Phuket police and health officials have ramped up their campaign to ensure venues across the island serving alcohol and providing live entertainment are in full compliance with COVID-prevention measures.

Phuket Provincial Police last Saturday (Dec 4) released a report claiming that officers had carried out more than 3,000 venue inspections since Nov 1, resulting in 32 arrests for breaking the provincial order regulating the sale of alcohol and COVID regulations prohibiting staff from having close contact with customers.

The report marked that last Saturday alone officers conducted 142 inspections of venues, resulting in four arrests: one in Muang District, two in Kamala and one in Wichit.

The report marked that the inspections and arrests were conducted specifically to enforce Phuket Provincial Order No. 7188/2564, “regarding measures to close the place or prohibit activities that are at risk of spreading disease” (COVID-19) and Phuket Provincial Order No. 7585/2564, which regulates the sale and consumption of alcohol across the island.

Under the provincial order which came into effect on Nov 16, restaurants and other “eateries” – that is, any venue with a permit to serve food, and if the venue also has a permit to sell alcohol – may serve alcohol from 11am to 2pm and from 5pm to 11pm only.

The subsequent revised order that came into effect on Nov 27 repeated the restricted alcohol serving times, but allowed for alcohol to be sold all night on New Year’s Eve, through to 6am New Year’s Day.

The report by Phuket Provincial Police issued last Saturday also noted that the provisions enforced in the campaign included those mandating that dancing remained prohibited, and that contact between singers,...
Venues targeted over COVID compliance

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**F**eared that tourists arriving from Africa had brought the Omicron variant of COVID-19 to Phuket, an official has confirmed that 130 tourists are still in Phuket from Nov 14-27.

Of the 130, 58 had already returned home, Dr Kosak said, adding that of the remaining 72 tourists still in Phuket, 57 were still in Phuket. Health officials had already ordered the closed venues on the island, he said.

“Health officers are now investigating those tourists and conducting contact tracing,” Dr Kosak assured. Just one day later (Dec 3), Phuket Immigration Chief Col Thanet confirmed that three tourists had already departed from Phuket, prior to the arrival of the Omicron variant.

In presenting revised figures, Col Thanet said that 52 were still on the island. Of those, 26 had already stayed in Phuket since Dec 2, when it was revealed that 126 tourists had arrived from South Africa on Nov 14-27.

A hotel staffer is asked to pass on the message that the tourists need to be tested.

**A** hotel staffer is asked to pass on the message that the tourists need to be tested. Of the remaining 26, six had already been tested and found negative, and 10 are still to be tested.

Of those, 45 had completed 14 days’ stay in Phuket without any signs of infection. Of the remaining 85, 41 had travelled back out of Thailand, and 28 had travelled to other provinces, the report added.

Only 12 tourists of concern were still in Phuket, the PPHO noted.

None of the tourists from South Africa and Namibia tested so far had tested positive for any form of COVID-19, the new PPPO report said.

Of those, six had already repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19. The remaining six had swab samples taken and the PPPO was awaiting the test results, the report added.

**Additional reporting by Eakklipop Thongthub**
Motorbike taxi driver killer slays third victim

A killer out on bail for shooting dead two rival motorbike taxi drivers at Phuket Bus Terminal 2, north of Phuket Town, in January has struck again, shooting dead another motorbike taxi driver at the inter-provincial bus terminal late last Saturday night (Dec 4).

Police were called to the bus station at 10:30pm, where they were shown where the victim, Champa Wanchan, 54, was shot dead while sitting in a white plastic chair in the parking area for motorcycle taxis.

By the time police arrived, Mr Champa had been rushed to Mission Hospital Phuket, before being transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Officers, led by Col Bandit Khaosutham, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Police Investigation Division, found two bullet casings on the ground next to the blood-stained chair.

Somjai “(not her real name), who had brought a motorcycle taxi driver who witnessed the shooting, told police that Vean Aiachutong, well known at the bus station for shooting dead a rival motorbike taxi driver in January, arrived with his son and walked up to confront Mr Champa, who remained seated in his chair.

Only a few words were spoken before Vean pulled out a handgun and fired several times, shooting Mr Champa at close range. Mr Champa was shot once in the chest and once in the right temple.

Vean’s son ordered the people who witnessed the shooting to go back to their homes, before he and his father fled, Mr Sommuk said.

Phuket City Police confirmed they had Vean back in custody by about 11:30pm that same night after tracking him down to his residence near the old bus station on Phung Nga Rd in Phuket Town.

Vean, originally from Tran province and owner of car rental and tour company Wang Wiset Travel Service Co, was taken to Phuket City Police Station for processing.

He had been released on bail in April after shooting dead two men – Prakob Chuthong, 54, a resident of Pa Khlok, and Yod Sae Lee, 50, also from Trang – at the main bus terminal north of Phuket Town in January.

Vean had been released on bail so he could prepare his defence to the charges against him for the slayings, despite police confirming that he had initially confessed to the killings.

Mr Champa’s 17-year-old daughter, Ms Wassana, said she had no idea what would have prompted Vian to kill her father.

People familiar with Vian and his two victims in January also said they were unaware of any conflict among the motorbike taxi drivers that would prompt the killings.

Many of the people at the bus station at the time described him as “a nice guy”. 

Local residents left angry over Pfizer walk-in queue confusion

LOCAL RESIDENTS VOICED THEIR anger over the poor organisation of the walk-in Pfizer vaccinations at the Indoor Sports stadium at Saphan Hin on Dec 2.

Among the biggest concerns were that people were left standing outside for hours with no social distancing enforced while waiting to be told to enter the stadium.

When The Phuket News arrived at 11am, local residents were arguing with organisers, calling for them to better organise the waiting area outside the stadium.

Many of the people had been waiting outside the stadium since 5am, and some of the officers present were accused of letting foreigners jump the queue.

After much shouting at the officers and being told to calm down, the situation was resolved and the vaccinations continued to proceed.

One woman who asked to be called “Mrs Somjai” (not her real name), who had brought her daughter to be vaccinated, pointed out the poor organisation.

“The chair arrangement is without space, Temperature measurements are taken only before entering the building, and there seems to be no organisation of the queues at all. People are standing so close they are breathing on each other’s necks,” she said.

“And many of the people here have been standing outside in the sun for at least two hours,” she added.

“The staff today are not as ready as they used to be. There is no organisation of the queues, which have been very orderly. When I took another daughter to be vaccinated at another centre,
Confusion over exactly who owns a plot of land has left an absent homeowner now in Germany with a bill of B50,000 to have a water-vending machine removed from in front of her house, despite the machine being installed in a drain ditch which is supposed to be on public property administered by the local municipality and the machine now partly blocking her driveway.

The coin-operated water-vending machine was installed some two months ago, people living in the street, Baan Bang Whan Rd in Moo 1, Kamala, confirmed.

The water-vending machine is of the same type installed elsewhere by Kamala Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor). The machine, branded as “Freshy Drinking Water”, is accompanied by a 500-litre tank of drinking water for local residents to use.

The owner of the house, Waralak Fritze, 52, is currently staying in Germany, explained the housekeeper, who asked not to be named.

When the machine was first installed, she called to inform Ms Waralak, who then called the owner of the machine, whose mobile number is posted on the front of the machine.

“We have to give the machine owner B50,000 to remove this machine,” Ms Waralak said in a post online.

“The machine owner said they bought it from someone. It cost B35,000, but they said I have to pay B50,000 because it was bought a long time ago. Please don’t use your power over the people. Thank you,” the housekeeper said.

With the village headman (Phu Ya Bun) of Baan Bang Wan, Moo 1, Kamala resigning on Nov 29, The Phuket News asked subdistrict headman (Kannam) Wattanaphon Sanee how the situation is to be resolved.

“I know the complaint… This has to be done right, and it is not appropriate to set up the machine blocking the entrance and exit of the house,” he said.

“But if legally required, the owner of the house and the owner of the machine must bring the documents to verify who is correct,” he added.

The issue involved the registered owner of the land on which the machine has been installed, which in this case is Mali Wandee, he noted.

Ms Mali said that all of the land in the past had no roads passing through it and was all the same plot of land.

“The land of the person who is correct to the media is located in front of a public canal. Before the road was built across this land, the whole plot was divided into two parts, mostly in the mountains and the small part next to the public canal,” she said.

Ms Mali explained that she invited “the foreigner” who owns the house to go halves in buying the small plot that once was beside the public canal, but now includes the area in front of the foreigner’s house. However, the foreigner declined, saying that the land on which the house was built was enough, she said.

“The land owner sold it to me for B50,000. I bought it alone and a community agency came to ask to set up that machine, so I allowed them to set it up and for them to pay for the electricity the machine uses. Therefore, the machine is not mine. In the past, this was a public canal near the fence of the foreigner’s house,” Mrs Mali said.

Charul Dumak, voted in as president the election late last month, has yet to be officially installed to take office.
Residents of Rassada tsunami village call to end prosecution against them

Residents of the Sathorn Pho community in Rassada held a demonstration through the heart of Phuket Town on Nov 30, calling for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO), or OrBorJor, to cease legal action against them to have them evicted from state land.

The group, numbering about 200 under the organisation of the Phuket Community Rights Network, submitted a formal written request for the PPAO to end prosecution against residents in the area.

Representing the group, Sinchai Ruphrojin, a member of the Phuket Community Rights Development Network and of the People for Justice Movement (PMove), explained that the area where the residents live was developed by the PPAO under the Baan Mankong project after the 2004 Asian Tsunami to give local residents a place to live.

Later in 2011, the land was deemed to be part of the “new Ratsada Pier community”, which is on land administered by the Ministry of Interior, he said.

The area was marked to be issued a special “community title deed”, which PMove and the residents have long campaigned that the government uphold, he added.

“The community title deed policy has been halted due to political problems,” Mr Sinchai said.

In the meantime, with no residents in the village having any formal address, because the land is not registered by any formal title deed, they were forced to pay higher prices for essential utilities including electricity supply, Mr Sinchai said.

Not having a formal address also affected many of the local residents’ citizen rights under national government, and affected their access to national government services, he added.

“The community has not yet been able to enter into a lease agreement with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation. The members of the group still insist on their original rights, but they don’t have the money to build a house, especially during this COVID-19 crisis,” Mr Sinchai said.

The formal request asked the PPAO to cease all legal action against the residents. “Especially while the issue of the community title deed has yet to be resolved,” Mr Sinchai noted.

PPAO Deputy Chief Mr Thiwat said the issue would be raised at the next PPAO council meeting on Dec 15.

The National Land Commission was expected to raise this issue at its meeting this week, Mr Thiwat also noted.

“We can resolve this issue together,” he said.

The Phuket News
Tourism authorities have ramped up their push to promote Phuket as a sports tourism destination, with no less than three major events being held on the island over the past week. The Asian Tour continued with the Laguna Phuket Championship last weekend, and the “Toyota Gazoo Racing Motorsport” street racing took to the streets at Saphan Hin last Saturday (Dec 4) in the hope of inspiring more sporting events to be held on the island. The event comprises tournaments in six sports - beach football, final, beach volleyball, woodball, petanque and swimming – to be held through December.

“This is another type of tourism activity that is gaining popularity with both Thai and foreign tourists, who can travel to the Phuket area to enjoy. Phuket is ready to welcome athletes and tourists to come to Phuket to join and enjoy the events, and to help increase income for Phuket Province,” said Vice Governor Pichit Panapong at the opening ceremony. Bringing world-class international long jump and pole vault athletes to Phuket was the “Golden Fly Series Phuket 2021” held at Patong Beach last weekend.

Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprapa presided over the official opening on the Patong beach road last Saturday, joined by Kongnak Yodmanee, Governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand, and Phuket Governor Narong Woonyawong. The Patong edition of the three-day event, which concluded last Sunday (Dec 5), attracted world class athletes from 30 countries. Among the stars who took part were men’s long jump athletes Stelios Malakopoulous (GRE, Paralympic World Record Holder), Zarck Visser (RSA, No. 3 World Ranking 2019), and Yaroslav Isachenko (RSA, No. 3 World Ranking 2020). Competing in the men’s pole vault were Matt Ludwig of the USA (No. 3 World Ranking 2020 and a Tokyo Olympian) and Thai athlete Pataspong Amsam-Amg (3rd Asian Games 2018).

Women’s pole vault was contested by Holly Bradshaw (GBR, Bronze Medal Olympic Games Tokyo), Natalie Uy (PHL, National Record holder) and Thai national Khabut Chonticha (National Champion 2020). “This world-class sporting event is being held for the first time in Asia to stimulate the economy and create tourism trends in Thailand and Phuket,” Mr Phiphat said. “With the hope that the public will join the event and experience this kind of sport closely, to inspire Thai people to turn to exercise and lead to the development of an international athletics athlete,” he continued.

“It is also a good opportunity to awaken the trend of sports tourism and to promote the image of Thailand to tourists around the world, which shows the potential and readiness of the country in the hope of stimulating continually growth of the Thai tourism economy in response to the policy that sports can help store the economy and society of Thailand in a sustainable way,” he said.

Phuket Governor Narong commented, “This helps to enhance a good image and build confidence in Thailand and the hosting countries in combating the COVID-19 epidemic. It also shows the potential of Phuket Province to host sporting events and other events in the future.”

Sports Authority of Thailand Governor Mr Kongsak explained to those present, “The Golden Fly Series is a world-class sporting event that has been held in many areas both inside and outside Europe. This year, Thailand is the host of the competition and has succeeded in meeting the targeted policy plans, which in addition to helping to raise the standards of national sports to international standards, also helps to stimulate the economy and tourism in the country through sports tourism. “It also helps to build confidence in Thailand in the eyes of the world in controlling and managing the epidemic situation and with strict competition standards and disease prevention measures. This competition was successfully accomplished very well. On behalf of the Sports Authority of Thailand, I would like to thank Phuket, both the local government and private agencies, as well as Thai people and other supporters that have given great support to the management of the competition.”

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT has been approved to spend more than B258 million on local development projects, including B113mn on two projects supporting marine tourism in Chalong Bay. One of the projects is for more than B44mn to be spent on installing mooring buoys in Chalong Bay. The budget figures were revealed during a meeting led by Papasamon Amtralikit, Inspector-General of the Prime Minister’s Office Government Inspectorate Area 6 office, in Phuket last Friday (Dec 3).

During the meeting Ms Papasamon was briefed on 12 projects totalling B298.5mn for the fiscal year 2022 (Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022) “in order to comply with the objectives and achieve the best benefits for the people”, noted a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Ms Papasamon said that the meeting was to consider supporting the budget for the operating expenses of the Phuket Provincial Corporate Governance Committee and the preparation of budget expenditure plans for the fiscal year 2022.

As such, the 12 projects that will be monitored, she said.

Before attending the meeting, Ms Papasamon met with Phuket Governor Narong Woonyawong to discuss government issues and the guidelines for monitoring the projects.

Ms Papasamon said that the monitoring will include field visits to inspect and monitor the projects.

“They will focus on public relations work through social media so that people can get to know the project guidelines. This is to create an understanding between the government and the people and related agencies to be in the same direction and to create the participation of the people in monitoring various projects, so that the projects will bring the greatest benefit to the people according to the objectives laid down,” she said.

Among the projects to be monitored is the installation of a “management system” for Chalong Pier under a budget of B68.86mn, and a project to install mooring buoys “to organise the safety of tourists in Chalong Bay” under a budget of B44.61mn.

Two projects already announced to the public will also be monitored is the B49.9mn baht to be spent on “to increase the potential of safety measures in Phuket tourist attractions” and B28mn to be spent on beautification project in Phuket Old Town to help boost tourism to the area.

Phuket to spend B113mn on Chalong Bay projects

THE PHUKET NEWS

editor@classactmedia.co.th

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Phuket amid sports tourism push

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THEPHUKETNEWS.COM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021

Phuket amid sports tourism push

Tourists board a boat at Chalong Pier. Photo: TAC Phuket
**‘Don’t panic over Omicron’**

Business leaders are urging the public not to panic over the discovery of Thailand’s first Omicron coronavirus variant infection, saying a lockdown will spell disaster for the economy, which is still struggling to recover.

The chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, Supant Mongkolsuthree, said on Monday (Dec 6) there is no need for the public and the government to panic over the new strain, as a lockdown will deal a serious blow to the Thai economy, which is still struggling to recover.

“The situation is starting to look up. During a recent trip to Phuket, local residents told me that things are finally improving,” he said. “This told me that things are finally going to look up. During a recent trip to Phuket, local residents told me that things are finally improving,” he said. “This told me that things are finally going to look up.”

Official in protective gear wait for arrivals at Suvarnabhumi airport in Samut Prakan on Dec 2. Photo: Wichan Charoenkiatpakul

**NATIONALWIDE**

**Drivers will initially be focusing on delivery drivers and public transport drivers and drivers of public transport vehicles only, including truck, van and motorbike delivery drivers as well as tuk-tuks, taxi, bus and passenger van drivers, the Land Transport Department said.**

Drivers will initially be focusing on delivery drivers and public transport drivers and drivers of public transport vehicles only, including truck, van and motorbike delivery drivers as well as tuk-tuks, taxi, bus and passenger van drivers, the Land Transport Department said.

Drivers will initially be awarded 100 points with deductions of 10, 20 or 30 points for traffic violations depending on the severity of the offence.

Anyone who breaks the law and does not have any points left on their licence will have it suspended for 90 days. Two suspensions in three years will result in them losing their licence for 180 days.

Some offences will result in the immediate loss of all points they have left. These include the use of narcotics, using a suspended licence, harming others’ safety or causing accidents that result in fatalities.

Drivers with deducted points can recover 50-100 points by joining two four-hour training sessions.

Their points will be returned on the day of the examination following the training. If they do not pass, they will be given three opportunities to take the test again within seven days. Drivers can attend one training session per year.

Those who wish to recover their points can file a complaint with transport offices across the country using their driving licences or ID cards.

These measures will not be applied to drivers of private cars for personal use and police will be responsible for enforcement of the new rules, the department said. The Phuket News

**Nakhon Phanom**

**THE TERM ‘KATOEY’ OR TRANSVESTITE may have been used as reference to Pitchaya Pocharasadorn for the wrong reason but it is what propelled her to a resounding victory in the Nov 28 tambon administrative organisation (TAO) election in Nakhon Phanom.**

“I have to thank whoever tried to taunt me with that description,” said the newly-elected chairman of the Tha Khor TAO who won 2,954 votes, defeating her predecessor by 1,510 votes, a significant win by TAO standards.

Ms Pitchaya, nicknamed ‘Panda’, 47, has dedicated her life to assert her identity as a proud katoey who can make a difference to local politics and be of service to communities.

Being branded a katoey was a test she could not afford to flunk. Opponents kept badgering her with suggestions that belittled the qualifications of a katoey as a local leader.

“I had to overcome the disparagement. It’s a matter of flipping the coin and turning the negativity into energy to drive me forward,” Ms Pitchaya said.

If critics tried to put her down with vulgarity, she’d match it with humility. “I’ll lead the TAO with a glass half-full. I think I can get more input through listening,” she said.

Ms Pitchaya has no novice in politics. Long before being swept into the TAO chairmanship, she started as a public health volunteer in 2004 before rising to the top as tambon Tha Khor health volunteer chair.

Next, she was made inspector attached to the kamnan local leader, a post that lasted three years.

Throughout her stint as health volunteer and inspector, she learned first-hand about residents’ needs and their grievances while becoming aware of every nook and cranny of local politics.

“A devoted politician needs to be accessible and dependable for the people and not take advantage of them,” she said.

“Sexual orientation and biases aside, it’s the perseverance and a proven dedication to serve folks that won the day,” she said.

Ms Pitchaya hoped her triumph in the polls would lend impetus to a growing collective force to shatter the glass ceiling that keeps LGBT people from rising through political echelons. Bangkok Post

**Phuket News**

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There are literally hundreds of boats in Phuket’s Marinas that are rarely used,” says Gulu Lalvani, chairman of Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

He explains that while this may be partly because owners are overseas a lot of the time, it’s also because pulling together a group of like-minded people when the owner finds time to take the boat out for a day or two is not always easy.

So, engaging his passion for developing leisure boating in Phuket, Mr Lalvani set his RPM team to initiate the first ‘Royal Phuket Marina Full Moon Boat Rally’ – almost two years later than originally planned due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“The idea is that we at RPM take on the challenge of organising the itinerary and the social aspects of a weekend’s boating, offering owners a hassle-free opportunity to get out on the water, explore new destinations, get together socially with old, and make new, friends – and get the most out of their valuable leisure asset,” explains Mr Lalvani.

So, on November 20, following a scrumptious ‘bubbly’ breakfast/brunch at RPM Yacht Club’s ‘Isola Ristorante’, the fleet of 11 boats, ranging from a small day boat at 5.5 metres to the superyacht Demarest at 32.5 metres, and with a combined 90-plus happy boating enthusiasts on board, makes its way out of the marina for the inaugural rally and a glorious two days of island hopping.

The first stop on our itinerary is Racha Yai Island – arguably first among the many island jewels that are all just short cruise from almost anywhere on Phuket Island.

Batok Bay on Racha’s northwest coast, with its pristine white sand beach framed with coral on both sides, is our overnight anchorage. Home to the luxurious, award-winning resort The Racha, with its 85 ultra-luxe villas spread over 20 acres, this is a true tropical island utopia. After picking up our mooring, we head ashore through the crystal clear, aquamarine water. It doesn’t get better than this.

Racha Island also has two other bays – Siam Bay in the north and Ter Bay on the eastern coast. The latter serves as an alternative anchorage during the southwest monsoon season; the former does not make an ideal anchorage at any time.

Once ashore, we check in with The Racha’s super-friendly staff taking everything in their stride. Then everyone drifts off to swim in the welcoming waters of the bay, to soak in the expansive pool with a glass of something congenial in hand, to explore the island’s cycle tracks with the resort’s free-to-use bikes – or just to chill out in the incredibly well-appointed villas designed to attract free independent travellers with a taste for the luxury lifestyle.

Come evening it’s time to get together again for sunset cocktails and a sumptuous buffet dinner, with DJ, an exotic fire show and free-flowing beverages. A wonderful opportunity for everyone to catch up with old friends and make new ones, regaling all with the requisite tall tales of yachting exploits.

Next morning means another fine bubbly breakfast followed by a late morning departure for the short hop to Banana Beach Club on Coral Island’s northeast shore. Here a late lunch to the combined sounds of DJ and walkabout saxophonist is followed by an opportunity to frolic in the inviting shallows, indulge in a beachside spa treatment, try out the club’s water toys, work out at the waterfront ‘jungle gym’ or just chill in the shade sipping a cold drink.

The last leg of the rally sees a leisurely cruise to Rang Noi Private Island for sunset cocktails and snacks and an opportunity to say our goodbyes before returning to Royal Phuket Marina.

Such was the enthusiasm for this inaugural event, that the dates for the next rally have already been announced. To make sure you don’t miss out, mark January 15-16 in your diary for the second ‘Royal Phuket Marina Full Moon Boat Rally’. More details will be announced soon. If you’d like to reserve your spot now, go to this link: https://forms.gle/Z4wHLfZuhS5LS2r5.

Events like this don’t happen without the support of sponsors. Leading backers of the inaugural rally were Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Demarest Clinic, with support from The Racha, Siam Adventure, Asia Global Yachting, Sala Phuket, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Coca-Cola, Andaman Passion, SACG Jewelry, Suay Restaurant and Thong Dee Restaurant.
If you Google “E-biking and the COVID pandemic” you’ll be deluged with over 160 million listings extolling the many superb benefits of adopting this mode of transport during the haunted days we presently inhabit. Another Google deluge you’ll frequently receive concerns the fact that we humans have only got until about next Wednesday to do something drastic about climate change and our addiction to carbonising our environment. So, in the grip of this pandemic which has made us realise that social-distancing, being fit and healthy, avoiding obesity and getting lots of fresh air and vitamin D, going out for a bit of a bike ride has become something of a “no-brainer”.

Additionally, cycling or walking rather than driving, is one of the biggest and simplest changes the average person can make to reduce their carbon footprint. While taking up cycling is now a hot topic worldwide, starting to do so with an E-bike is a much easier, safer way to join the arcane world of Lycra-Louts for the first time and see if it works for you.

Globally, E-bikes are now everywhere and during the pandemic sales increased 145%, more than double the rate of classic bikes. In the USA, industry experts put the number of E-bikes brought home in 2020 somewhere around half a million and that growth doesn’t seem to be slowing with latest projections indicating that between 2020 and 2023, 130mn E-bikes will be sold worldwide.

In Phuket, the very obvious benefits of E-biking are even more relevant, because despite the rhetorical bleating of such vested interests as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Phuket is NOT a “cycling-friendly” environment, featuring heat, hills and hazards in abundance. For the inexperienced cyclist who may be jumping onto the saddle while on holiday, cycling around Phuket can be a dangerous option and should be approached with caution and help from a locally-experienced cycling enterprise.

Enter, my friend Martin Brot, owner/operator of the famous Siam Bike Tours (www.siambiketours.com) based at Boat Avenue in Cherng Talay. Martin has been a renowned a leader and innovator in all things cycling-based in the Andaman since 2006, and so it’s no surprise that he has now added E-biking and several safe and highly enjoyable tours to his range of offerings, so that the average neophyte can try out cycling while in Phuket.

Siam Bike Tours offer a half-day tour with the latest state-of-the-art E-bikes starting at their offices at 9:15am. They ride in a group with a leader, gliding safely and serenely up the west coast of Phuket along rural roads beside Bang Tao Beach and Laguna Golf course to the lovely Wat Mongkhon Wararam (Wat Nai Yang) temple complex and Sirinat National Park on the north-west coast of Phuket.

After a coffee break at Nai Yang Beach, they cycle past rubber trees, oil palm plantations, pineapple fields and small villages on the way to the Elephant Sanctuary Park, where the group even gets to feed the pachyderms! They also offer a second three-hour, half-day E-bike tour from the west to east coast across the island and back with a beachside coffee stop overlooking the glorious east coast and Phang Nga Bay.

While enjoying these tours, it is when you come to the first serious climb that the true magic of E-biking becomes apparent. You can do as much or as little of the tough climbing work as you wish by engaging the electric E-Zee does it! motor to whatever degree you choose. Certainly, the scenery and the overall enjoyment of the experience is greatly enhanced by this adjunct to your own basic power of leg and lung, and of course having the electric motor backup allows inexperienced and less fit riders to confidently experience the joys of being outdoors cycling.

There’s also ample scientific evidence to show that E-bikes tend to encourage longer, more consistent rides over more challenging terrain than unassisted bikes, meaning that each rider tends to actually increase the amount of work they do on an E-bike compared to an unassisted bike.

The result is fitter, healthier, more regular riding… exactly what you want in the midst of a raging pandemic.

So, what are you waiting for? Give Martin and his team a call and get out there and remember… E-Zee does it!
1. Acrophobia is the fear of what?
2. In which year did The Simpsons air for the first time, as a “short” on The Tracey Ullman Show?
3. The Palace of the Lost City is a luxurious hotel complex in which luxury resort?
4. Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter are better known by what name?
5. What does a person with objectophobia suffer?

SUDOKU

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Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across
1. Holy man
2. Acrophobia
3. Palace of the Lost City
4. Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter
5. Miss-named?
6. Building blocks
7. Fine produce
8. A “short” on The Tracey Ullman Show?
9. Miss-named?
10. First Crusade: Siege of Ma’arrat
11. Wet, as morning dew
12. Always
13. Prime minister (abbr.)
14. Polar worker
15. Fancy tie
16. Slatebitie site
17. Sandwich bread
18. Bathroom item
19. Hands
20. Indian restaurant fare
21. “___ Time transfigured me.”
22. Celebration meal
23. Coarse file
24. Disaster
25. Fragrant oil
26. Bloodstream fluid
27. Enthusiasm
28. Canal site
29. Nomad
30. Bloodstream fluid
31. Peach dessert
32. Literature
33. Lab eggs
34. Start to like
35. Lab eggs
36. Apply
37. Choreography
38. Fine thread
39. Fine produce
40. Table centerpieces
41. Bye word
42. Windfalls
43. Miss-named?
44. Building blocks
45. Fine produce
46. Fine thread
47. Polar worker
48. Medium ability?
49. Polar worker
50. Imaginary land
51. Idiotic
52. Gorbachev was its last leader (abbr.)
53. Goathlike antelope
54. Floating, perhaps
55. Precipitation
56. Great Lakes fish
57. Deli sandwich
58. Jason’s ship
59. Women in habits
60. Tiny payment
61. Mouth piece
62. Basil, e.g.
63. Accustom
64. Enthusiasm
65. Mouth piece
66. Advocate
67. One who makes dreams come true
68. Dead against
69. Rude person
70. Good point
71. Bit of choreography
72. 1930s
73. 1980s
74. 1960s
75. 1970s
76. 1980s
77. 1990s
78. 2000s
79. 2010s
80. 2020s

Down
1. Chop (off)
2. Tel ___
3. Allot, with “out”
4. Word riddles
5. Yester-years
6. Break
7. One who crosses the line?
8. No charge on the line?
9. Fine produce
10. Break
11. Henry VIII’s last wife
12. Always
13. Sweetheart
14. Bye word
15. Fancy tie
16. Stalactite site
17. Sandwich bread
18. Bathroom item
19. Hands
20. Indian restaurant fare
21. “___ Time transfigured me.”
22. Celebration meal
23. Coarse file
24. Disaster
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80. 2020s

This week in history

Dec 10, 1932
Thailand becomes a constitutional monarchy. King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) signs The “Permanent” Constitution of the Kingdom of Siam on 10 December 1932.

Dec 11, 1998
Thai Airways Flight 261 crashes near Surat Thani Airport, killing 101. The pilot flying the Airbus A310-300 is thought to have suffered spatial disorientation.

Dec 12, 1998
First Crusade: Siege of Ma’arrat al-Numan: Crusaders breach the town’s walls and massacre about 20,000 inhabitants. After finding themselves with insufficient food, they reportedly resort to cannibalism.

Dec 13, 1937
Sir Francis Drake sets sail from Plymouth, England, on his round-the-world voyage.

Dec 14, 1911
Roald Amundsen’s team, consisting of himself, Olav Bjaaland, Helmer Hanssen, Sverre Hassel, and Oscar Wisting, becomes the first to reach the South Pole.

Dec 15, 2014
Gunman Man Haron Monis takes 18 hostages inside a café in Martin Place for 16 hours in Sydney. Monis and two hostages are killed when police raid the café the following morning.

Dec 16, 1930
Bank robber Herman Lamm – the “father of modern bank robberies” – and members of his crew are killed by a 200-strong posse following a botched bank robbery, in Clinton, Indiana. His gang made off with $15,567 – equivalent to about $223,118 today.
**Friday Mussels night**
6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style. Marinara, White wine, Provencal, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kid’s playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**Pizza Monday**
12 PM till closing: 20% discount on all our pizzas We have a kid’s playground zone. www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**Skal Phuket Christmas Luncheon**
We are thrilled to invite you to our next event. Christmas Charity Luncheon at The Boathouse Kata on Thursday 16th December from 12.00-14.00. The Boathouse F&B team has kindly put together a superb menu with free flow selected beverages for the afternoon. Also, in the spirit of Christmas and to support those most needing our help in Phuket at this time, donations this year will be going to Skal Phuket’s long-time charity partner, Phuket Sunshine Village. Please email secretary@skalphuket.org for further information.

**Wednesday BBQ night**
6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order: Beef, Pork, Chicken Burgers, Ribs Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, sliced beef 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

**Saturday Brunch**
Indulge in a buffet of fresh, chilled seafood and an unlimited selection of delicious a la carte creation from our talented culinary team. Enjoy beverage promotions, full pool access and live music. 1,685 baht & garlic bread. We have a kid’s playground zone. www.shakersphuket.com, 076 338 888 Sala Phuket, Sala Phuket Maikhao Beach, events@salaphuket.com, 076 338 888

**Sunday roast**
12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Theatrex presents, Treasure Island the Panto at the Jinkyard Theatre. Three days only – Fri Dec 17 @ 6:30pm, Sat Dec 18 at 12 noon & 6:30pm, Sun Dec 19 at 12 noon & 6:30pm. “Early Bird” discounted ticket donation - children B600 & Adults B1,200 includes Tapas dinner and popcorn special. Proceeds to the Good Shepherd Phuket Town. Bookings - 069 874 2942.

**Treaure Island the Panto**
We’re thrilled to invite you to our next event: Christmas Charity Luncheon at The Boathouse Kata on Thursday 16th December from 12.00-14.00. The Boathouse F&B team has kindly put together a superb menu with free flow selected beverages for the afternoon. Also, in the spirit of Christmas and to support those most needing our help in Phuket at this time, donations this year will be going to Skal Phuket’s long-time charity partner, Phuket Sunshine Village. Please email secretary@skalphuket.org for further information.

**Christmas Gala dinner at Cosmo**
Enjoy the magic of Christmas whilst taking in the stunning view across Nai Harn Bay, over a sumptuous Buffet Dinner complete with all the trimmings at 7.30pm. South African singer – songwriter Eric Canham will entertain you with festive songs throughout the evening while Santa Claus and his helpers will great children with gifts. THB 3,333 net per person. Children under 3 years eat free; from 2 up to 11 years 50% off. Reservation, Cosmo at The Nai Harn Phuket, foreservation@thenaiharn.com, 076 380 200

**Car rent @ fair covid prices**
Mitsubishi Xpander, top model new only THB 57,000. Car from 400 Bht daily, 8,000 monthly. Toyota Vios top model new, from 10,000 Bht monthly. Call 084 847 4377. Email: stigisaan@gmail.com

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
If you want to drink that is business. If you want to stop that is ours.
Daily Meetings
Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tiao & Karon
CALL
081 895 4763
help@aaaphuket.org

**Australian Visas**
Visit: www.austvisas.com/th

**Australian Visas**

**Want your EVENT listed here? Reserve your space NOW!**
076 612 550 Boksa@claudiasmedia.co.th

**Boat Lagoon Bar For Sale**
The Lagoon Saloon Phuket (LSP) in Boat Lagoon is FOR SALE. See our Facebook page for more bar details. Contact Khun Ora on Mobile 082 222 7499. Negotiable.

**Xmas Hospitality Golf Challenge 2021**
The Xmas Hospitality Golf Challenge 2021 being held at Laguna Golf Phuket, a 12.30pm Shot Gun start, 4-ball Texas scramble. Teams of four players THB 18,000. Entry fee includes green fee, caddie fee, buggy, on-course refreshments, goody bag and prize giving ceremony at O’Hara’s Irish Bar. More info contact Mark on 061 486 6736 or mark.hoi1211@gmail.com

**Urgently seeking Female/Male Massage Therapist**
Urgently seeking for a professional massage Therapist to come to work in Dubai for one male fulltime. Visa, health insurance and accommodation included plus other benefits also flight. To be available ASAP: hr@liatris.ae, 042363432

**Boat Lagoon Bar For Sale**
The Lagoon Saloon Phuket (LSP) in Boat Lagoon is FOR SALE. See our Facebook page for more bar details. Contact Khun Ora on Mobile 082 222 7499. Negotiable.
It was a musical rampage through the movies on Dec 4, 2021 at the Junkyard Theatre. A sell-out audience experienced some of the best musicians on Phuket belting out 34 classics, including It’s a Long Way to the Top (from School of Rock), I’m Still Standing (Rocket Man), Danger Zone (Top Gun) and of course closing with Time Warp (The Rocky Horror Picture Show). Congratulations for a fantastic evening goes to all involved – all the performers, Legend Music, PAPA, Vertigo Video, Junkyard Theatre and all the attendees. The substantial amount raised in support of One Phuket initiatives was inspiring and a great show of community spirit.
The winner takes it all

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

You simply could not script it. After 21 rounds Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton are tied on points and brimming with animosity after a dynamic grand prix in Saudi Arabia last Sunday (Dec 5), and it’s anyone’s guess who’s going to leave Abu Dhabi with the championship this weekend.

Hamilton needed to win in Saudi to set up a winner-takes-all final round. If Verstappen were to triumph, only a dramatic serving of misfortune could deny him the title.

Hamilton had it all to lose. Verstappen went all-out to deal the fatal blow. The Dutchman’s full-throated assault on the grand prix was evident in his supreme but ill-fated pole attempt when he locked up and in a moment of overconfidence slid into the barriers as he tried to power over.

But the race dealt Verstappen a second chance, a red flag gifting him a free pit stop that promoted him from third into the lead. Hamilton was furious, and Verstappen now wielded the narrow circuit to his defensive advantage.

At the restart Hamilton launched down Verstappen’s inside, but the Dutchman wasn’t prepared to concede. He cut the chicane and rolled Hamilton wide, holding the lead by forcing the Mercedes to slow. The pressure swelled again on lap 37, when Hamilton latched onto the back of Verstappen on the run down to the critical first turn and swept around his outside.

The Briton was ahead, but Verstappen ran him deep to take them both off track, forcing Hamilton to pull out. It was a trademark Verstappen move, the kind from which Hamilton has regularly withdrawn to avoid a crash.

But with two races to go a season of pent-up frustration was ready to burst. He tried to do it by hitting the brakes on the long back straight in an attempt to pick up the slipstream through the last corner and re-take the lead. But the closing speed at one of the fastest sections of track caught Hamilton off guard, and he ran into the back of the Bull.

It was the season’s most bizarre flashpoint and served to underline the intensity of the unique championship fight – not the rules, not logic, not the potential possession of other cars could extract this battling pair from their own personal duel. The track may as well have belonged to them alone.

The animosity between the pair has never been higher, and with one race to go the permutations are simple: whoever finishes ahead in Abu Dhabi wins. If both fail to finish, Verstappen wins on count-back, and there’s no doubt the Dutchman will wield this most slender advantage to his benefit in the fight of his life, debate about driving standard be damned.

It’s the final Formula One title has always wanted. The winner takes it all.

Dechapol and Sapsiree make history

BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES STARS

Dechapol Prasarnkru and Sapsiree Taerattanachai completed another season-ending hat-trick of titles by retaining their World Tour Finals crown in Bali last Sunday (Dec 5).

Having claimed three straight victories in Bangkok in January, the Thai world No.2 pair claimed another slice of badminton history with a 21-19, 21-11 victory over Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino of Japan.

They won the Indonesia Masters and the Indonesia Open before this week’s finale and also claimed the Hylo Open in Germany prior to their trip to Bali.

Dechapol and Sapsiree made history early this year when they won the Yonex Thailand Open, the Toyota Thailand Open and the World Tour Finals to conclude the 2020 season in January. Last Sunday’s victory saw the duo pocket US$126,000 (approx B4,158,000).

“World Tour Finals champion!!!! Words cannot describe how happy I am to have achieved this,” Sapsiree wrote on her Instagram.

However, Kunlavut Vitidsarn, another Thai playing in a final, was unable to pick up a second title for the Kingdom.

The 20-year-old rising star lost to world No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 12-21, 8-21 in the men’s singles decider.

Axelsen, the Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, proved too strong for Kunlavut, who was named the BWF most promising player last Friday, as the Dane wrapped up his second successive title in Bali in 43 minutes.

Axelsen was named the BWF male player of the year last Friday.

Earlier, An Se-Young secured the biggest title of her career with a 21-16, 21-12 win over Pusarla V Sindhu. In the process, she became the first Korean women’s singles player to win a season-ending championship, proving she is a rising powerhouse after claiming three back-to-back titles in Bali.

“It’s been a tiring three months for me. I’m super glad to come away with three titles and I’m very happy about it. I’m really excited about the World Championships and I’m hoping to play without any injuries.”

Kim So-Yeong and Kong Hee-Yong of South Korea took the women’s doubles crown while the men’s doubles title went to Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan.

Bangkok Post
Red Fred redemption as Ralf debuts with a victory

**FOOTBALL**

Ralf Rangnick won his first match as Manchester United interim manager last Sunday (Dec 5) but was given an early sight of the job that lies ahead of him to ensure the Red Devils do not miss out on the top four.

The high-energy style of the 63-year-old has built his reputation on in German football was on show early on at Old Trafford, just days after his arrival to replace Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. But United struggled to maintain that intensity or break Palace down until midfielder Fred, often the scourge of criticism under Solskjaer, scored with a fine strike from outside the box 13 minutes from time.

A first home clean sheet of the season gives Rangnick a platform on which to build. United have now dropped points in three of their past five league games at a time when Manchester City and Liverpool have hit the accelerator.

Defender Reece James and attacking midfielder Mason Mount are the club’s top scorers this season, with five goals each in all competitions.

The Stamford Bridge side are built of ways through until the Belgian struck in the 94th minute, sparking scenes of delirium from the Liverpool bench.

เทอราสิล ดังดา, ผู้ว่าการทีมฟุตบอลอาใหม่ของไทย, ทำประตูที่ 5, ซึ่งเป็นประตูแรกในอาชีพของเขานี้ เมื่อไทยสิ้นสุดการแข่งขันกับทีมฟุตบอลอาใหม่ของไทยในเซ็นซิทีพีค ชนะ 2-0.

The Thais' inability to find the net forced Mano into making a couple of substitutions after the break, sending in Pathomphon and Thanaat Suengchithawon.

The move paid off as Pathomphon succeeded in breaking the deadlock, deftly bringing down a cross from Naruabodin Weerawatnodom before rifling the ball into the net in the 51st minute.

Naruabodin was the provider again and an acrobatic volley by Supachok on 81 minutes doubled the Thai lead, putting a comeback out of Timor Leste’s reach.

Thailand's next game will be against arch-rivals Myanmar tomorrow (Dec 11).

The War Elephants are in Group A with hosts Singapore and the Philippines.

Bangkok Post

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**Press Release**

**THAILAND'S 6TH ANNUAL CHARITY PHUKET HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE**

**THE 6TH ANNUAL CHARITY PHUKET HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT will take place at Laguna Golf Phuket on Thursday 23rd December 2021. A very Special Xmas edition this year so we will see some rather unusual attire on the course for a change, and maybe Santa will be there too. The event sees Hospitality and Service Industry professionals from Phuket and surrounding areas come together at the award-winning Laguna Golf Phuket golf course. The atmosphere will be fun yet competitive, 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 come together in a relaxed environment.

The organizer, Mark Cameron of Asean Events, said: “We decided to try and get past the main opening of Thailand back at the beginning of November and thought what better chance do we have than having a special one off Xmas edition of the event. This gives everyone time during the year to fly home to see families they haven’t seen for a while and then get back over to Phuket for Xmas.” As an end product of the event experience, we also raise funds for local children’s charities.”

The Charity being supported is the Laguna Children’s First Fund.

To register your team and/or interest in becoming a sponsor, please visit www.lagunagolf.com/phuket or email golf@lagunaphuket.com or mark.hio1211@gmail.com for more information.
PHACHARA
WINS LAGUNA
CHAMPIONSHIP
Thai secures maiden Asian Tour
win in thrilling final day finale

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Phuket karting protege makes his mark

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