

Onward I pedalled on the back road



Baz ready to enjoy his second 'P' of the day. Photo: Supplied

to the top of Promthep Cape, my ancient heart fairly pumping as I dropped by to pay my respects at the elephant shrine, beside the venerable lighthouse with the cape's immaculate, island-dotted, oceanic vistas beyond.

'Pedalling' then, is the first of the three P's which make up my slightly eccentric solution to the meaning of life, but on a stunning post-monsoonal morning such as this, I can think of no better way to start the day and celebrate the beauty of simply being alive than a vigorous pedal to the pinnacle of Promthep Cape and a 'thank you' to the pachyderms!

Of course, what goes up must subsequently come down and so it was that my next thrill was to hurtle at gravity's behest down the steeply winding hill to a largely deserted Yanui Beach. Here,

my old pal Khun Wan and his sons were laying out their early morning rental kayaks, canoes and paddle boards onto the beguiling sands. For just B100, I rented a kayak and set off to paddle around romantic Koh Man as the waters were pretty calm and Khun Wan said the wind was not going to carry me off over the horizon into oblivion!

There was something almost hypnotic about the constant gentle rhythm of paddling as my mind became mesmerised by the scurrying black fiddler crabs dancing across the sea-lashed rocks and a pair of nesting hornbills squawked and frolicked in the trees above my head. I circled Koh Man in about 30 minutes then had a sea swim to loosen up my tired body.

Mixing cycling with other forms of exercise has proven to be the best way

to maximise overall health and fitness and abundant scientific research supports the notion that exercising in, or near, water is excellent for both mental and physical wellbeing. So, combining a bike ride with activities which take advantage of our island's beautiful maritime environment makes a lot of sense.

So, my second 'P' in the answer to life's meaning was paddling!

Finally, I cycled around to the beautiful beachside terrace of Rock Salt restaurant within the sumptuous Nai Harn Resort to gather the final 'P' in my Elixir of Life and it's here that the true magic of this equation kicks in.

I found a superb spot overlooking the silvery sands of Nai Harn Beach, looking back toward the ramparts of Promthep Cape from whence I'd pedalled. I ordered a freshly-brewed cappuccino and with it, the final 'P' in the meaning of life... the most gorgeous *pain au chocolat* and as I sat there savouring my delicious treat, an epiphany overtook me. This was it! This very moment of well-earned reward following vigorous exercise in the most beautiful of locations, was as good as it ever gets, or is ever going to get.

We are told endlessly to be present and 'in the moment', and here was a moment of supreme reward and pleasure for doing just that. Just being. Just fully feeling the benefits of those three P's was as good as life gets!

Pedal, paddle then *pain au chocolat*... and PARADISE awaits you!



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



FIGHT CIRCUS 5 - HANUKKAH GONE WRONGUKKAH, A HOMAGE TO SCROOGE

Once again held at Illuzion Club Phuket, Fight Circus 5 kicked off on the evening of December 17, hundreds of fight fans witnessed a fight card never seen before in Phuket, if not the world. Highlights included the Wheel of Violence, anit-CTE fight, Siamese twin kickboxing, Indian leg wrestling – the nutcracker edition and so much more.



Trades & Services



The Phuket News



@thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES

VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS
vertigovideo productions.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-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Curtain Shop

UPHOLSTERY
CURTAIN
WALLPAPER
BLIND
CARPET

PROFESSIONAL
Curtain repeating, stitching, sewing and installation.

GREAT VALUE. LUXURY FEEL.

WhatsApp
www.phuketcurtain.com sales@phuketcurtain.com 095 428 2299, 076 216 666

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

30 DEC

SUN

1 JAN

WED

4 JAN

SAT

21 JAN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



HIP HOP NIGHT AT BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB

HIP HOP NIGHT AT BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB featuring F.HERO POK MINDSET DJ BOMBER SELECTA Hip Hop lovers don't miss it! Get ready for a HUGE PARTY "HIP HOP NIGHT at BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB" featuring F.HERO, POK MINDSET and DJ BOMBA SELECTA with beach vibes and stunning views over Blue Tree Lagoon. It's going to be an epic night. Saturday, 21 Jan 2023 at Blue Tree Phuket – kittikhuns@bluetree.fun, 076-602435.

Friday Mussels Night

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinier, 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 raddish, 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

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

HIP HOP NIGHT AT BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB

HIP HOP NIGHT AT BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB featuring F.HERO POK MINDSET DJ BOMBER SELECTA Hip Hop lovers don't miss it! Get ready for a HUGE PARTY "HIP HOP NIGHT at BLUE TREE BEACH CLUB" featuring F.HERO, POK MINDSET and DJ BOMBA SELECTA with beach vibes and stunning views over Blue Tree Lagoon. It's going to be an epic night. Saturday, 21 Jan 2023 at Blue Tree Phuket – kittikhuns@bluetree.fun, 076-602435.



SALA RESTAURANT

Al Fresco dining at it's best, on the shores of Mai Khao Beach. Offering an exceptional blend of mouth watering international cuisine and scrumptious traditional Thai delicacies.

Located beachfront at SALA Phuket Mai Khao Beach Resort

076 33 8888 | www.salaphuket.com



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Grow Boating Evening

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 6th of January. We are delighted to announce that our sponsor for the evening will be Asia Sponsoswrship News who opened an office in RPM in October 2022. Asia Sponsorship News (ASN) is the leading market intelligence service for the sponsorship industry. See https://asiasponsorshipnews.com/ There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee 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 Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com



Australia Day Phuket Sundowners

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, is delighted to invite you to join us for "Australia Day Phuket Sundowners" at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, on Friday 27th January 2023, from 18.00-21.00 hrs. A celebration of all things Australian, join us for your favourite Australian food & beverages, and welcome in the New Year as the first business networking event of 2023! 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members 900 THB for non-members Accommodation: TBA Please register in advance, as walk-ins are not allowed for this event. Limited spaces, please book early to avoid disappointment. office@austchamthailand.com

SALA RESTAURANT

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

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

Grow Boating Evening

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 6th of January. We are delighted to announce that our sponsor for the evening will be Asia Sponsoswrship News who opened an office in RPM in October 2022. Asia Sponsorship News (ASN) is the leading market intelligence service for the sponsorship industry. See https://asiasponsorshipnews.com/ There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee 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 Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

Australia Day Phuket Sundowners

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, is delighted to invite you to join us for "Australia Day Phuket Sundowners" at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, on Friday 27th January 2023, from 18.00-21.00 hrs. A celebration of all things Australian, join us for your favourite Australian food & beverages, and welcome in the New Year as the first business networking event of 2023! 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members 900 THB for non-members Accommodation: TBA Please register in advance, as walk-ins are not allowed for this event. Limited spaces, please book early to avoid disappointment. office@austchamthailand.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Massage for Painful Muscles

Using Therabody technology, only THB 500 for 1 hour. Location Ban Don, easy parking. Call for appointment 092 805 3522.

BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE



BOAT Merry Fisher 1095 FLY

Three double cabins. Generous equipment. Additional living space with flybridge Integrated electric steering + autopilot Cockpit shower (hot & cold water) 220V water heater Fresh water electric toilet 2 Garmin chart plotters 2 wood cockpit tables + Flybridge table. Sundek+sun pad on Flybridge Bow Thruster 2 Fridges + microwave Teak floor Length: 10.45 M Engine Type: Outboard YAMAHA F300x2 Fuel Capacity: 400 L x2 Water Capacity: 260 L Passengers: 10 Pax 0985308234 admin@motorium.co.th

URGENT



RIB for sale - Interceptor 50ft

The Interceptor 50ft is a wonderful spacious and stable boat for families. She features twin Yamaha four stroke engines 350hp and two cabins (one including a head). She is available for viewing and sea trials. Kindly contact the owner Giorgio 081-827-1947, 6,000,000, Giorgio, Drake Marine Shipyard, giorgionaef@aol.com, 081-827-1947

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Luxury Ocean View Pool Villa

The Cube Villa Kalim, is a modern ocean view pool villa with over 800sqm living space with a private 90 sqm infinity saltwater pool. Ocean Rock Villa Estate, 9/4 Soi Prabaramee 7, Kalim Beach, Patong, hello@the-cube-villa-kalim.com, +66(0)92 870 6065,



Bangtao private villa

Bangtao private half acre villa setting, 5 ensuite bed, 7 baths, 2 kitchens, 3 pools, gym, sauna, 2 min walk to beach, 24 hr security. Weekly, monthly rates. Available until Jan 04/23. Call 0818927082/or email nokey@loxinfo.co.th

Phuket NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

the Phuket news

No 'political statements' from drivers, says FIA

MOTORSPORTS

AFP

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has cracked down on competitors making "political, religious and personal statements or comments" in its updated rules for motorsports next season.

The governing body's International Sporting Code (ISC) now deems "the general making and display of political, religious and personal statements or comments notably in violation of the general principle of neutrality promoted by the FIA" an offence.

The FIA governs Formula One (F1), world rally and endurance world championships. As of Sunday (Jan 1, 2023) any political statements will need to be "previously approved in writing by the FIA".

However, the sanctions for a breach of the rules were not specified.

In recent years, several high-profile F1 drivers have used Grand Prix races to



Sebastian Vettel wore a rainbow T-shirt in support of the LGBTQ community during the Hungarian Grand Prix in 2021. Photo: AFP

openly take a stand for a cause, in particular with messages on their clothing or helmet.

In 2020, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton donned a T-shirt on the podium of the Tuscan Grand Prix with the message "Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor", referring to the fatal shooting of a black woman in her home by American police.

Hamilton's actions led the FIA to review its protocols for post-race ceremonies.

In 2021, German Sebastian Vettel wore a rainbow T-shirt

in support of the LGBTQ community during the Hungarian Grand Prix.

He also wore a helmet with a message protesting against Canada's oil sands mining at the Canadian Grand Prix.

"The ISC has been updated in accordance with the political neutrality of sport as a fundamental universal ethical principle of the Olympic Movement," an FIA spokesperson said in a statement.

AUSSIE EXTENSION

Meanwhile, the Australian

Grand Prix will run until at least 2037 after the Victoria State Government announced on they secured a two-year extension to the 10-year deal they struck earlier this year.

The Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne has hosted the Grand Prix since 1996; before that the event was in Adelaide.

After a year-break because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the race returned this year and drew a total crowd of 419,000 a record for an Australian sporting weekend.

Part of the deal will see Melbourne host the first race of the F1 season for at least four years between 2023 and 2037, with Saudi Arabia to host the first race of the 2024 season out of respect for Ramadan. Bahrain is also due to open the 2023 campaign.

Australia will be part of a record 23-race calendar next year. That would rise to 24 if F1 finds a replacement for the China Grand Prix, cancelled earlier this month due to COVID.

Potential replacements are Portugal and Turkey, though the decision will depend on financial factors.



Action from the Kamala Open. Photo: Robert Knight

Ron dominates Open

BOWLS

Continued from page 12

...that Wan had won 3 of the 4 ends but Ron's score of 3 in end 3 meant all was still to play for as he used his experience to restrict her scoring to only 1 point each end when she was holding shot.

More high scoring ends from Ron meant he raced away to an unassailable 13-3 lead before finally winning 13-4.

The victory meant Ron added the Kamala Open title to the club championship he won last month. It also means he is widely considered as odds-on favourite to secure the Phuket Open, due to be held in the New Year.

'The Special Ron', as he is affectionately known, confirmed he is due to relocate to Northern Thailand after the next tournament next year although people breathing a

sigh of relief thinking they had seen the back of him dominating competition were soon disappointed when he stated in true 'Arnie' style that "I will be back" for future majors!

In the plate final recently returned Peter 'The Kaiser' Kuschel defeated Aon Sunnee with the final bowl of the 80 delivered in their pulsating match.

Even though the ladies in both finals were unable to replicate their success of last year, their performances proved once again their ability and durability on the green which bodes well for future competition.

Kamala Lawn Bowls Club is open six days a week with all equipment provided and only casual attire required. Private parties can also be catered for. For more information contact the club on 0952761587.

Robert Knight

Thailand begin title defence with five-star Brunei win

FOOTBALL

SIX-TIME CHAMPIONS THAILAND kicked off their title defence of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup with a 5-0 victory over Brunei in Group A in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Dec 20.

Qualifiers Brunei made things difficult for the defending champions at the beginning of the game but Port winger Bordin Phala gave the War Elephants a 1-0 lead in the 19th minute before Teerasil Dangda, the tournament all-time top scorer, made it 2-0 before half-time with his 20th goal of the biennial event.

Thailand were dominant in the second half but only managed to increase their lead through an own goal by Yura Indera Putera in the 88th minute.

The War Elephants scored the fourth goal as the match headed into stoppage time. Sasalak Haiprakhon was fouled by Putera in the area and substitute Peeradol Chamratsamee converted the resulting penalty.

Peeradol registered his second goal of the night and the fifth for Thailand in the third minute of added time as the champions wrapped up their opening match in convincing fashion.

"I am very happy with the team's performance today because we knew very well that the first game is always difficult," said Thailand coach Mano Polking.



Peeradol Chamratsamee scores his penalty during their opening match against Brunei. Photo: Bangkok Post

"We won the game and scored five goals and that was very good for the team. We created a lot of chances and our ball possession was good. Now we are looking forward to our next game."

In the other Group A game, Cambodia defeated the Philippines 3-2 in Phnom Penh. Indonesia are the other team in the pool.

Thailand's next match at time of press was set to be against the Philippines at Thammasat Stadium on Monday (Dec 26).

Bangkok Post

BLUE TREE PRESENTS

The "I DID IT" series offers a fun, safe, and inclusive environment for kids to race and acquire those fundamental triathlon skills of swimming, biking, and running.

BLUE TREE PHUKET

"I DID IT" Series 2023

SAVE THE DATE

SAT 28 JAN	RUNNING RACE
SAT 10 JUN	MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE
SAT 19 AUG	DUATHLON RACE
SAT 16 SEP	SWIM RACE
SAT 14 OCT	AQUATHLON
SAT 18 NOV	PHOENIX KIDS TRIATHLON

FOR KIDS AGED 5 - 17 YRS

(+66) 96652-8090
(+66) 92135-2662

BOOK NOW

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

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



War Elephants
issue sign of
intent > p11

DOJO ON FIRE!

Local judo students cap off big year with medal haul

Alexis (right) and his students show off their impressive medal-haul from the Malaysia Open. Photo: Alexis Plantard

JUDO

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Athletes from Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket concluded a fantastic year of competition and achievement by securing a scintillating 14-medal haul at the recent Malaysia International Open tournament.

Under the guidance of lead instructor and Dojo founder Alexis Plantard, the Phuket-based contingent won five gold medals, two silver and seven bronze at the Dec 17-18 Judo competition.

"We were on fire across all divisions, including cadet, junior and senior," a beaming Alexis told *The Phuket News*.

"The competition was tough with hundreds of participants from over 15 coun-

tries so to achieve what we did was fantastic and I am incredibly proud of all the students."

The achievements in Malaysia came off the back of several successful competitions of late, including the Australian International Judo Open in Perth on the weekend of Nov 12-13 where Alexis won gold medals in the under 90kg senior class and master class.

Young student Oliver won a bronze medal in the boys under 30kg weight class, Oscar finished in fourth place in the under 34kg class and fellow student Gabin finished fourth in the 38kg class, losing to the eventual champion from the Philippines.

It resulted in a 12th place finish overall for the Dojo team out of 21 academies who participated, with Alexis'

achievements helping his homeland of France to a third place finish out of 11 competing nations.

Alexis was full of praise for his blossoming students, saying: "Oliver fought very well and fully deserved his medal. He only has a few weeks of training and practice under his belt, as does Oscar, but both showed incredible fighting skills and truly brave attitudes."

Alexis also had special praise for Gabin who he explained has less than a year's experience in the sport but demonstrated some excellent skills that will boost his confidence immeasurably for future tournaments.

Next up was the Indonesia International Judo Open in Jakarta on the weekend of Dec 3-4, where more than 500 athletes from 10 countries

participated.

Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket had eight athletes competing, four of whom were pre-cadet class from France, Russia, Japan and China and four of whom were in the senior class, from Thailand, the United States, Syria and France.

It was a tough challenge with Valentine defeated in the first round of his competition, Thiti going out in the second round and Fadi finishing in fifth place overall after two strong fights.

The pre-cadet students fared better with Leo and Timur capturing bronze medals in their respective classes, Tomo finishing in fifth place and Gabin unfortunate to exit after the first round.

Alexis won the gold medal in his class after overcoming strong opponents from Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea

and Japan, meaning the team claimed three medals in total and a great deal of invaluable competition experience.

'MORE TO COME'

Prior to this, Alexis had competed at the 13th Senior World Championships of Kurash Wrestling in Pune, India.

Held between Nov 23-28, the competition saw over 400 athletes from 70 countries taking part and Alexis managed to claim a bronze medal, something he attributed to the high levels of discipline and commitment to his training and lifestyle.

He then finished fifth at the Qazaq Kuresi World Wrestling Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan, held between Dec 12-14.

With athletes from over 50 nations taking part competition was tough and Alexis

performed well to win against opponents from Pakistan and Italy (twice) before he fell to the current world champion from Poland and a local Kazak athlete who had the enthusiastic support of a 3,000-plus crowd.

Alexis is already looking forward to watching his students grow further in 2023, with the Danish Open on Feb 19 quickly followed by the Australian Open on Feb 25.

"It has been a great year and I am so proud," he said. "We are constantly growing and improving and I am positive there is even more to come next year."

The Dojo at Blue Tree is open daily from 10am to 7pm and all levels and ages are welcome. For further information please visit their Facebook page or email: dojo@bluetree.fun

The Special Ron delivers again at Kamala Open

BOWLS

A CLOUDY BUT DRY DAY greeted the 19 participants on Monday, Dec 19 at Kamala Lawn Bowls for The Kamala Open Championship, the second prestigious 'major' of the year.

On this occasion the controversial seeding system used in the previous major tournament was abandoned in favour of the traditional out-of-the-hat draw.

In order to reduce the field

to a more suitable size of 16 for competition an early elimination round was necessary, with the three early casualties entered into the 'plate' tournament, one of whom was Nidnoi Waranka, last year's winner in the first all female final.

Indeed, with only three ladies in this year's competition the likelihood of a fairer sex winner again was slim. However, it was still a possibility as relative newcomer Sireeton 'Wan' Sirimuangsang faced off against Ray Austin in the first semi-final, with veteran Derek

'Dr Rock' Chalmers up against in form current club champion Ron Blackwood, who had escaped an early exit in the first round with a narrow win in a scrappy affair against Glenn Collins.

Both semi-finals were one sided affairs as Wan comfortably dispatched Ray with Ron rediscovering his form in an easy win over Dr Rock.

After 4 ends the final was all square at 3-3 with some high quality bowls being delivered. Of note was...

Continued on page 11



Peter (left) and Ron (right) with their trophies. Photo: Robert Knight