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END OF AN AMNESTY

PHUKET IMMIGRATION OVERWHELMED AS FOREIGNERS RUSH TO EXTEND STAY IN THAILAND

The Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town was overwhelmed with foreigners seeking to extend their stay in Thailand with just five days to go before the 'visa amnesty' ends this Saturday (Sept 26). Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

Tanyaluk Sakoot
reporter2@classactmedia.co.th

Any foreigners who have not had their permits-to-stay renewed – or as the Immigration Bureau is calling it, had their “visas extended” – after tomorrow (Sept 26) will be liable for a fine of B500 a day overstay, Phuket Immigration has warned.

The warning comes as the ‘visa amnesty’ approved by the Cabinet earlier this year is set to expire this Saturday (Sept 26), six months to the day since it came into effect in March.

“Honestly, we do not want to charge them, but we must follow the law,” Phuket Immigration Deputy

Chief Lt Col Udom Thongchin told *The Phuket News*.

As of Monday (Sept 21), a total of 1,641 foreigners on tourist or long-stay visas still had not presented themselves at Phuket Immigration to extend their visas, Lt Col Udom said.

However, he noted that many foreigners were now no longer living on the island.

“Many foreigners have moved out of Phuket to other provinces nearby, such as Phang Nga, Phatthalung and Surat Thani,” Lt Col Udom said.

“Many of them told us that they were moving because their financial circumstances had changed due to the economic impact of COVID-19. They told us that other provinces were

cheaper than Phuket,” he explained.

“Also, many foreigners have decided to go back home. Some embassies want their people to return home and have provided flights for them,” he added.

CLEAR WARNING

Pol Col Pakpong Sai-ubol, deputy spokesman of the Immigration Bureau, earlier this week warned that more than 150,000 foreign nationals still needed to have their tourist visas renewed by Sept 26 or face a charge of overstaying.

With the amnesty lifted, any foreigners caught overstaying in the country by more than 90 days may face being blacklisted, he said.

“Overstaying the tourist visa is punishable by both a jail term and fine under the Immigration Act,” Pol Col Pakpong noted, adding that offenders would also be deported to their countries.

RUSH TO RENEW

The Immigration Office in Phuket Town on Monday was flooded with foreigners seeking to extend their stay in the country. The queue to enter the Immigration Office spilled out to the area set up in front of the main building, with officers stationed there to process applications instead of overcrowding the office inside.

Meanwhile, the queue of cars lined up in the Drive Thru backed up to...

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Four-day storm wrecks havoc



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Foreigners rush to extend visas

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...the street while officers worked as quickly as they could to process all applications filed.

Some of the foreigners said they had arrived at the office in the morning, and were still there at 3pm. However, one foreigner explained that filing his application had been delayed because he forgot some of the documents required.

Lt Col Udom pointed out that many foreigners had left it to the last few days before coming to the Immigration office to extend their visas.

"Since last week, we have been processing about 190 applications a day," he said.

Phuket Immigration officers had been coming to work early to help process as many applications as they can each day, he said.

"Our officers have been starting work at 8am, and each day there are at least

Announcement

No matter when you come to extend your visa, the permission date of all visa types will start counting from **September 27, 2020.**

In order to reduce overcrowding, an application for visa extension can be submitted at each local immigration office **from now on until September 26, 2020.** The permission date of all visa types will be effective **from September 27, 2020.**

Hotline 1178
Immigration Bureau

www.immigration.go.th

All extensions to start Sept 27. Image: Immigration Bureau

30 foreigners already waiting. The office is supposed to open at 8:30am."

Phuket Immigration Office will be open this Saturday (Sept 26) to process any last-minute applications to extend permits-to-stay, Lt Col Udom confirmed.

"We will stay open to process all applications submitted

on that day, even if we have to work until midnight on Saturday (Sept 26)," he said.

Another Immigration officer *The Phuket News* spoke with strongly urged foreigners to make sure they bring all the documents required in order for their application to be extended.

"Today there are a lot of



Phuket Immigration on Monday. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

foreigners here to extend their visas. Many of them did not have some of the documents needed, which made it slower to process their applications and issue their extensions to stay.

"If people have all the correct documents, it will help us to work faster and better," the officer added.

FRESH START

Lt Col Udom also confirmed that any "visa extensions" granted during the visa amnesty would come into effect from Sunday (Sept 27), in line with the announcement made by the Immigration Bureau in Bangkok months ago.

"No matter when you came to extend your visa, the

permission date of all visa types will start counting from September 27, 2020," he said.

Lt Col Udom also confirmed that the visa extensions coming into effect on Sept 27 did apply to all visa types, both short-term tourist visas and the long-term one-year renewals sought by most expats living in Phuket.

"This includes all one-year extensions for non-immigrant visas issued during the amnesty for visas such as a Business visa, Education visa, Non-imm O visa and Retirement visa," he said.

However, Lt Col Udom expressed his concerns about this policy decision. "I am seriously concerned that come Sept 27 next year, all the one-year permits to stay will expire on the same date, and possibly cause another big rush on applications from foreigners to extend their one-year permits to stay all at the same time," he said.

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New visa spurs Scandi interest

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The move to offer stays in Thailand of up to 270 days through the Special Tourist Visa (STV) approved by Cabinet last week has prompted queries from some 10,000 Scandinavians, Piyapat Suban Na Ayudhaya, CEO of government-backed Thailand Longstay Company has revealed.

Ms Piyapat revealed the news at a meeting of leading government officials at Angsana Laguna Phuket last Friday (Sept 18).

Present at the meeting were Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong, Piyapat's advisor Ruamnakhorn Tubtimthongchai and Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Tourism Industry Investment Promotion Department Chief Somphatsorn Raman.

Among others present for the meeting were Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Rungrote Thakurapunya, Phuket Provincial Chief Administration Officer (Palad) Wikrom Chatree and representatives of Phuket tourism business associations.

Ms Piyapat explained that



A woman walks towards the exit at Phuket International Airport during a 'COVID-ready' exercise earlier this month. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

after the Cabinet approved the Special Tourist Visa on Sept 15, the company had been contacted by around 10,000 Scandinavian tourists looking to stay in Thailand during their winter.

"Normally, some of them will go to Italy or Spain, but at this stage the pandemic is still happening in the countries, so it will be a good opportunity for Thailand to welcome them," Ms Piyapat said.

However, the coordina-

tion of government officials, police and private companies was needed to make sure the management of long-stay tourist arrivals was conducted properly and safely, she said.

"The Special Tourist Visa will be issued only to those wanting to travel to Thailand longer than one month. The tourists must be quarantined for 14 days in an ASQ or ALSQ hotel and repeated COVID tests will be required before letting them [travel to

other] provinces," she added.

"Tourists must agree to book and pay for the hotel for their quarantine, and must specify which hotels they will stay at after the quarantine period, and have COVID-19 health insurance coverage of at least US\$100,000," she said.

"Of key concern right now is to publicise information and build confidence among local people about the quality of the measures set for welcoming the tourists," Ms Piyapat added.

The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has already stipulated that any flights bringing tourists into Thailand must be charter flights carrying no more than 120 passengers per flight, Ms Piyapat explained.

"As to flights arriving, the CCSA has approved only three inbound flights per month, so only 360 tourists can come each month," she said.

"Everything must be done slowly, taking into account the feelings of the local people," Ms Piyapat added.

Phuket Vice Governor Phichet told those at the meeting that the Phuket government had already set the measures for welcoming such tourists.

V/Gov Phichet also said, "At this stage, 78 hotels have registered to be the venue for alternative local state quarantine, but only four have passed the criteria and approved so far."

However, Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Thanit Sermkaew has not recently confirmed that any new hotels in Phuket have been approved by the CCSA in Bangkok to serve as ALSQ venues.

Dr Thanit confirmed on

Sept 9 that two more hotels in Phuket – the Metadee Phuket in Kata and the Phuket Grace-land Resort & Spa – had been inspected and approved by Phuket local health officials to serve as ALSQ venues, but were still waiting for approval from the CCSA Bangkok.

So far Dr Thanit has confirmed that only the Anantara Mai Khao Phuket (and its villas) and Trisara Phuket Villas and Residences, altogether offering just 469 guest rooms, have been approved to serve as ALSQ venues – despite at least 14 hotels in Phuket applying for the privilege since late July.

Meanwhile, V/Gov Phichet on Friday said that officers at Phuket International Airport will check certificate of entry (COE), tourists' COVID-19 test certificate, the document of consent for quarantine 14 days, and their insurance coverage of at least US\$100,000.

"The Phuket government will work carefully and thoroughly and think of the safety of the people as priority," he said.

"And there will be police standing by at the hotels in case tourists try to walk free during quarantine," he assured.

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CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
081 406 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**TANYALUK 'MANGO' SAKOOT**
Reporter
091 165 0260
reporter2@classactmedia.co.th**KIATTIKUL 'JOM' CHUMANEE**
Translator
082 729 0270
translator@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
066 470 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
066 470 7470
sales1@classactmedia.co.th**KANOKWAN (MEO) RUNGSEANG**
Sales Representative
089 754 1371
sales1g@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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First 'e-ferries' in Thailand on track to launch in Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Deputy Minister of Tourism and Sports Napintorn Srisunpang last week inspected the Sakun.C Innovation Co Ltd boatbuilding factory in Suphan Buri where electric passenger boats are under construction for launch in Phuket, which will be the first province in the country to use electric-powered boats for marine passenger transport to nearby islands.

The inspection delegation on Sept 16 was welcomed by the company's managing director and other company employees, reported the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MoTS).



Deputy Minister of Tourism and Sports Napintorn Srisunpang inspected the Sakun.C Innovation Co Ltd boatbuilding factory in Suphan Buri, where the country's first electric passenger boats are under construction for launch in Phuket. Photo: Ministry of Tourism and Sports

The boats being built by Sakun.C are the first electric passenger boats to be registered by the Marine Department na-

tional headquarters in Bangkok, where all boat designs must be approved and registered, said the MoTS report.

Marine Dept Chief Wittaya Yamuang last month announced that Phuket will be the first province in Thailand where electric boats will be used.

In that announcement, Mr Wittaya explained that Sakun.C Innovation Co Ltd and Phuket Patri Tour Group Co Ltd, which operates Ao Por Pier under a concession granted by the Marine Dept, will together launch the electric passenger boats under the name "Banpu Next e-Ferry", reported Thai business news portal *Thansettakij*.

The move is to support green tourism, Mr Wittaya said.

"At this stage, the boat is still under the testing process and will be ready to serve Phuket people as soon as the tests have concluded," he added.

"The cost of producing this boat is quite low, as its whole body is made of aluminum. The boat fares will not be expensive, and they could even be lower [than initially estimated] if the price of batteries fall in the future," Mr Wittaya noted.

"As planned, 30 of these boats will start providing services next year. The number of electric boats will increase to 200 within four years, and the [ferry] services provided will cover Andaman coast provinces within five years," he said.

"We are also preparing to develop new tourist routes in the south of Thailand, including Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga, as new routes for tourism. After these new ferry routes have been developed, we will expand the routes to include from Krabi to Trang. The project is expected to start by the end of 2020," Mr Wittaya explained.

"The second version of the electric boats will include solar panels, and these are expected to be produced in the coming year," he said.

Phuket Marine Office Director Wiwat Chitchertwong told *The Phuket News*, "At this stage, I cannot say when the boats will start operating, as the project has been affected by global pandemic crisis.

"However, we will hold a press conference about these boats next month," he added.

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Storm weather wreaks havoc

The Phuket News
 editor@classactmedia.co.th

Passing thundershowers with strong winds and driving rain lashed the island for nearly four days last week, bringing down trees and power lines, and causing minor flash floods and traffic accidents.

The brunt of the storm hit last Saturday (Sept 19), with the Phuket office of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) confirming that from 10:10am through 10:36am all power on the island had been disrupted. Once power supply from the island had been restored, teams of PEA workers were dispatched to restore power supply in areas still affected, mostly by trees bringing down power lines.

One tree felled by the winds cut off the one road onto the island from the mainland, while others downed power lines across Phuket. One house in Mai Khao had its tin-sheet roof torn off by the wind.

By that time the Phuket Provincial Office had re-issued another weather warning for the island, following emergency services being ordered on alert days earlier as the foul



A tree felled by strong winds cut off all vehicular traffic onto the island last Saturday (Sept 19). Photo: Wanlop Boonchan

weather started to take hold on Sept 17, forcing the closure of beaches and the cancellation of events in some areas, including Patong.

Rescue workers had already urged motorists to drive carefully after a car overturned on Thepkrasattri Rd during the wet conditions. That warning

came too late to save the life of 9-year-old girl Sirikarn Saisaya, who was struck by an out-of-control pickup truck that slid off Thepkrasattri Rd in Baan Yid, Mai Khao, and ploughed through people seated while dining at a roadside restaurant Wednesday night last week (Sept 16).

Sirikarn was unconscious at the scene and rushed to Thalang Hospital, but later pronounced dead.

Six other diners were injured in the accident, which saw the pickup truck ram through the shopfront window of West Coast Ride Thailand Maikhao motorbike shop.

Also injured was the pickup truck driver, Suwit Rakkarn, 31, who was still at the scene when police arrived. At the time of going to press police had yet to confirm which charges Suwit would face for the deadly wipeout.

Two days later, last Friday (Sept 18), 36-year-old Russian woman Nadiya Gizatullina was killed in a collision between the motorbike she was riding and a car being driven by a Belarus man along the Rawai beachfront.

Ms Gizatullina was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident, but still sustained severe head injuries, explained Lt Jaruwit Khuncharoen of the Chalong Police.

Lt Jaruwit declined to reveal any details of how the accident happened, or even identify the driver of the car that struck the motorbike, saying that he had yet to view CCTV footage of the accident from Rawai Municipality cameras along the beachfront road.

However, Lt Jaruwit did confirm that the Belarus man did not flee the scene and had acknowledged that he was the person driving the car when the accident happened.

While the storm waves pounded the west coast, lifeguards closed all the main beaches for safety, posting red flags all along Patong Beach as well as the main beaches on the central west coast, including Surin Beach and Bang Tao Beach.

Despite repeated weather warnings of waves in the Andaman Sea reaching two to four metres high – and more than four metres during heavy thundershowers – and all small boats ordered to stay ashore, lifeguards last Saturday (Sept 19) were called to rescue a foreign man who had entered the surf alone and was unable to make it back to the beach at Ao Sane, just north of Nai Harn Beach.

Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos declined to identify the foreign man.

“I have now ordered to close all the beaches in the Rawai area, including Nai Harn Beach, Yanui Beach, and other beaches, especially Ao Sane, which needs to have special focus on it.” he said after the man had been rescued.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

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Kata Rocks shines in uncertain times



THE CULINARY DETECTIVE

Chris Watson
chriswatsonth@gmail.com

The only constant in life is change, so said the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. Some 2,500 years later, we are presently experiencing change so massive that I do wonder whether we will ever get back to normal. One such person who has adapted well to these ever-changing circumstances is Andrew Dickie, the recently appointed Executive Chef at the luxury Kata Rocks resort.

Arriving in Phuket at the beginning of 2020 from his previous role at the helm of a five-star hotel restaurant in Bangkok, I suspect, he, like many of us, had never heard of COVID-19. I suppose he set about reviewing the culinary standards and whilst maintaining the stalwart dishes on the menu to ensure acceptance from the regulars, establish where he could put his mark with the addition of new innovative dishes that more reflected his philosophy. Chefs do inevitably change establishments, driven by managements' inherent desire to improve and this can be a tightrope in showing skill and flair in reinventing dishes to continually tantalise diners' palates.

Then Phuket went into lockdown and Andrew spent a few weeks at home. Now, I am delighted to say, Kata Rocks is back to normal, their monthly



Chef Andrew

brunches full as ever and Andrew leading the kitchen into a new culinary era. A Canadian, he has worked with several luxury chains including Hyatt and Four Seasons is and not a newcomer to this region. I recently caught up with him when he invited me over for dinner to try out his new dishes.

Whilst Phuket has a multitude of high-end chic hotels, all with spectacular sea views, I am still spellbound when walking into the Kata Rocks clubhouse. The vista at sunset continues to surprise. Seated by the pool, I leave myself and my partner in Andrew's hands. We begin with an elegantly presented bread and butter platter to nibble on, whilst Andrew prepares a marinated cube of watermelon; a truly refreshing flavour bomb.

This is followed by a new dish of scallop crudo. A crudo – the Italian and Spanish word for raw – is invariably fish, marinated in a citrus dressing. Andrew's dish uses Hokkaido scallops dressed in homemade buttermilk, lending the dish a sublime creaminess, lemon juice, kaffir lime and green chili and topped with crispy potato for crunch. My partner has a classic lobster bisque; truly decadent.

Whilst we enjoy our appetisers, Andrew tells me of a couple of new dishes he plans to feature, an octopus carpaccio and a crab salad. These both sound stellar and reflect Andrew's culinary style of light and enabling the product's true flavours to shine through and, in his own words, "sing".




Crab Salad

Andrew returns, with my partner's 400g prime ribeye from Nebraska, perfectly cooked; I am informed butter basted, a classic technique I love, but admit am still trying to master. I have a free-range duck, delicately brushed with maple syrup on a disc containing walnuts, pistachio and oats. The duck is a triumph, accompanied with daikon and red cabbage. Andrew whips up a sugar brioche with custard, vanilla cream and caramelized pineapple, all doused in a fairly well-known local prize-winning liquid.

I am impressed and am confident this change in the kitchen will not only continue the past high standards, but elevate them to new heights.

Chris is a former Michelin Guide Inspector who following an international career in hospitality spanning 30 years in both the Middle East and Asia, has now settled in Thailand and contributes a monthly restaurant column.






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A Community Rises: UWC Thailand's Project Independence



Jason McBride
UWC Thailand Head of School

In a year rife with global challenges, it has been hard to find moments that inspire hope and unity amidst the chaos.

For UWC Thailand, the disruptivity of 2020 was compounded by an existential funding crisis here at home. In mid-January, the school's founder made a heart-breaking call to the board chair, "alternative funding would be necessary as of June 2020 to keep the UWC Thailand dream alive."

The situation went from bad to bleak with campus closures, tambon lockdowns and businesses closing. Yet through it all, our amazing community did not sway in their belief that UWC Thailand is a school worth saving.

Not long after we learned of the funding challenge, we began talking to a small group of parents, brainstorming what it would take to purchase the school's land and buildings. In one of those early conversations it was pointed out that the Chinese character for crisis



is a combination of two other characters – "danger" and "opportunity" – and so here amongst the danger, we found our opportunity.

In a matter of just a few weeks, a small group of parents took up the mantle of humble heroes as they worked with the school's leadership and the team at Thanyapura to create the broad outlines of a deal to purchase the land and buildings on behalf of the school's foundation. Fundraising is what we needed and that is exactly what we got.

To make the purchase and provide a two-year cushion for scholarships and operations, we needed the equivalent of US\$10 million. We launched a giving



campaign open to both loans and donations and we managed to raise the full amount in just over three weeks.

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The parents who donated countless hours, expertise, support and/or money, did it not out of convenience or financial gain, but because UWC Thailand is raising their children in an environment where they feel a sense of belonging, while also becoming what the world needs; caring thinkers, with a side of grit, who are willing to take action.

More than any year before, when all the odds seemed stacked against us, our community doubled down on their belief in what we do at UWCT. They heeded our call and they came with their savings, their investments, their salaries, their skills, and their friends. They came because what we do is different in a way that matters, in a way that warrants the opportunity to thrive.

Attending school, once an expectation, is now a gift our students are grateful for each day.

If you were to step on our campus today you would see shining eyes (smiles hidden behind facemasks) and hear laughter and chatter from happy students excited to be right where they are – learning and enjoying an oasis of calm in an otherwise chaotic world.




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3. A stock market crash in 1883 provoked who to give up stockbroking and paint full-time?
4. Who was the first actor to appear on *Time* magazine?
5. How old was US President John F. Kennedy when Marilyn Monroe sang 'Happy Birthday, Mr President'?

Answers below, centre

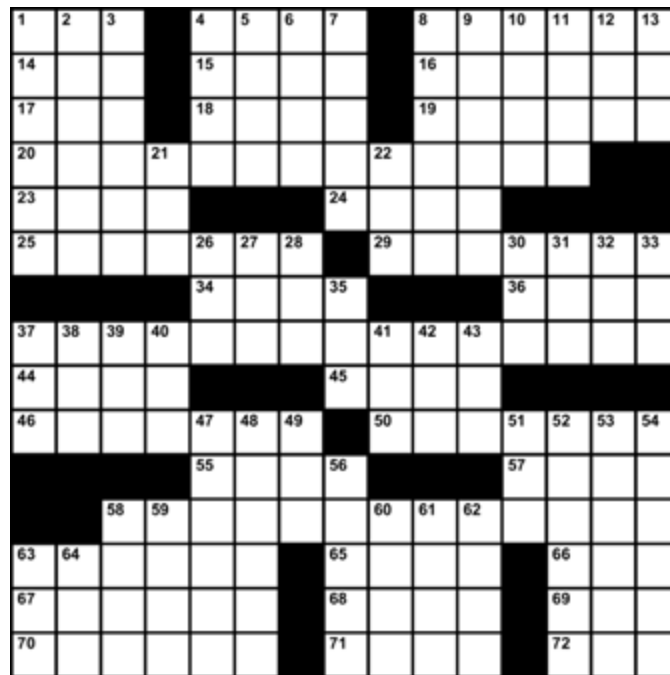
SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Letter ender?
 4. King or jet
 8. Fore-and-aft sail
 14. Yellowfin tuna
 15. Gumbo goody
 16. Iroquois tribe
 17. Child of your unc
 18. School sound
 19. End a phone call
 20. Singers of a kind
 23. "___, Baker, Charlie"
 24. Hoisted, as a sail
 25. Someone who provokes
 29. Outside dining area
 34. NYSE banner events
 36. Jewish mo.
 37. It's difficult to figure out
 44. Mayberry man
 45. Pack down
 46. Titled again
 50. Narrow strip of land bordered by water on both sides
 55. Linear
 57. Macbeth's burial place
 58. Where to see Yanni or Chic Corea
 63. Time to spare
 65. U.S. coin word
 66. "___ the Season"
 67. Tell
 68. Actor, Gooding
 69. Party time, maybe
- Down**
1. Video game
 2. One of the friends on "Friends"
 3. Steakhouse sound
 4. Timber wolf
 5. Manages, with "out"
 6. "Alice's Restaurant" singer ___ Guthrie
 7. "The Honeymooners" character
 8. Southwest desert that includes Death Valley
 9. A little more silly
 10. Paradoxical Greek
 11. Turns sharply
 12. College internet address ending
 13. Time out?
 21. Last letter, in London
 22. Spoil
 26. Rapper prefix
 27. Prefix with dermis
 28. Actor-director Howard
 30. Southern soldier
 31. "___ for one and one for ___" Three Musketeers cry
 32. Ball director
 33. Shade tree
 35. Military rank, abbr.
 37. ___ favor (please, in Spanish)
 38. Colorado natives
 39. Californian wine, popularly
 40. Actress Gabor's first name(s)
 41. ___ gow poker
 42. Classified abbr.
 43. Be decisive
 47. "The Impresario" composer
 48. Pepsin, e.g.
 49. Dict. offering
 51. Immune system virus
 52. Ditched a castle
 53. Have a day over again?
 54. Disrespects
 56. Low card in poker
 58. Spanish chief
 59. Gone from the company, maybe
 60. Cozy
 61. Big brass
 62. Model who wed David Bowie
 63. Calais lily
 64. Postal delivery, abbr.



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 78%; 2) A group of eight; 3) Paul Gauguin; 4) Charlie Chaplin; 5) 44 (his 45th birthday was 10 days later)

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

0.004

percent of the planet's entire history is how long humans have lived on Earth.

20

IQ points the average intelligence of humans has risen since 1950, according to one study.

75

trained dolphins are used by the US Navy to detect enemy swimmers and underwater mines.

19,000

federal witnesses and their families have been safeguarded by the US Federal Witness Protection Program since it started in 1971.

2.7 million

US dollars is how much TV show *Seinfeld* has made since it went off the air in 1998.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Patong Beach. Photo: Kiattikul 'Jom' Chumanee

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

This week in history

Sept 25, 1066
The Battle of Stamford Bridge marks the end of the Viking invasions of England.

Sept 26, 1969
Abbey Road, the last recorded album by The Beatles, is released.

Sept 27, 1998
The Google internet search engine retroactively claims

this date as its birthday.

Sept 28, 1928
Sir Alexander Fleming notices a bacteria-killing mould growing in his laboratory, discovering what later became known as penicillin.

Sept 29, 1885
The first practical public electric tramway in the world is opened in Blackpool, England.



The famous album cover photo of The Beatles crossing Abbey Road.

Sept 30, 2009
A 7.6Mw earthquake shakes

central Sumatra with a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (Severe). The dip-slip earthquake left 1,115 people dead, and was followed several days later by a 6.6Mw strike-slip.

Oct 1, 331 BC
Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela.
Source: *Wikipedia*

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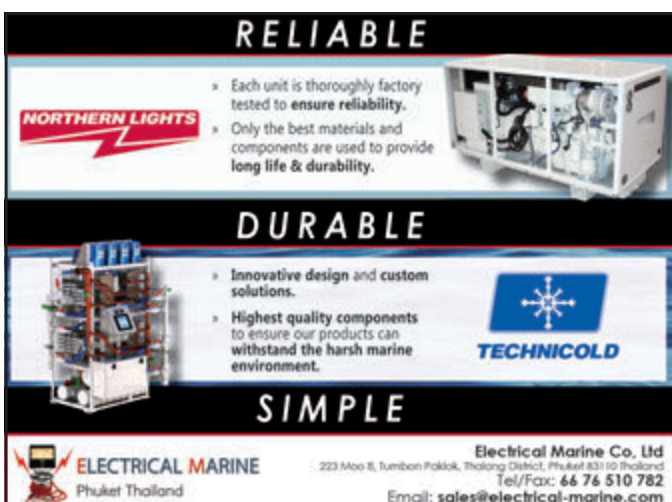
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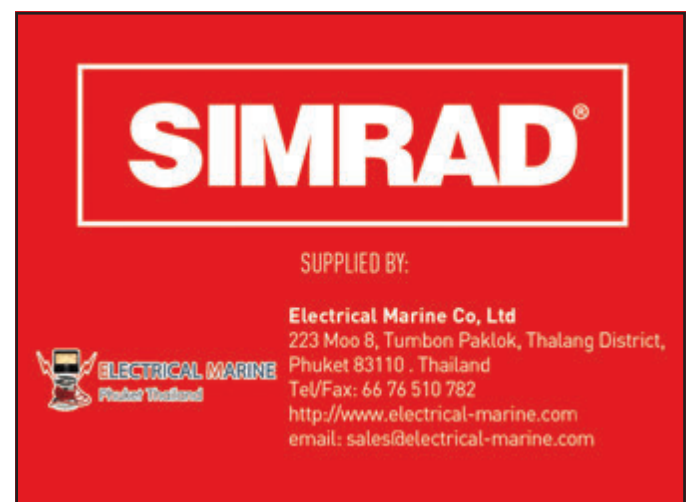
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SAT 26 SEP



All you can eat BBQ night

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SUN 27 SEP



All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

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



The Sunday English Family Roast

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



The Sunday English Family Roast

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FRI 2 OCT



The Grow Boating Networking Evening

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

SAT 3 OCT



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Goodwill riding in Koh Kaew

Free horse riding lessons to children stranded by COVID-19

HORSE RIDING

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Red Bamboo Equestrian Center, a horse riding school that recently opened their stables in Koh Kaew, has stepped in to help a group of local children who have been left stranded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After it discovered a group of children between the ages of 14 -18 were unable to return to Myanmar to continue their education, The Good Shepherd Centre in Phuket Town set up a program of support. They were, and are still, seeking the support of additional volunteers to help teach the children basic English, simple computer skills, maths, art and craft etc for just an hour a week.

Red Bamboo stepped in to offer a complimentary Beginners Riding Class to all the students and to raise awareness of the plight of the students.

Earlier this month they welcomed 10 students from Good Shepherd to partake in a half-day beginners riding class, led by an experienced team. The session started with horse care and grooming to build a bond between the horse and rider,



One of the competitors of the show jumping contest . Photo: Red Bamboo Center

followed by saddling instructions and ended with a ride around the stable grounds.

The school offers horse riding classes to beginners and more seasoned riders alike led by Lolei Soudachan, a French national who grew up in Phuket. All the 12 horses at the centre are rescue horses.

They opened only recently and

celebrated by hosting their first show jumping competition which consisted of a formal show jumping contest in the morning with three classification groups and jumps up to 90cm. Children joined in the fun by dressing up in the formal wear of white jodhpurs and jackets and by decorating the horses to match.

In the afternoon, the largely

unknown Thai cowboy community joined in the festivities. Children and adults competed in Western style events like barrel racing and obstacle courses, and great fun was had by all.

“We are also offering as many opportunities for the Thai community to get involved in this project,” commented Karen Newell, founder

of Red Bamboo Equestrian Center.

“Horse riding is not a traditional Thai sport and is also expensive but we are witnessing change,” added Karen.

HRH Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana is a huge fan of horse riding and established the ‘Princess’s Cup, Thailand’ with the main objective to promote awareness of equestrian sports among Thais.

“The princess has done a great job in raising the profile of the sport and establishing its image,” added Karen.

The Kingdom formed its first Olympic team in the sport last year and also hosted the first FEI Asian championships in Pattaya last December which included three Olympic equestrian disciplines: Dressage, Jumping and Eventing. The host country fared very well in securing 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze from all three disciplines.

The next Red Bamboo competition will be held in December where increased participation from the ever-burgeoning Thai cowboy community is expected.

For further details on this and the classes Red Bamboo specialise in please contact Lolei on 082 806 1695 or visit their Facebook page.

‘Crazy Viking’ loses out in title bid

MMA

MAGNUS ANDERSSON was unsuccessful in his bid to win the ONE Featherweight Muay Thai World Title as part of the ONE: A New Breed III event in Bangkok last Friday (Sept 18).

The ‘Crazy Viking’, who trains at Revolution Muay Thai gym in Phuket, fought valiantly but lost in a third-round TKO to Petchmorakot Petchyindee Academy who was making his 200th professional fight.



Magnus Andersson. Photo: Helen Tran

Andersson looked comfortable in the first round as he stood toe-to-toe with his opponent and emerged in the second round with a barrage

of kicks and an overhand right punch that rattled the Thai.

However, Petchmorakot raised the bar in the third-round when he landed a thunderous left punch which left the Swede reeling with a standing eight-count. With just seconds remaining, Petchmorakot unleashed again before the referee intervened to stop the bout and award the Thai the win.

The result extended Petchmorakot’s reign as the featherweight Muay Thai king and took his record to 162-35-2. The Phuket News



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Sport



Giddy Up at Red Bamboo stables > p11

SOUTHERN CHAMPS



Phuket Vagabonds: Thailand Rugby Union 7s Southern Region Champions 2020. Photo: Phuket Rugby 10s website

RUGBY

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Vagabonds R.F.C. have returned victorious from the Thailand Rugby Union Southern Region Rugby Sevens Championship held in Surat Thani last weekend (Sept 19-20). The 20-man squad of enthusiastic players and dedicated supporters produced a dominant performance, remaining undefeated across the weekend as they faced teams from Yala, Krabi, Surat Thani and the Prince of Songkla University. Saving their best performance for last, they secured the championship

with a comprehensive 34-7 victory over runners-up Krabi in the final late on Sunday afternoon. "I am proud and privileged to have been part of such a great weekend," commented Vagabonds Captain Dan Ashburn, eager to heap praise on his team. "The class showed from our players both on and off the field was a testament to the club," he added. In a standout performance throughout the weekend, Shaun Kober was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player for the tournament. Shaun's sweeping defense and precision in attack was the key to success with Merrick Fairall following closely at his heels with an excellent performance and fast-

paced attack. Special mention also goes to Paul "Ringo" Rothwell, voted Best Tourist for his steel in defence on the pitch and jovial participation off it. Other performances of note include Tom Kilmington's match-winning try off an inside ball from Merrick Fairall in a closely fought battle with Prince of Songkla on Sunday morning. Dan Ashburn's terrifying kick chases which led to some early tries and will have a few of the opposition having nightmares for weeks to come. And a commendable performance in defence and attack from Zach Foose in his first-ever rugby tournament. "It was a great tournament with some fantastic rugby played by

all boys and girls through the age groups and of course the Phuket Vagabonds," said vice-captain Dave Walker. "We played with exceptional teamwork, playing hard for each other and doing ourselves proud in the process," he added. The resurgent Vagabonds were well received by the Thailand Rugby community and look forward to further strengthening relationships with the Thailand Rugby Union and in particular the development of junior rugby players in their home province of Phuket. Club President Anthony van Sleenwen said he was "eager to continue to help grow the club, and introduce new avenues for young

players to find rugby, whilst also raising the profile of the Vagabonds within the greater Phuket community". The team will now turn their focus to the National Rugby Sevens championships to be held in Bangkok on October 31. *If you are interested in joining or supporting the Phuket Vagabonds, please contact phuketrugby@gmail.com, or visit the Phuket Vagabonds Rugby Facebook page. Training is held twice a week at the Alan Cook Cricket Ground with contact and skills training on Tuesday evenings and social Touch Rugby for all levels on Thursday evenings at 5:30pm.*

Disabled Sailing Thailand to host 'Boat Splash' off Phuket

SAILING

DISABLED SAILING Thailand are organising Phuket's first Boat Splash to be held off Phuket's east coast on Oct 21. An on-water meet-up that's open to everyone, Boat Splash will take place in the waters between Rang Yai Island off Phuket Boat Lagoon and Royal Phuket Marina, and Cape Yamu. What originally grew from an idea to offer people



Photo: Phil Clark / helicam.asia

with disabilities a safe opportunity to get out on the water on a large leisure craft, has now grown into a fully-inclusive event where anyone can rendezvous off the east coast for an afternoon of fun on the sea and in the sun, explained the announcement by Disabled Sailing Thailand

last Thursday (Sept 17). "Accessibility is a huge problem for people with special needs preventing them from taking advantage of opportunities the rest of us take for granted," said organiser and founder of Disabled Sailing Thailand, Peter Jacops. "Boat Splash will be a great experience for people with disabilities, some of whom have never been on the water, as they will get to breathe in the sea air, feel what it's like to be on the

ocean and really get a chance to enjoy the wonders of nautical life." Boat Splash will take place from 11am to 5pm on Wednesday, Oct 21. There are no fees involved, everyone and all safe water craft from SUPs, dinghies, jet-skis and tenders to sailing yachts, powerboats and superyachts are welcome, said the announcement. "We have had a great response from the marine industry and people of Phuket. Many charter operators have

offered their support and are keen to give back to the community. As a result of the interest, we decided to expand the concept to be an inclusive event that is open to all," Mr Jacops explained. "Although Phuket is suffering right now, we hope people can come together and enjoy a fun day out on the water. It'll be a great way to remind us all of what a beautiful place Phuket is and how lucky we all are to live here," he added. *The Phuket News*