

NO TOURISTS UNTIL AFTER VEG FEST, SAYS GOVERNOR > PAGE 3

DAMAGE DONE



Shops remain shuttered throughout Karon, one of the tourism areas on the island devastated by the economic crisis. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

ISLAND'S TOURISM INDUSTRY WILL TAKE YEARS TO RECOVER, SAY EXPERTS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The damage to Phuket's tourism industry by the COVID-19 prevention measures has already been done, and will take years to recover from, Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Thanusak Phungdet told *The Phuket News* this week.

Worse, if a moratorium on loan repayments for tourism businesses is not extended beyond the end of this month, the damage will deepen, adding even more years to the expected time frame for the industry to recover, he said.

"We have shouted this and shown

the extent of the damage done to the industry for months, and yet still nothing has been done," Mr Thanusak said on Monday (Oct 12).

The procession of high-end officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit, arriving to see firsthand and report the state of the island's economy back to Bangkok has also failed to provide relief, he added.

However, Mr Thanusak noted that he had been informed that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is expected to visit the island himself in November.

By that time, the number of businesses that will have shuttered permanently will start to increase rapidly, Mr Thanusak said.

At last report, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew admitted that an estimated 70% of all tourism businesses on the island are already closed "temporarily". Mr Thanusak expects that number to change dramatically.

"We are on the verge of collapse. We need actual help fast," he said.

Mr Thanusak called for the government to extend the moratorium on tourism business loan repayments by at least two to three years, and for the interest rate on such loans to be capped at 2%.

"We did this after the tsunami [in 2004], and it worked. The tourism industry was able to recover within a few years, and by last year was generating some B400 billion for the

national economy," he said.

With no action taken to help support the industry, banks will foreclose on their loans and seize properties, he said, adding that this will only add more years to the time it will take for the industry to recover even if new players enter the market and snap up seized properties sold by the banks to recover their losses.

Also needing urgent attention are smaller tourism operators who have outstanding personal debts that they are unable to repay.

"This group is a big group in the tourism industry, and with no tourists these people have no way to repay their loans," he said.

"If these people do not receive...

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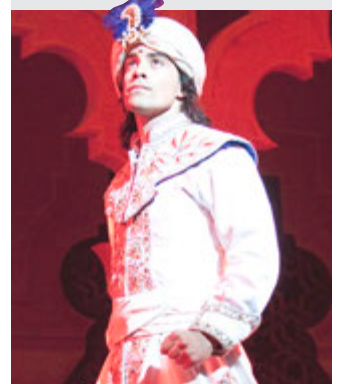
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Hamilton equals Schumi record with Eifel win





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...assistance, they will lose their credit rating, meaning that they will not be able to launch new businesses when the industry does start to recover. That means a loss of many experienced operators in the industry, and that will directly affect Phuket's ability to relaunch as a competitive tourism destination," he added.

Bhuritt Maswongssa, who serves as the Southern Thailand representative on the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT), supported Mr Thanusak's call for financial support for the island's tourism industry, and agreed that it already will take the island several years to recover.

"The government must ask for cooperation from the banks to give and guarantee soft loans with 2% interest, and interest-free periods of at least three years, so that there will be more employment and the tourism industry can keep going," Mr Bhuritt told *The Phuket News*.



The damage to Phuket's tourism industry has been done, says Mr Thanusak.

"Without these soft loans, the result will be a chain-reaction collapse in the tourism industry. Not only hotels, but also tour operators, restaurants, souvenir shops, and entertainment venues. So these businesses need help as fast as possible," he stressed.

Mr Bhuritt added that he could not foresee the island's tourism industry recovering on its own until the number of hotels, resorts and other tourist accommodation venues started experiencing about 50% occupancy.

"And that will take at least a few years, even if the businesses start to receive help soon," he said.

DSI inspects Sripinwa land

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Deputy Director-General Pol Col Akarapol Punyopashtambha arrived in Phuket last Thursday (Oct 8) with a team of investigators to inspect the land plots occupied by the Sripinwa resort, on Phuket's east coast.

The investigation followed Weera Somkhwamkit, Secretary General of the People's Network Against Corruption, filing a formal request on Sept 25 to DSI Chief Pol Lt Col Korawat Panprapakorn for the DSI to investigate the resort's claim to the land it sits on.

The request formally asked the DSI to accept the case as a special case and to prosecute relevant officers who issued unlawful ownership documents for breaches of the Forest Act, B.E. 2484 (1941) and the Land Title Deed Issuance Act (No. 6), B.E. 2479 (1936)



DSI Deputy Director-General Pol Col Akarapol Punyopashtambha led a team of investigators to inspect the land plots occupied by the Sripinwa resort, on Phuket's east coast. Photo: DSI

The team of DSI investigators was welcomed by the resort's Engineering Manager Warangkul Kongkrathan, and other staff.

"We have already investigated all five phases of the resort and received very good cooperation from the resort staff," explained Col Akarapol after the inspection.

"We used a drone to sur-

vey the area and questioned Mr Warangkul about the land from the past until now. Most importantly, the DSI is working straightforwardly and will be fair for both sides," he added.

The DSI investigators have been given six months to conclude their investigation, Col Akarapol said.

"But I am sure that offic-

ers will finish and conclude this case earlier, in order to quickly deliver the truth to the public, as this case has gained a lot of attention," he added.

Col Akarapol also revealed that the DSI investigation is looking into more than just the land ownership claims.

"We received a request to investigate two issues, including the land ownership of the resort and its construction, but we must look into issues beyond the request," he said.

"We have to check five more specific issues, but we will release information about these issues later," Col Akarapol said.

"The slope of land is one of the priorities that we are paying much attention to, but we cannot give any information at this time. The DSI have investigated many cases about land in Phuket, but this is the first time for Sripinwa resort," he concluded.

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First tourists delayed over Veg Fest fears

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The first tourists to arrive in the country since the COVID-19 lockdown began six months ago will not arrive until after the nine-day Vegetarian Festival has concluded on Oct 25, the Phuket Governor has confirmed.

Governor Narong Woonciew broke the news during his daily video Facebook broadcast last Wednesday morning (Oct 7).

The confirmation was obscured amid his promotion of the upcoming Vegetarian Festival and praise for the preparations made by officials and shrine administrators to ensure the festival complies with COVID-19 prevention measures.

Governor Narong said that the delay in allowing tourists to come was due to local people's fears that foreign tourists will bring the COVID-19 virus to Phuket, and possibly spur a second wave of infections.

"I have already requested that foreigners arrive after the Vegetarian Festival ends.

"The decision was made to make people feel more comfortable [with tourists arriving]," he said.

Governor Narong did not clarify when he requested the delay for foreign tourists to be allowed to land in Phuket,



Governor Narong Woonciew broke the news during his daily video Facebook broadcast. Screenshot: PR Phuket / Facebook

and he did not confirm when the first tourists were expected to arrive.

However, sitting at the same table during the broadcast, Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) deputy chief Dr Krit Sakulpat assured that "when Phuket receives tourists, we will have the correct processes to prevent [COVID-19] from spreading".

Dr Krit repeated this message several times.

In the hours following Governor Woonciew's announcement, National Security Council Secretary-General Gen Natthaphon Nakpanit also publicly confirmed that the first group of foreign tourists to be allowed into the country since the lockdown began six months ago will not arrive until after Oct 25.

Governor Narong explained that allowing the Vegetarian Festival to go ahead this year took a lot of discussion and was a decision not made lightly.

"Many Thais from other provinces will come to the festival, and there were concerns that foreigners coming to watch the festival may bring the virus to Phuket," he said.

"I thank the Phuket shrines for their efforts to comply with the health protection measures needed. The decision whether or not to hold the festival was reconsidered again and again.

"It took a long time to think about [whether or not to hold] the Vegetarian Festival this year, but it will go ahead because it is a part of Phuket's traditions," Governor Narong said.

Phuket model crowned Miss Universe Thailand

CHALISA AMANDA Obdam, a 27-year-old Thai-Canadian model from Phuket, has been crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2020. She will represent Thailand at the 69th Miss Universe 2020.



Amanda Obdam, a 27-year-old Thai-Canadian model from Phuket, has been crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2020. Photo: Miss Universe Thailand

The judges' decision was announced at the final round of the Miss Universe Thailand pageant, held at the True Icon Hall (ICONSIAM) in Bangkok last Saturday night (Oct 10).

This year, the pageant was held under the theme 'Real you, Real Universe, and Empowering Beauty'.

"Over 29 contestants, Amanda caught all eyes and the full attention of both audiences and judges throughout the contest. She confidently came with her dark gray two-piece in the swimsuits competition, and the gorgeous dress in red color during the evening gown competition," reported NBT World.

Praveenar Singh, a half Thai-Indian from Chiang Mai, was announced as 1st runner-up, while Punika Kulsontornrut from Prachuap Khiri Khan was voted 2nd runner-up.

Present to bestow the crown to Amanda was Paweensuda Drouin, who

made her final walk as Miss Universe Thailand 2019 before the official announcement naming the new Miss Universe 2020.

As winner of the prestigious pageant, Amanda received a cash prize of B1 million, a Honda Civic car, as well as a fully-furnished condominium. She will also represent Thailand at the 69th Miss Universe 2020.

Hopes run high that Amanda will become the third Thai to be crowned Miss Universe, following Porntip Nakhirunkanok from Bangkok winning the title in 1988. Apasra Hongsakula, from Bangkok, was the first Thai to win the crown, in 1965. She was 18 years old at the time. *The Phuket News*

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Vegetarian Festival set to begin

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival will get underway at sunset today (Friday, Oct 16) with participating Chinese shrines across the island raising Go Teng poles so that the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods can descend from the heavens to take part in this year's festival.

The first street procession for this year's nine-day festival will begin next Sunday (Oct 18) with the first "Yew Keng" procession held at the Choor Su Gong Shrine, better known as the Naka Shrine, in Wichit, starting at 7:30am.

Devotees and Mah Song spirit mediums will lead the procession from the Choor Su Gong Shrine while many local residents and visitors to the island are expected to line the streets to observe the procession. Devotees observing and taking part will be wearing white to represent the purification of taking part in the festival.



The Phuket Vegetarian Festival will get underway at sunset today (Friday, Oct 16). Photo: The Phuket News / file

While many of the purification ceremonies traditionally conducted as part of the annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival have been banned this year due to health concerns under the 'new normal' requirements, fire-walking has been approved and will be conducted during this year's festival.

Fire-walking has been specifically included in the official programme of

events for the festival produced by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), released this week.

However, the other usual "ablutions of the flesh" ceremonies, including climbing bladed ladders, bathing with hot oil and walking across bridges of nails, remain missing from the official programme.

Komart Pankeard, Chief of the

Phuket office of the Ministry of Culture, explained last month that street processions can be held this year like they are every year, but all people taking part in the processions must wear face masks all the time.

The 'Mah Song' spirit mediums will not have to wear face masks, he noted.

Crowd control measures will be in effect, with people attending the ceremonies required to register their attendance at each event, he said.

Although not reconfirmed at that meeting last month, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol, who sits on the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee, told Chinese shrine administrators in July that the 'Mah Song' spirit mediums are not permitted to walk the streets this year. Instead, they may travel in vehicles as part of the procession, he said.

However, since that announcement more than two months ago, no officials or shrine administrators have clarified that this requirement will remain in place.

Officials prepare for OrBorJor election

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN six years, island residents will be asked to vote for representatives at the provincial local government this December.

Watcharin Patomwatthanapong, Acting Chief of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor), last Friday (Oct 9) ordered officials to prepare to hold an election of PPAO representatives.

Chief Watcharin explained that the meeting was to assign officials their duties for the upcoming election, which he said was expected to be held on Dec 20 this year.

"All officers must cooperate together, including making plans, preparing staff, equipment and venues so that the election will be conducted smoothly," he said.

The move to prepare for the election follows Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announcing last Wednesday (Oct 6) that the Cabinet had approved the holding of PAO elections in December, as proposed by the Election Commission (EC).

He said the EC proposal corresponded with the govern-



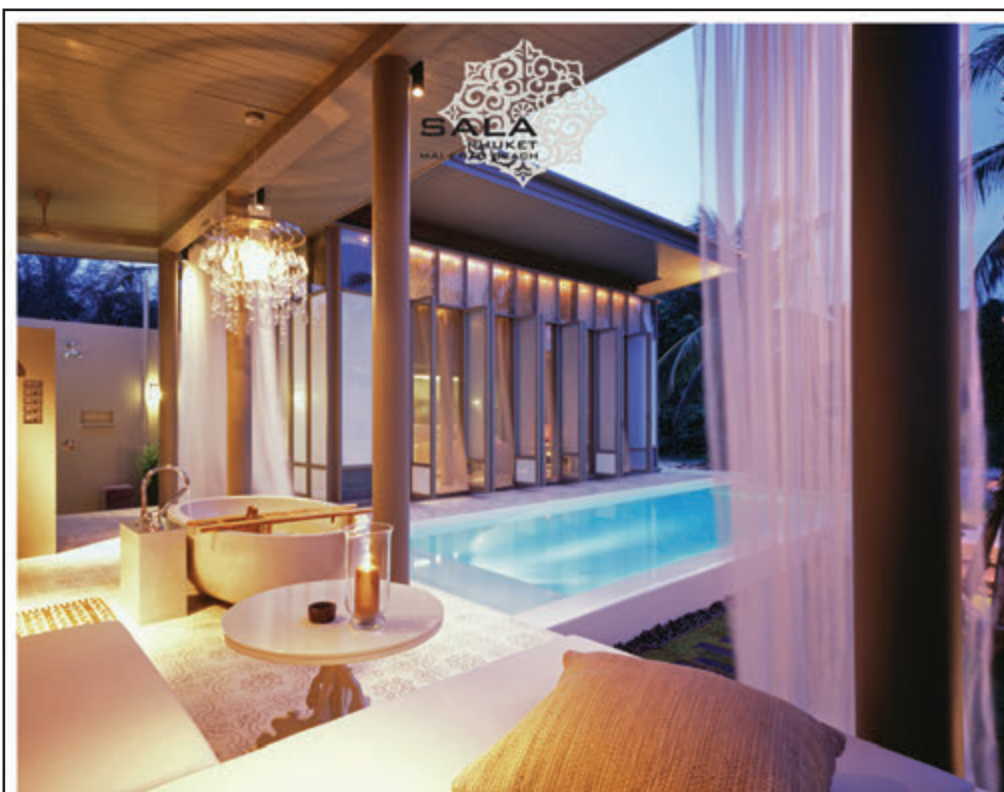
PPAO Acting Chief Executive Watcharin Patomwatthanapong. Photo: PPAO

ment policy regarding local elections, none of which have been held since May 2014, when the National Council for Peace Order (NCPO), headed by Army General Prayut, took control of the country.

"I want PAO elections to be lawful, fair and free from corruption, so that people in each province will have good people who really work for locals and be able to examine and prevent the problems with corruption," PM Prayut said.

The PPAO election will see Phuket people vote for their highest elected local official on the island. In contrast, the Phuket Provincial Government headed by the Phuket Governor comprises officials entirely selected by Bangkok, including the Vice Governors.

The Phuket News



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Soi Dog's John Dalley awarded MBE

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

John Dalley, co-founder and president of Soi Dog Foundation International, has been awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to animal welfare in Southeast Asia.

John, who hails from Leeds, UK, was named alongside a host of celebrities, medical staff, key workers and volunteers in the Queen's Birthday Honours List which was published last Saturday (Oct 10).

Asked to comment on the award, John made it clear that he saw this more as recognition of the work done by the foundation and the tens of thousands of supporters and volunteers who have made that work possible over the past 17 years, said a release from Soi Dog Foundation announcing the accolade.

John added that his only regret was that Gill, his late wife and fellow co-founder, was not alive to share in the award. Gill herself received numerous awards during her lifetime, including being the first non-Asian by birth to be named Asian of the Year in the Channel News Asia annual awards.

Soi Dog – "soi" being the Thai word for "street" – has seen remarkable growth since its humble beginnings in 2003. Founded by John and Gill on their retirement to Phuket



John Dalley, co-founder and president of Soi Dog Foundation International, has been awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to animal welfare in Southeast Asia. Photo: Soi Dog Foundation

alongside fellow retiree Margot Homburg, Soi Dog now directly treats and sterilises more animals than any other organisation in the world. In December, the foundation is forecast to see half-a-million animals sterilised and vaccinated across the country since its founding, with nearly 250,000 of those carried out in the past two years

alone, the release noted.

The award comes at a particularly challenging time in Soi Dog's history. Like many non-profit organisations, Soi Dog has been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis, and its shelter in Phuket has faced severe overcrowding this year, with abandoned animals arriving in their droves. Despite this, the foundation has

refused to close its doors to animals in need, and construction of new dog enclosures and the purchase of additional land is ensuring that this will continue to be the case.

Challenges and obstacles have never stopped Soi Dog in the past. Whether it be natural disasters, Gill losing her legs in 2004, Gill's untimely passing at the age of just 58

in 2017 or winning the war against the dog smugglers selling hundreds of thousands of Thai dogs to the meat markets of Vietnam every year – Soi Dog has never given up, the release added.

John commented that he continues to believe that legislation, education and large-scale sterilisation are the best hopes for a brighter future for the animals of Thailand and beyond. With this in mind, Soi Dog continues to work with the Thai government to strengthen the country's Animal Welfare Act, which the foundation helped to introduce in 2014. In addition, a brand-new education centre is soon to open at the shelter, emphasising the importance the foundation places on educating the next generation in respect for both stray and domestic animals.

He added that, although the foundation plans to expand operations in Vietnam and Cambodia in particular, Thailand will remain the focus until their goals in the country have been reached: no more unwanted dogs and cats and no more rabies. He remains confident that, with the cooperation of both local and national governments, these goals are entirely achievable.

"Soi Dog Foundation today is a classic example of what very ordinary people can accomplish if they are determined to make a difference," Soi Dog encouraged in its release.

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THE PLAY'S THE THING!

Joel Adams

Theatrix is in rehearsal on a new play, this time a pantomime based on the 1001 Arabian Nights character, Aladdin.

But what, you may ask, do you mean by pantomime? Is it a play without words or a vaudevillian musical comedy for kids? Well, it depends on which side of the Atlantic Ocean you hail from. To an American like me, pantomime means the former with shades of Charlie Chaplin or Marcel Marceau; to someone from the United Kingdom and its former Commonwealth, it means a musical comedy, primarily for kids, with slapstick, audience participation, cross-dressing actors and more.

The word itself gives us no clue since it only means 'imitating everything'. But the original pantomimes, dating back to Roman times, incorporated one dancer playing all the roles, using masks, stock poses and complicated hand gestures to tell a story accompanied by music and a singing chorus. So it was a bit of both ideas.

The form the panto now takes has its roots in 16th century Commedia dell'Arte with its stock characters, slapstick comedy, and struggling lovers resisted by the powers that be. Having originally employed classical Greek and Roman stories, in the early 1800s pantos began to take fairy tales and other popular children's stories as their basis, stories such as Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel, Puss in Boots, Dick Whittington and more.

To tell you how our present project came to pass, in late August of this year as we emerged from strict lockdown here in Phuket, Theatrix successfully performed a cowboy murder mystery at



'Aladdin: A Pantomime in the Traditional Style' is on its way for mid-December. Photo: Maryestherr at English Wikipedia

Pepper's in Laguna. At the end of the evening I was approached by Chantal Fernandes, who volunteers with The Good Shepherd Foundation. She asked me if Theatrix might be open to performing a panto as a fundraiser for Good Shepherd. Skeptical at first,

thinking it was just too big an undertaking right now, I continued to discuss the possibility with Chantal Fernandes until I became convinced we could do this thing!

So, now Theatrix is hard at work on an English panto called 'Aladdin: A Pantomime in the Traditional Style' to be performed mid-December, and we're having a great time doing it.

We got a good response to our call for auditions and assembled a cast of characters with actors from 14 to 70 and are now well on our way to performing our first (and hopefully not our last) panto.

So what can you expect when you come to see our current performance? You are coming, aren't you, and bringing your kids and the neighborhood kids? Well, when you do, you'll see:

- Aladdin, the principle character, played by a young lady, while her mother, Widow Twanky, is played by an older male actor.
- A blatantly evil baddie for the kids to boo every time he comes onstage.
- Lots of audience participation, such as asking the audience to warn the actors when the villain enters, arguing with the audience or each other, 'Oh, yes, he does', 'Oh, no, he doesn't' and so forth.
- Lots of double entendre with a fair few adult jokes to keep the parents happy.
- Lots of slapstick and broad comedy to keep the kids and the young at heart happy.
- Lots of music and songs with some dance.
- A happy though ridiculous ending.

The panto is a great deal of fun both to perform and to watch, a chance to let the little kid in yourself come out and play without restraint. Don't miss it!

Joel Adams is building a vibrant theatre community right here in Phuket. You can contact him at theatrixphuket@gmail.com or by phone on 093 6490066. Facebook: Theatrix Group

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United We Can

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**UWC Thailand Students
Meg M & Annabel M (Grade 7)**

Every year, all 18 UWC schools around the world celebrate one special UWC Day, knowing that although we are separated geographically, we are united in spirit. For the students and staff, UWC Day is an opportunity to help, learn and grow through service learning and fulfill the UWC mission: to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. For 2020, "United We Can" was the chosen theme.

For the students at United World College, Thailand, this was an opportunity to unite as a community, especially after all the commotion and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday the 21st of September, over 350 UWCT students completed a range of different off and on-campus activities from planting over a thousand mangroves to repainting the student snack hut called Shaka, in the school colours. So what does UWC Day and "United We Can" really mean to us?

Officially, UWC Day is a celebration of UWC's mission and values. It is planned each year to coincide with the United Nations' International Peace

Day, and it provides an opportunity to appreciate the diversity within our UWC schools. Our theme this year, "United We Can" which symbolizes that if we work together, we can do amazing things to help, for example, the environment.

"I think UWC Day is about reminding us to be more sustainable, learning about important service projects and doing more things together; not just one person alone," quoted one Primary student. That is definitely true, considering the activities we completed in only one day.

All in all, we planted one thousand mangroves, three hundred banana trees, two lychee trees, collected seventy-three heavy bags of rubbish from different beaches and built one new brick enclosure for the gibbons at the local Gibbon Sanctuary. These activities were student-led by our inspiring Grade 11 and Grade 12 students.

Around midday, the Student Council organized a Peace March where students and teachers alike proudly displayed their nation's flag and cultural clothing as they paraded around campus. It was impressive to witness the diversity in our school- we consist of 480 students and represent 70 different countries scattered around the globe!

After a lunch of food from different cultures, students went to sixteen unique student-led workshops. Some workshops were Model United



Nations(MUN) which taught students to formally debate, 'Brain Change' which allowed students to learn about neuroplasticity with brain exercises and 'MANTA Coral Monitoring' explored information about coral reefs and marine health.

The boarding students continued UWC Day well into the evening as they took part in an important anti-racism workshop.

Another purpose of UWC Day is to be a provocation for our annual Sustainability Week. During this weekly theme, students pledged different environmental goals. One example pledge was 'Zero Food Waste'. The amount of food waste was recorded on a chart in the cafeteria. The goal was to reduce our food waste by half. We did not reach the goal for that week, but

we reduced the food waste considerably. This demonstrates that having individual goals can make a collective difference.

Other pledges included cycling to and from school, not using single-use plastic, having only one-song showers or being a vegetarian for the week.

The boarding students ended the successful Sustainability Week by organizing a community beach cleanup at Layan for all students and families.

Through their hard work, the UWCT community truly showed us that, United We Can... make a difference to help change the world.

Meg and Annabel wrote this original article, with revision, guidance and assistance provided by their Grade 7 English teacher Laurie Stone.





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POP QUIZ

1. The name 'America' was dedicated to which explorer?
2. In food and drink, what are silvaner, tempranillo and nebbiolo?
3. Where would you most commonly see a doubly slipped reef knot?
4. Which musician would often sign his letters 'Red Beans and Ricely Yours'?
5. For now, who is the Patron Saint of the Internet?

Answers below, centre

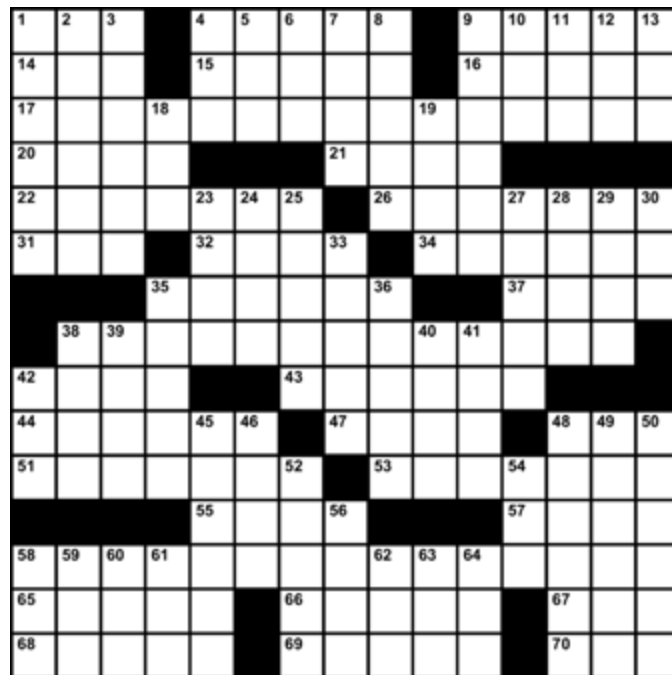
SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Mini, for one
 4. Kind of dog
 9. Diet-Rites e.g.
 14. Valuable rock
 15. Dine at home
 16. "Get ___!"
 17. How one should behave
 20. Flightless South American bird
 21. Ready to grow
 22. Lures
 26. Italian dumpling dish
 31. Poetic preposition
 32. "Beetle Bailey" dog
 34. Mustier
 35. Sports stat
 37. Creep around
 38. How one might describe Stonehenge
 42. Beloved, in Bologna
 43. Washington city, river or tribe
 44. Worldwide agency to preserve cultural property
 47. Bumbling sort
 48. Toronto media inits.
 51. Kitchen cleaner
 53. Woman from Portugal
 55. Cries of surprise
 57. Coll. major
 58. Treat
 65. Pale
 66. Moray catcher
 67. Goings-on
 68. Sweetie pie
 69. Tidy the floor
 70. Application datum, abbr.
- Down**
1. Sandpaper type
 2. Zodiac symbol
 3. Lose hair
 4. Mushroom
 5. Stetson, e.g.
 6. Manhattan addition
 7. Tops
 8. Anon.
 9. Is incapable
 10. Passé
 11. Lucy of "Charlie's Angels," 2000
 12. Patriots' grp.
 13. Gel
 18. Vichy water
 19. Holds
 23. Party popper
 24. Raison d' ___
 25. Abounding in rocks
 27. Arum lily
 28. Game name
 29. Rancher's concern
 30. Tick off
 33. Killer whales
 35. PayPal product
 36. Hindus
 38. Indian royal
 39. Minerals
 40. Frost
 41. "Let's go!"
 42. Cows chew this
 45. Whooping birds
 46. Tropical vacation land
 48. Hot chocolates
 49. Worries
 50. Slang for a gun
 52. Microsoft co-founder
 54. Girl mentioned
 56. Old World duck
 58. 100 lbs.
 59. "Look here!"
 60. Tech exec, for short
 61. Teammate of Hubbell and Terry
 62. Adam's ___
 63. Clamp shape
 64. Abstract art pioneer Jean



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) Amerigo Vesputci (Italian); (2) Types of grape; (3) Shoelaces tied on a pair of shoes; (4) Louis Armstrong; (5) Island of Seville

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



GOT YOUR NUMBER

6

minutes of napping can help to improve your memory.

18

years after Vietnamese man Ma Van Nhat had surgery for injuries sustained in a car crash, doctors found surgical scissors in his abdomen.

40

minutes is all it takes for a skillful, experienced Inuit to build a sturdy igloo by using nothing but a knife and his or her hands.

5,300

metric tons of plastic end up in Lake Michigan each year – the equivalent of 100 Olympic-sized pools, according to a new study.

1.73

billion

is how many bobby pins women lose every year.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Bangla Rd – Don't lose hope. Photo: Michael Lee

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

This week in history

Oct 16, 1975

The Balibo Five, a group of Australian-based television journalists based in the town of Balibo in the then Portuguese Timor (now Timor-Leste, or 'East Timor'), are killed by Indonesian troops.

Oct 17, 1091

A tornado thought to be of strength T8/F4 (wind speeds of 343-385km/h) strikes the heart of London.

Oct 18, 1867

The US takes possession of Alaska after purchasing it from Russia for \$7.2 million. Celebrated annually in the state as Alaska Day.

Oct 19, 1812

Napoleon Bonaparte retreats from Moscow.



Oct 20, 1720

Caribbean pirate Calico Jack Rackham, famed for flying the Jolly Roger flag of a skull over crossed swords as used in 'Pirates of the Caribbean', is captured by the Royal Navy.

Oct 21, 1520

Ferdinand Magellan discovers a strait now known as Strait of Magellan.

Oct 22, 1966

The Supremes become the first all-female music group to attain a No.1 selling album (The Supremes A'Go-Go).

Source: Wikipedia

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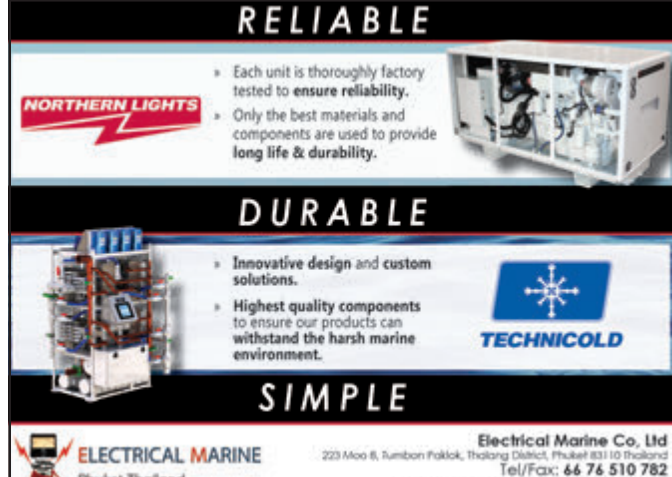
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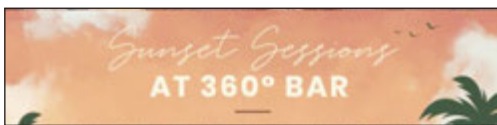


FRI 16 OCT



Mussels night @ Shakers

1.2kg mussels served with French fries, your choice, your style: natural, marnière, Provençale, garlic and cream or Thai style. Reservations recommended B295 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.



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SAT 17 OCT



All you can eat BBQ night

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

SUN 18 OCT



All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

Beef, Pork and Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, fried mushrooms, grilled tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding –

roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes – gravy, mushroom sauce, mint sauce. Reservations recommended. B350 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.



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MON 19 OCT



All you can eat BBQ Ribs night

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

WED 21 OCT



BCCT MULTI-CHAMBER PHUKET BRIEFING & NETWORKING

BCCT, in cooperation with AustCham, BeluThai, Cancham, EABC, Franco, GTCC and NTCC cordially invites you to a BCCT Multi-Chamber Phuket Briefing on The Covid and Post-Covid Global Economy by Chris Cracknell, Chairman, Grant Thornton & Business Networking. Briefing at 5.00 - 6.00 pm and Networking at 6.30 - 9.30 pm. The briefing is free to attend but pre-registration is required. The networking is THB 500 for BCCT members and participating chambers and THB 900 for non-members. Price includes food and free flow selected beverages. Register in advance, no walk ins, email banthita@bccthai.com

TUE 27 OCT



Rotary leads 'Revive Phuket & What's Next' discussion

Join the discussion on how Phuket will and can re-open to get back to business. Guest speakers - The Governor of Phuket Province - Rtn. Narong Woonchiew - President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce - Mr.Thanusak Phuengdej - President of Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter - Mr. Kongsak Khoopongsakorn from The Vijitt Resort Phuket - Secretary of Phuket Real Estate Association - Mr. Sachapon Thongsom - Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) – Mr. Bhumikitti Ruktaengam Agenda - 19:00 - Registration - Networking with finger food and a welcome refreshments included - 20:00 - Podiums discussion. Fees - 300 THB for Rotary Club members - 500 THB for Guests and friends - Holiday Inn Resort, Patong. Please send in your questions at least 2 days before to secretary@rotarypatong.org.

THU 29 OCT



Le Chaine De Rotisseur Phuket Oct 2020 Dinner

Chef Alessandro and his team have put together a sensational menu for us. There are some truly unique dishes and he has very generously booked the whole restaurant for us that night. I look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me directly at adam.goodman@twochefs.com. 7:00 pm - Welcome reception, 7:30 pm - Dinner Starts. Price: 4500 THB per person for members, 5000 THB for non members. Attire: Members with Chaine – smart casual. www.facebook.com/laChainePhuket

SAT 31 OCT



PIWC - Annual Dinner

Come Dine With Us at the Pullman Arcadia's Vero Italian Restaurant, Nai Thon Beach on Saturday the 31st October. Members 1,100 Baht Non-Members/ Guests 1,300 Baht. Registration will commence at 6.30 for a 7pm start. The Pullman is offering a Deluxe Room with breakfast included at a special price of 2,999 Baht net per night. This is our annual dinner where we can bring along our significant other. So, get your friends together and book ASAP as seating is limited. RSVP to Maggy robmaggy@yahoo.com

FRI 6 NOV



Grow Boating Networking

The Grow Boating Networking Evening will be held at the Port of Call restaurant, at the Ao Po Grand Marina from 5pm. Please contact us if you would like to be our drinks sponsor for the evening. There will be a light buffet sponsored by the Port of Call restaurant and your favourite beverages will all be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. The Grow Boating Networking Evening is organised by the Thai Yachting Business Association. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/GrowBoatingNetworkingEvening

TUE 13 NOV



Phuket Sundowners - Nov 13

Phuket Sundowners Friday 13 Nov. At Angsana Laguna Phuket. Cost 500 for AustCham member, 900 for non-member. Contact Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce 02-109-9616. Visit www.austchamthailand.com

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SUCCESS FOR ALL

Nadal wins French Open to equal Federer record

TENNIS

Dave James

To death and taxes being life's only two certainties can be added a third – Rafael Nadal winning the French Open.

The Spaniard secured a 13th title at Roland Garros with a crushing victory over Novak Djokovic last Sunday (Oct 11), equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slams.

"Today you showed why you are the king of clay," said Djokovic, beaten by Nadal for the third time in a Roland Garros final.

Nadal now has 100 match wins on Paris' famous crushed red brick against just two defeats in 15 years. He had described this year's delayed tournament as his "most difficult ever" but powered to the title without losing a set.

"There is nobody who even plays remotely close to Rafa," Federer said after a lopsided semi-final defeat at Roland Garros in 2019.

"I don't even know who



Nadal now has 100 match wins on Paris' famous crushed red brick against just two defeats in 15 years. Photo: AFP

I need to go search for to go practise with somebody who plays like him."

However, you will never hear Nadal indulge in any similar self-praise. Just as happy fishing or playing golf in Mallorca, Nadal is ruthless on the tennis court but disarmingly humble off it.

"I have doubts every day but that's good as it makes me work hard with more intensity," said Nadal, whose

career has been constantly under siege from knee and wrist injuries.

"Life is never clear. If you have no doubts, then you are very arrogant. I am not an arrogant person."

It is that forthright modesty which endears Nadal to his legion of fans as is his respect for opponents.

He applauds every vanquished foe off court at every tournament. His idiosyncracies

are just as charming to his supporters.

His picking at the rear of his shorts and mopping of his brow, aligned with his obsessive devotion to lining up his water bottles, labels facing out, are parts of the Nadal DNA.

Victory moved Nadal level with Federer who, at 39, is more than four years older.

"Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent most of the most important moments of my tennis career here," said Nadal.

His Grand Slam CV boasts 13 French Opens, four US Open titles, two at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open.

He has 86 career titles in total of which 60 have been on clay. As well as his 20 majors, he possesses a record 35 Masters.

Only Nadal, Pete Sampras and Ken Rosewall have managed the feat of winning Grand Slam titles in their teens, 20s and 30s.

"For me winning here another time, I can't even say it is a dream. It is out of my thoughts," said Nadal. AFP



MVP LeBron James. Photo: AFP

LA Lakers win NBA finals

BASKETBALL

A LOS ANGELES LAKERS team led by superstar LeBron James dominated the Miami Heat 106-93 last Sunday (Oct 11) to win a record-equalling 17th NBA championship.

James added another chapter to an epic career, fueling the Lakers with a triple-double of 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists and capturing his fourth NBA title with a third different team, as well as earning NBA Finals Most Valuable Player honours for a fourth time.

"For me to be a part of such a historical franchise is an unbelievable feeling," James said.

Anthony Davis, playing in his first championship series after years of frustration in New Orleans, added 19 points and 15 rebounds as the Lakers

completed a four-games-to-two triumph in the best-of-seven championship series more than eight months after the death in a helicopter crash of team legend Kobe Bryant – who led the Lakers to their last title in 2010.

The Lakers had blown it open by halftime, their 36 second-quarter points equaling the Heat's entire first half total as the Lakers took a 64-36 lead into the break. Four Lakers players had scored in double-figures by halftime.

The series in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida, capped not only an emotional season for the Lakers with the loss of talisman Bryant but a season of uncertainty and upheaval for the NBA as players grappled with the coronavirus pandemic and the demands for social and racial justice sweeping across the United States. AFP

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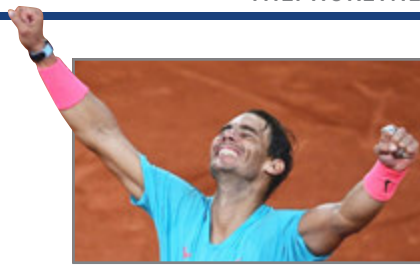
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Sport



Nadal matches Fed record with French Open win > P11

LEW EQUALS SCHU RECORD

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Lewis Hamilton is the equal most successful F1 driver in history after matching Michael Schumacher's record 91 victories at the Eifel Grand Prix last Sunday (Oct 11).

Hamilton started second alongside teammate Valtteri Bottas but slipped past the Finn on lap 13 to take control of the race.

Bottas later retired from the grand prix with an engine issue, clearing the way for the Briton to cruise to the chequered flag.

Hamilton was presented with one of Schumacher's helmets by the German icon's son, Mick, to mark the milestone.

"It's an incredible honour," he said. "I don't even know what to say."

"Seeing his dominance for so long, I don't think anyone, and especially me, imagined that I'd be anywhere near Michael in terms of records."



Hamilton was presented with one of Schumacher's helmets by the German icon's son, Mick, to mark the milestone. Photo: AFP.

"I couldn't have done it without this incredible team. Everyone is continuing to push behind me and giving it their everything."

Max Verstappen, starting from third, attempted to challenge Hamilton for victory but lacked the Mercedes car's pace.

However, the Dutchman provided proof of his team's progress this

year, snatching the point for fastest lap late in the race.

"I was quite happy with that," he said. "I think overall it was a good race."

"We just tried to do our own race. They were just a bit too fast."

Daniel Ricciardo scored Renault's first podium finish since 2011 with a hugely popular third place.

The Australian delivered another strong drive to lead the midfield by 16 seconds at half distance, but a safety car on lap 45 – deployed to collect Lando Norris's stopped McLaren – wiped out his advantage and put him on a defensive footing against Racing Point's Sergio Perez.

Ricciardo and Perez went side by side through the first four corners at the restart, but the Renault driver got the better exit from turn four to keep himself ahead and take his first podium since winning in Monte Carlo in 2018.

Carlos Sainz recovered from 10th on the grid to finish fifth, defending against AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly after the safety car to beat the Frenchman by just 0.8 seconds.

Charles Leclerc could have beaten Gasly had his team not neglected to stop him for new tyres during the safety car; instead he slipped to seventh on worn rubber at the restart.

Nico Hulkenberg, substituting for the unwell Lance Stroll at Racing Point, was superb to finish eighth

barely 24 hours after first arriving at the circuit. The German qualified 20th but rose into the top 10 in time to capitalise on the safety car.

Romain Grosjean finished ninth for Haas in the American team's second points finish of the year, beating Alfa Romeo's Antonio Giovinazzi in his first top-10 finish since round one.

Sebastian Vettel failed to score for the sixth race this season, finishing 11th, ahead of Kimi Raikkonen, who started a record 323rd grand prix.

Kevin Magnussen and Nicholas Latifi finished 13th and 14th ahead of Daniil Kvyat in 15th.

Kvyat's race was ruined by a crash with Thai driver Alex Albon, who had another forgettable race with Red Bull Racing.

Dropping a place off the start, he was forced into an early pit stop after flat-spotting his tyres trying to recover. Later he misjudged an overtake on Kvyat, breaking the Russian's front wing, before the team retired him from the race with a suspected engine problem.

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