



Lisa Hobbs photo

The newest addition to McMinnville Civic Center is almost complete. A skate park, which will be named after Steven and Kate Smith, needs a couple more finishing touches, specifically a permanent fence and signage listing the rules.

## Skate park rolling toward completion

BY LISA HOBBS  
Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

McMinnville's skate park is nearly complete.

Permanent safety measures have yet to be placed and skating enthusiasts are being asked to wait a little while longer.

"We do have a temporary safety fence around it," said McMinnville Parks and Recreation director Scott McCord, who is asking skaters not

to utilize the area until the permanent fence has been placed. "We have the signs and rules ready to go as soon as the fence is up."

Placing the fence will be Premier Fence Company.

The barrier will provide protection for spectators from flying boards and/or falling skaters, and should also help protect the skaters from interference and distractions by spectators and

passersby.

The idea of a skate park gained speed in January 2017 when Friends of the Greenway president Trevor Galligan announced the group had obtained a \$90,000 grant to help the city of McMinnville establish one.

It was awarded from The Steven and Kate

Smith Community Trust to the organization with the stipulation the park be named after the couple.

While the grant was used to purchase ramps and other amenities from American Ramp Company, the city added \$65,000 from its budget for concrete pad, fencing and lighting.

## VFW to hold music festival Saturday

BY EMMA HOLMES  
Southern Standard Intern  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

This Saturday, the VFW is "getting back to the family" and holding the Blazing Family Music Festival.

This event will have music, food, and many vendors for everyone to enjoy.

The festival will take place at the VFW, 3340 Sparta Highway in McMinnville. This will happen rain or shine. If it rains, the festival will be moved inside the building.

Bring lawn chairs and blankets to spread throughout the lawn.

From 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., the festival will be outside with all the vendors and food trucks. The party will be moved inside from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

A surprise visit from Ma Bell will take place during the inside show at 6:30 p.m.

The music City Hayride Show will have special guest stars like "Officer Randy Goode" from TV's "In the Heat of the Night," Donna Cunningham, Layne

Smith, Dean Holmen, Jerry Thomas, and Allen Karl. Tickets are available on the VFW's website.

This show is \$10 per person and \$25 for a family of three or more. The show starts at 8 p.m. and goes to 10 p.m.

The blazing singing competition will be part of the festival with a cash prize. Through many rounds of competing, 10 young adults will be judged in front of a live audience. The first-place winner will receive \$100, second place will receive \$50, and third will receive \$25. The singing competition will start at 12 p.m.

Door prizes and a silent auction are part of the festival where all proceeds go to Helping Hands Ministry and McMinnville Special Games.

Kayak access on the VFW boat ramp will be shut down for this day only due to the level of activity expected in the parking lot.

For more information, call the VFW at 931-668-8392 or visit the festival's Facebook page called The Post Family Festival.

## Rescue mission ends 18-day ordeal for soccer team

MAE SAI, THAILAND (AP) — A daring rescue mission in the treacherous confines of a flooded cave in northern Thailand has saved all 12 boys and their soccer coach who were trapped deep within the labyrinth, ending a grueling 18-day ordeal that claimed the life of an experienced volunteer diver and riveted people around the world.

Thailand's Navy SEALs, who were central to the rescue effort, said on their Facebook page the remaining four boys and their 25-year-old coach were all brought out safely Tuesday. Eight of the boys were rescued by a team of Thai and international divers on Sunday and Monday.

"We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what. All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave," the SEALs said, referring to the name of the boys' soccer team. "Everyone is safe." People on the street cheered and clapped when ambulances ferrying the boys arrived at the hospital in Chiang Rai city.

The plight of the boys and their coach has captivated Thailand and much of the world — from the heart-sinking news 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 Tham Luan Nang Non cave on June 23, when they were exploring it after a soccer practice and it became flooded by monsoon rains.

Each of the boys, ages 11 to 16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by a pair of divers in three days of intricate and high-stakes operations. The route, in some places just a crawl space, had oxygen canisters positioned at regular intervals to refresh each team's air supply.

Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL died Friday while replenishing the canisters.

Cave diving experts had warned it was potentially too risky to dive the youngsters out.

But Thai officials, acutely aware that the boys could be trapped for months by monsoon rains that would swell waters in the cave system, seized a window of opportunity provided by relatively mild weather. A massive water pumping effort also made the winding cave more navigable. The confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission.

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