

Mount Vernon NEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

the Ruth JOURNEY KICKS OFF

THIS WEEK
above the fold

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Each rescued from flooded cave

to a hospital roared over-head.

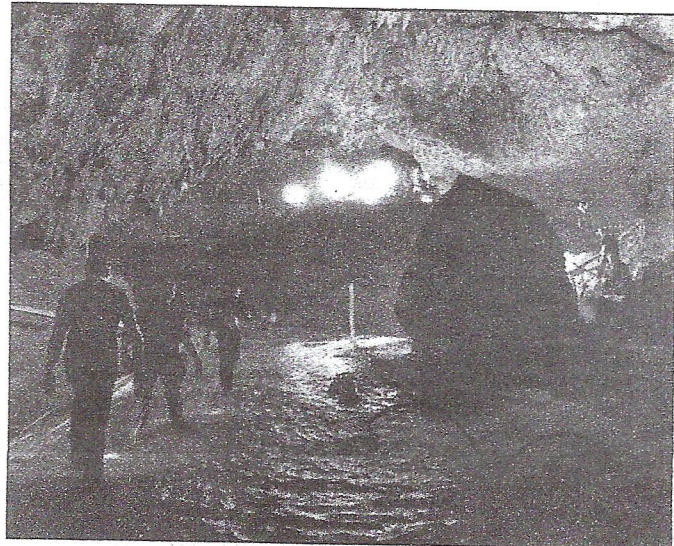
Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL died Friday while replenishing oxygen canisters laid at regular intervals along the route out of the sprawling Tham Luang cave.

The plight of the boys and their coach has riveted Thailand and much of the world — from the heart-sinking news that they were missing to the first flickering video of the huddle of anxious yet smiling boys when they were found 10 days later by a pair of British divers. They were trapped in the cave that became flooded by mon-

soon rains while they were exploring it after a soccer practice June 23.

The eight boys brought out by divers Sunday and Monday were doing well and were in good spirits, a senior health official said today.

Elon Musk via AP
This photo tweeted by Elon Musk shows efforts underway to rescue trapped members of a youth soccer team from a flooded cave in northern Thailand. Musk tweeted early today, he has visited the cave and has left a mini-submarine there for future use.



er helping veterans



Trump picks Kavanaugh for Supreme Court judge

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump chose Brett Kavanaugh, a solidly conservative, politically connected judge, for the Supreme Court, setting up a ferocious confirmation battle with Democrats as he seeks to shift the nation's highest court ever further to the right.

A favorite of the Republican legal establishment in

injuries despite wearing wet and soiled clothes in cold weather, authorities said.

The baby boy is otherwise in good condition, authorities said.

Missoula County Sheriff's deputies were called about 8 p.m. Saturday about a man threatening people in the Lolo Hot Springs area of the Lolo National Forest. Deputies apprehended the man, who indicated that a baby was

before a deputy heard a baby's cry at about 2:30 a.m. Sunday.

He found the baby face-down under the pile of sticks and debris, dressed only in a wet and soiled onesie in the 46-degree weather.

"He suffered some minor scrapes and bruising but overall is in good health," sheriff's spokeswoman Brenda Bassett said in a statement Monday.

The baby was taken to a hospital.

Jeremy Davis, et al., Centerburg.

Kevin Downs, et al., to Roderick Doherty, et al., Clinton Twp., 6.158 acres.

Jo Erskine, et al., to Joshua Chrisman, et al., Monroe Twp., 11.762 acres.

Andrea Fraz to Lisa Lowery, Mount Vernon.

Mark Glenn, et al., to Brock Evans, et al., Mount Vernon.

Jeffrey Kershaw, et al., to

Michael D. Fields, 26

Mount Vernon, was charged with operating a vehicle intoxicated and possession of marijuana, July 8.

Clayton E. Ward, 32, Mount Vernon, was arrested on a warrant, July 8.

Bennie H. Fornash, 42, Lewis Center, was charged with driving under the influence after a motorcycle crash that occurred on Upper Fred-

Council

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And maybe most significantly, he said, the city could slip around the constraints of the Civil Service system to find the best people to head departments. That isn't necessarily someone already working in the department, he said.

A commission might find that no major structural changes are needed and stay with a strong mayor system as is created under the Ohio Revised Code.

"A charter does not automatically mean a city manager," Barone said. "I probably tend to favor a manager because you take more politics out of local government. A manager is probably going to have professional training in human resources and budget management.

"I hope the people who seek to serve on a commission are curious people who want to look at the various alternatives with open minds and will investigate and listen carefully.

He has not had a lot of people approach him on the charter issue. "I think it's too early. If it winds up on the ballot, then people will start asking questions.

"We at least have to explore it!" he said.

John Francis

Second Ward Councilman John Francis has also had no feedback from the public, even though it is a committee he chairs, Employee and Community Relations, that will technically bring the issue before council.

"The only people who have mentioned the charter issue are other council members," he said. He added he is keeping an open mind on the subject and will be interested in hearing what is said Wednesday.

He said things that could be interesting would be changes in the auditor/treasurer setup or ways to modify the civil service process of hiring and firing.

"I'd like to see some way to alleviate pressure on the auditor," he added.

"I think we would need people on the commission with knowledge of local government structure or they'll be lost. They should be open-minded and committed to the community," he said.

Nancy Vail

Third Ward Council Representative Nancy Vail declined to comment on the issue before Wednesday's meeting.

"I've been thinking about it a lot and I just want to see how the cookie crumbles and see what I need to do," she said.

Jeff Gottke

Fourth Ward Councilman Jeff Gottke said he is looking forward to learning more about how a charter can affect city operations and what kind of efficiencies can be created in a charter.

"I don't think anything is actually broken in our system, but there are problems that could be corrected, especially in the hiring of department heads, including the police and fire chief," he said.

He has not had constituents contact him specifically about the charter issue, although, he said, he's had some "general discussions" about it.

On the commission that would study forms of government, Gottke said he would like to see a "long list" of people to choose from. "I'd like to see a cross section of the city; I'd like to see people who are thoughtful and open-minded."

"This could be a big deal in the history of the city and it needs to be an exact and thoughtful process," he added.

Chris Menapace

At-Large Councilman Chris Menapace is an advocate for

charter government because the system of hiring and promotions in our safety forces is broken and a charter can allow us to fix it.

"Under a charter," he said, "A chief can have broader ability to choose his workforce, have more flexibility in promotions and arrange lateral transfers."

It also allows cities to go outside the department to name a chief, if necessary.

"We also need a Human Resources person for the city and an economic developer," he said, "and a charter commission can provide for those posts, or the mechanism to create them."

"We can give department heads more flexibility with purchase orders, but actually create additional checks and balances by having orders over a certain amount reviewed by a board of control," he added.

"I like the strong mayor/council setup and I don't think we need a city manager. Besides, we already essentially have one with the Safety-Service Director."

Menapace has also not had any feedback from voters about the charter issue.

As for the commission, Menapace said "we have to have people dedicated to the community and people who are invested in the community, not someone who only spends part of the year here. I'd like to see a great mix of demographics."

Matt Starr

At-Large Councilman Matt Starr said he favors keeping a strong mayor, balanced by a strong council, to maintain a separation of powers.

Starr said he thinks people in the city like the separation of powers rather than concentrating responsibility in the hands of a city manager.

"We don't have to change the basic structure of government," he said. "It has been practical for us. We've had good people in

office who have been willing to work together."

He cited the flexibility a charter gives as an advantage, as opposed to being locked in to the state-mandated processes, or only having people already on the payroll to choose from for a promotion.

"I compare it to Urban Meyer," Starr said. "He doesn't just recruit players from the student body, but goes out and finds the best players available."

As for the people who will seek to serve on a charter commission, Starr said they should care about the future of Mount Vernon and be willing to learn from other cities about features that might be good for Mount Vernon.

Janis Seavolt

Janis Seavolt, an at-large representative, is looking forward to the meeting Wednesday to answer questions she has about the charter issue.

"I am looking forward to the charter discussion Wednesday night because it makes good sense to study this in depth. We need to hear the benefits, positives and all other aspects of a charter form of government that would benefit the city of Mount Vernon," she said.

"Then we need to also hear equal time on the negatives plus consequences of cities that have had bad results from their charter government and listen to what they had to do to correct the problems.

"Our city has just won an award so we want to keep moving forward with good decisions. Only when you research both will you be able to form a logical conclusion."

Seavolt said she also wants to find out more about how people will be chosen for the commission.

"Will there be debates?" she asked. "These are unpaid positions. Will they have to advertise or campaign?"

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Submitted photo of the 82nd Airborne Division, Dave Kolbe of Apple Valley lets go of the tower over an airport near Xenia. His jump was to bring attention to the "Helgram for veterans."

for a career in the building and construction trades," he said.

Kolbe said that when he got out of the service he continued to skydive for recreation for a couple years, but gave it up when he got married. His wife, Marianne, he said, was not happy when he announced his plans to do the 50th anniversary jump.

He has been active in union and

veterans programs and activities throughout his career and was inducted in the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2015. He retired two years ago, but he stated his own small business, Dave Kolbe Consulting, on political affairs and public relations. He thought the jump

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Council eager to learn more about charters

By CHUCK MARTIN
News Staff Reporter

MOUNT VERNON — At its meeting July 23, City Council will be making a final decision on whether to ask voters to consider appointing a commission to study and possibly write a charter for the city of Mount Vernon, and at the same time, selecting the 15 people to serve on a commission. If the answer is yes, the panel can begin studying the need and writing a proposed charter, to be placed before the voters at the next regular election.

City Council will not write the charter. Individual members can seek to be elected to the commission, but as a body its duty is completed with placing the question on the ballot. The voters will decide if any charter proposed by the commission is adopted.

But before they get to the July 23 council meeting, they will be attending a two-hour committee meeting this Wednesday to discuss the pros and cons of the charter

proposal and learn more about what can and can't be done with a charter.

The *News* contacted council members to get some of their thoughts on the issue:

Sam Barone

Barone, the city's First Ward representative, was the first to raise the charter issue at council, announcing last year that he and a few other people had been talking in general terms about charter government.

"This is just a beginning," said Barone last year. "Should we assemble a commission to look at the pros and cons of a charter?"

Then, as now, he said, "It's an opportunity to explore possible ways to streamline city government and study economies that may be available under a charter that are not available under the statutory form."

The voters might decide no change is needed, he said, or we might be able to eliminate some elective offices, or end staff duplication.

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Washington, Kavanaugh, 55, is a former law clerk for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. Like Trump's first nominee last year, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Kavanaugh would be a young addition who could help remake the court for decades to come with rulings that could restrict abortion, expand gun rights and roll back key parts of Obamacare.

"He is a brilliant jurist, with a clear and effective writing style, universally regarded as one of the finest and sharpest legal minds of our time," Trump said in his prime-time televised White House announcement Monday. He added: "There is no one in America more qualified for this position, and no one more deserving."

With Kavanaugh, Trump is replacing a swing vote on the nine-member court with a staunch conservative. Kavanaugh, who serves on the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, is expected to be less receptive to abortion and gay rights than Kennedy was. He also has taken an expansive view of executive power and has favored limits on investigating the president.

Speaking at the White House, Kavanaugh pledged to preserve the Constitution and said that "a judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law. A judge must interpret the Constitution as written."

A senior White House official said Trump made his final decision on the nomination Sunday evening, then phoned Kavanaugh to inform him. The official said Trump decided on Kavanaugh because of his large body of jurisprudence cited by other courts, describing him as a judge that other judges read.

Monday, Trump phoned retiring Justice Kennedy to inform him that his former law clerk would be nominated to fill his seat. Trump signed Kavanaugh's nomination papers Monday evening in the White House residence.

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