

There's something we can learn from Thailand cave rescue

The world celebrated the rescue of 12 Thai soccer boys from a flooded cave in Mae Sai, Thailand. We grieved over the loss of one brave man, Saman Kunam, who sacrificed his life to deliver supplies to the trapped boys. Many of us watched the media reports fearfully and prayed and hoped for a miracle.



GLENN MOLLETTE
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

The deliverance of all 12 young boys at the hands of skilled divers was something we jointly cheered about. Reports indicated that time was running out for them. More flooding was coming; oxygen and food were in dismal supply. Yet reports are that 10,000 people participated in the rescue effort, including 2,000 soldiers, 200 divers and representatives from 100 government agencies.

We don't want scenarios like what happened in Thailand to ever occur. Such a scenario was a global nightmare but was something that no political group, religious entity or anyone would surely debate. Everything possible would be done to save those young Thai boys.

Yet every day on this planet there are desperate plights playing out around the globe. Young children in Syria still live lives of daily desperation. Families in Iraq and Afghanistan do not face a day without the fear of who may invade their homes to rape, pilfer and murder their families. There are a lot of problems around the world. Hunger, clean water shortages, medical care availability and violence exist to some degree almost everywhere it seems.

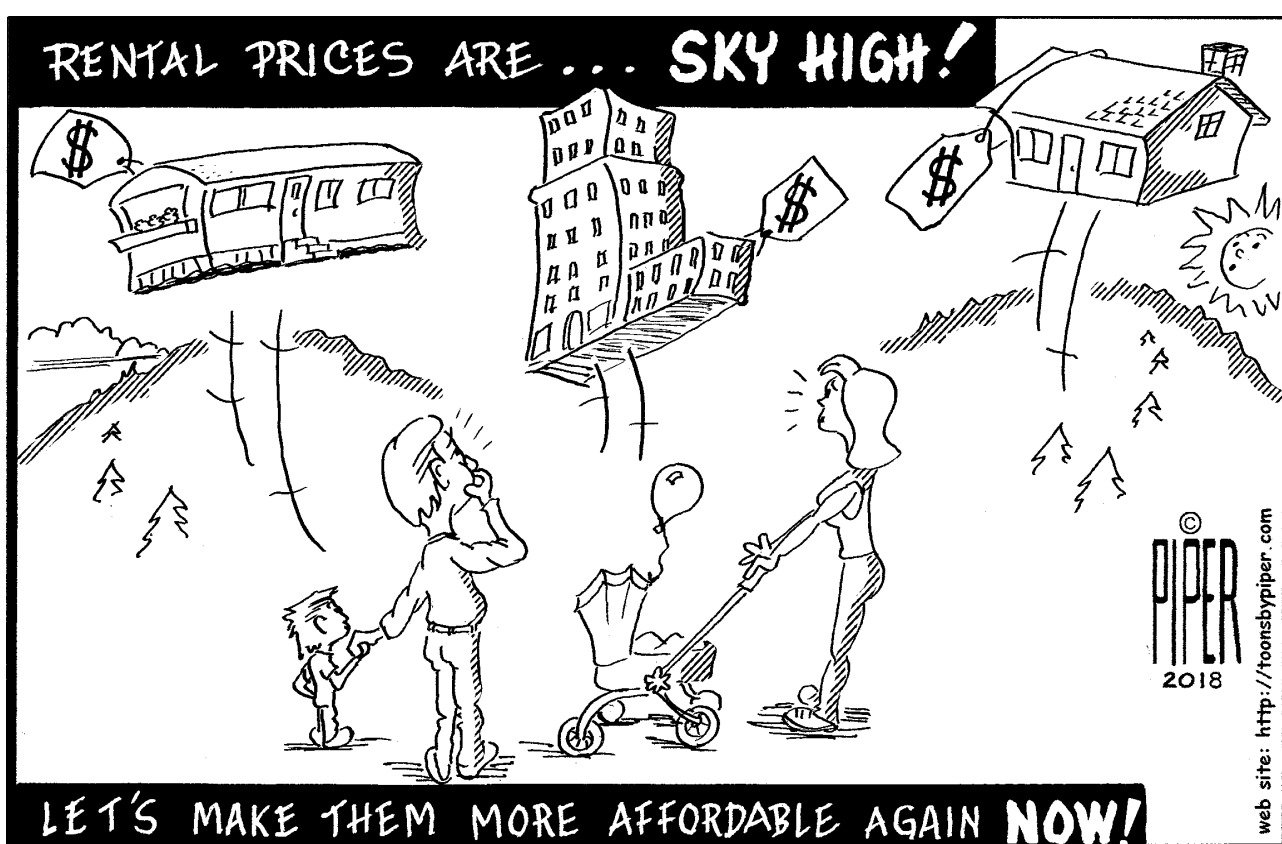
We have all the above and more in America. Employment is better, the stock market is up and the military is stronger than it has been in a long time. But with all we have going for us how many people emotionally feel like they are in a watery cave and their time is running out?

Throughout our country people still struggle with health care. Insurance companies continue to call the shots on procedures and treatments. Doctors order what they feel like the insurance company will agree to or pay for. Is this always in the best interest of the patient or is it always in the best interest of the insurance company? How many Americans are on the verge of drowning from inadequate medical care and are also up to their necks in debt from medical costs? Surely this is a call for national concern and prayer, but more than anything it's a tremendous alarm for us to continue to work together to do something.

The recent shooting in Annapolis, Maryland reminded us again that we have a violence issue, mental issues and gun availability issues in this nation. Everybody should not have a gun in America. Do we not feel like we have all died again every time there is a school or random community shooting? We have to quit arguing about "your gun" and "my gun" and work together to fix all of this — and it's a lot to fix.

Of course, we still have rampant poverty in America. We have too many communities who are afraid to drink their water. Kids are still bullied at school. Nursing homes are still nightmares emotionally and financially and there is always another hurricane, tornado, flood or fire just around the corner.

There is so much about our everyday world that strains us and keeps us fighting for survival. Maybe we can all learn something from the divers and many people from all over the world who came together to rescue those young men from a watery grave. If we don't fight each other and work together for solutions we might solve more of our problems that are about to end our existence.



New faces to introduce at The Observer

Hello, readers. I wanted to take a moment to introduce some new people we have in our newsroom and officially say goodbye to others.

Emily Adair, the special sections editor, left in early June to move back to Missouri. She will be taking on a freelancing position from there, so we didn't lose her entirely, but her presence in the newsroom is missed.

Alyssa Sutton said goodbye to us on Friday. She stepped into her role as a reporter in September when we needed her. A few summers ago, Sutton interned for us. She had turned in an impressive Letter to the Editor regarding an issue at Eastern Oregon University. She met with our editor at the time and walked out of his office with an internship.

Even though she ultimately decided not to pursue a career in journalism, while she was with us, she became an invaluable member of the newsroom. She has an eye for reporting, but will instead be pursuing a master's degree in applied criminology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

With the exit of Adair and Sutton, we have gained two reporters whom I'm very excited about.

Max Denning and Audrey Love are



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
CHERISE KAECHELE

completing their first month at The Observer and have taken what has been a stressful past couple of weeks in stride.

Denning is a Portland native who went to Parkrose High School in Northeast Portland. After graduating from Parkrose, he attended Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, to study journalism as a Park Scholar. While at Ithaca College, Denning spent most of his time working for The Ithacan, the student newspaper, which the Princeton Review ranked the No. 3 college newspaper in the country.

Outside of his time at Ithaca College, Denning interned and worked for two newspapers in Portland — the Portland Tribune and Willamette Week. At those newspapers Denning wrote about a number of topics including crime, gentrification and cultural events. When he's not working, Denning likes to play basketball and golf or watch the Mariners, Ducks and Blazers.

Among other topics, Denning will

be writing about EOU, the City of Cove, business and legislation.

Love comes to us from Durant, Oklahoma, where she has lived since 2015, but she is a native of Southern California. Love graduated from Houston High School in Houston, Mississippi, then started college at Mississippi State, where she eventually majored in journalism. She later transferred to Southeastern Oklahoma State to finish her undergraduate degree. In the process, she wrote for The Reflector at MSU and The Southeastern at SOSU.

Among her interests when she isn't working are traveling, writing for fun, reading and anything else family related. Among other topics, Love will be covering health, the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line, arts and entertainment and education.

When you see either of these two in the community, please introduce yourselves. If you have story ideas, let them know. It's hard coming into a new community, and walking into a newsroom is more of a trial by fire than a gradual transition. Email them at mdenning@lagradeobserver.com or alove@lagradeobserver.com.

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