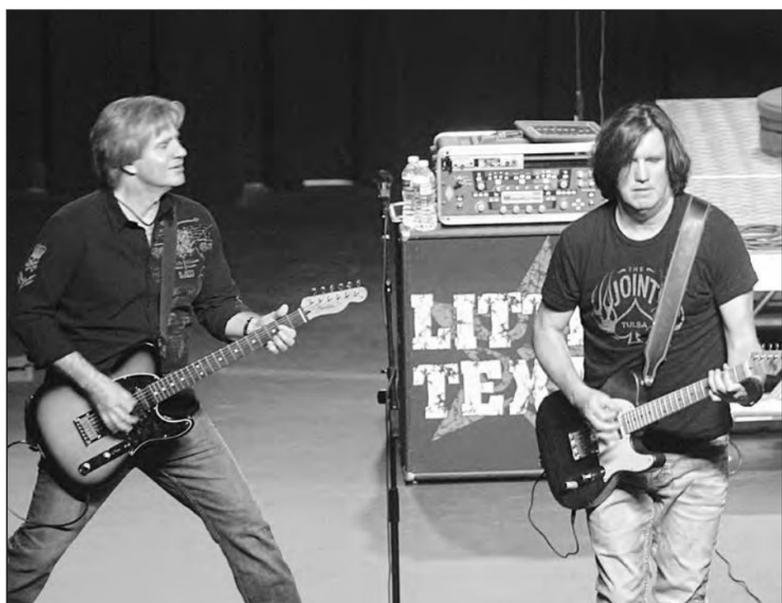


God Blessed Texas



Dwayne O'Brien, left, and Porter Howell of Little Texas jam during a performance at Park Theater on Friday night. The band played all its hits like "Some Guys Have All the Love," "What Might Have Been," and "God Blessed Texas," along with a medley of cover songs that included "Gimme All Your Loving" and "Keep on Rockin' Me Baby."

Smith avoids kidnapping, rape, but gets eight years

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The most serious charges of rape and aggravated kidnapping have been dismissed against a man accused of holding his girlfriend hostage in the Rock Island area for days.

But Mark Kevin Smith, 38, will still serve eight years in the state penitentiary after pleading guilty to aggravated assault, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and violation of the sex offender registry.

Three counts of rape and one count of aggravated kidnapping were dismissed as part of his plea arrangement.

The incident which led to Smith's arrest happened in July 2017 when Smith was

charged with holding his girlfriend hostage inside a small RV for days. The victim said she was viciously beaten by Smith and was not permitted to leave the RV. "He slammed her head against her truck," said sheriff's investigator Jason Rowland of the initial attack. "She still had numerous bruises from the attack visible at the time of this report."

The investigator said the suspect was brandishing a pistol and terrorizing the victim during the time she was held hostage. "Mr. Smith was armed with a pistol and told the victim, on more than one occasion,



SMITH

he would kill her," Rowland said of the days she was reportedly held hostage. An inspection of Smith's record revealed he is a convicted sex offender, convicted of sexual assault in 2007. As such, he is required to list himself with the sex offender registry and report any change of address within 48 hours.

Evidence shows Smith had been in Warren County about three months and had failed to update his address with the registry. Rowland also pointed out Smith having possession of a firearm is a crime since he is barred as a convicted felon.

Chicken attack

Continued from page 1A

Mae had to slip through two fences to get access to the chickens. The first fence is around the entire backyard. Then there is a second fence surrounding the chickens.

Once inside the backyard, evidence at the scene suggests Mae pushed through a loose slat in the gate to reach the chickens.

"I've seen him running loose around the neighborhood a bunch," said Christie. "He's not a bad dog. This is just his nature."

Mae's owner was given a citation for allowing a dog to roam at large and subsequently surrendered ownership to the city. Per city policy, it must be held for five business days

before it can be adopted. Mae will be eligible for adoption this Friday at a cost of \$85.

"It is a beautiful dog with great eyes and it's been well-kept with all its shots and rabies tag," said McMinnville Public Works assistant director Brad Hennessee. "This is a very high-energy dog living that was living in a confined space. It needs to have room to run. This isn't a vicious dog. It's a case that shows dogs and chickens don't always get along."

Mae is a small husky mix and is female. She must be spayed after leaving Animal Control but that cost is included in the \$85 adoption fee.

McMinnville Animal Control can be reached at 473-2553.

Getting paved at last



Lisa Hobbs photo

Garfield Street, largely regarded as the worst road in the city, is being paved. Traffic was reduced to one lane on Friday. Tinsley Asphalt was awarded the bid. Post Road is slated to be paved next.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS
One Team, One Goal, High Levels of Learning for All

MAY 7 TO MAY 11

A district-wide Kindergarten Parent Meeting is scheduled for May 10 at Bobby Ray Elementary Gym from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Kindergarten parents for 2018-19 will need to attend.

WCHS

- May 7-18** -- AP exams for students
- May 9-10** -- Yearbook distribution for students
- May 11** -- Blood drive

WCMS

- May 11** --- Drama Club performance, 6 p.m.

BOBBY RAY ELEMENTARY

- May 10** --- Star Walk
- May 11** --- Career Day

CENTERTOWN ELEMENTARY

- May 10** --- Talent Show

DIBRELL ELEMENTARY

- May 11** --- Talent Show, 1 p.m.

HICKORY CREEK ELEMENTARY

- May 11** --- PTO Fun Day

Tourism Development Board considers projects

BY **LACY GARRISON**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The Tourism Development Board is using code names to discuss prospective property projects.

The first, referred to as Project Post during a meeting Thursday at the Chamber, was put on the market last week. However, several mem-

bers are concerned with the price of the property.

"It is obviously overpriced," said board member Michael Griffith. "Unfortunately, there is really no way to get a true number because there is nothing else like it. That's \$36 a square foot. I would say there is probably \$100,000 of wiggle room. The location on the river in Warren County, ya

know, I live on the river, but it is not the same as living on the river in Rock Island. It's just not."

John Partin asked, "If we seek bond insurance, that's all we are going to be able to do for a long time on that, correct?"

According to Griffith, the bond market is very fickle and they would be one and done.

Several mountain prop-

erties were also a part of tourism board discussion.

Griffith added, "From my perspective, I think to enhance the overall tourism and kayaking thing, you need either a mountain bike or hiking trail, something to showcase the view of the valley."

The next meeting will be held May 14 at the Chamber Community Room.

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HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY
Norman & Melba "Richardson" Ritchey
We would like to invite our family and friends to celebrate our anniversary with us on
May 12, 2018 2:00pm-4:00pm
Our celebration will be at Bethel Hill Baptist Church (Pavilion)
1137 West Greenhill Rd., Centertown, TN *No Gifts Please*

SINGING

The KINGSMEN QUARTET
will be singing at
Friendship Baptist Church
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Rock Island, TN 38581
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