



Freedom Fest to be a community celebration

From the County Executive's office

A celebration of America's birthday that offers live music, food trucks, inflatables, games, fireworks and more is planned for Saturday, June 30 at the Lawrence County High School football field.

The Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce is coordinating *Freedom Fest* to add more fun to Lawrenceburg's annual fireworks presentation, said Chamber Tourism Director Rachel Grigsby.

"We want to revive the tradition of treating Independence Day like a community party," she said. "It is a few days early, but we felt Saturday was a day most people could attend. We hope to see a great crowd because we have great things planned."

It begins at 7 a.m. with a Community Yard Sale at Columbia State, 1620 Springer Road. Sellers can reserve a spot three parking spaces wide for \$20, by calling 766-1603 or stopping by the local campus. The event is a fundraiser for the Columbia State Lawrence County Outdoors Club.

Gates at Lawrence County High School open at 4 p.m. Fifteen food trucks and food vendors will be waiting, offering plenty of options for snacks, dinner, and dessert.

Local churches and nonprofits are offering inflatables for children to enjoy at no charge. Bungee trampolines and a gyroscope ride will be available, along with plenty of games. Several merchandise vendors will also offer items for sale.

"Open Mic" performances begin onstage at 4:30. Performers have submitted online auditions, and they are still being accepted at Rachel@lawcotn.com.



BONE CRUSHING BULLS - Rodeo fans enjoyed clowns, bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing, plus other rodeo events Friday and Saturday at Lawrenceburg's Rotary Park. The Lawrence County Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Association presented the annual Lonestar Rodeo. Pictured, the crowd pleasing bull riding competition featured riders aboard bone crunching bulls trying to hold on for an eight second thrill. Local rider Brian Davis at top scrambles to get away from his short bull ride. In the bottom photos, a clown aides a struggling cowboy. - *HoJo photos*



PLANTING THE SEEDS OF A GREAT MARKET - The Loretto Farmers Market Board of Directors are pictured gathering to plan for a great 2018 season. They are (back row left to right) Preston Parsons, Dianne Brown, Harley Simbeck, Soirée-Leone, Jane Simbeck, Royce Neidert, Carol Neidert, and Emily Kennedy; (front row) Frank Valenza (holding the market bag with his logo design), Kay Kress, Martha Simbeck, Donie Simbeck, and Wendell Smith. See our FYI Section (Page B-1) for all the details of Loretto's 2018 market from Board Member Emily Kennedy.

Byrd seeks re-election to State House

State Representative David Byrd (R-Waynesboro) today officially announced his intention to seek re-election to represent the 71st District — **Hardin, Lewis, Wayne and a portion of Lawrence Counties** — in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

"My family and I are very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support and encouragement this year and throughout my time serving in our General Assembly," said Representative Byrd. "We are humbled by the overwhelmingly positive comments sent our way and are honored to fight for you and serve as your voice in Nashville."

Representative Byrd has been a fierce advocate for education throughout his time in the House. Over the past several years, he and his Republican colleagues have increased funding for K-12 education by more than \$1.2 billion while also cutting taxes on hardworking citizens. This investment has resulted in our students becoming the fastest-improving in the entire nation across math, reading, and science. Tennessee also posted the highest high school graduation rates ever in 2017 — 89.1



percent.

On the final day of this year's legislative session, Byrd and House members joined together in an unprecedented effort to ensure that students, teachers, and schools were held completely harmless in the wake of another round of TNReady testing issues.

"Our students, teachers, and schools should not have been penalized for circumstances beyond their control," added Byrd. "I was honored to be a part of an historic effort to ensure they were held totally harmless, and I will continue to fight for these important groups."

In the wake of recent shootings at schools and academic

institutions across our nation, Byrd also pushed for increased resources in an effort to better protect Tennessee's school children.

He was asked by the governor to serve as a member of the working group on school safety. This important group made recommendations and identified immediate enhancements to school safety in classrooms and school buildings across the state. These include a review and risk assessment of all facilities to identify vulnerabilities, an increase in available resources to help secure school resource officers, and a state-wide technology application for anonymous reporting of threats.

Additionally, Byrd advocated for increased funding as part of the 2018-2019 budget. Combined with the school safety plan, the budget doubles the amount of recurring school safety grant funding for schools, which can be used toward resource officers or other facility security measures. The monies will also improve safety for students who rely on school buses to transport them to and from school each day by allowing districts to purchase buses equipped with seatbelts.

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Lawrence County's own Skyliters, celebrating more than 55 years as a rock band, begin their farewell performance for the community at 6:30 p.m. The band includes four original members: Mike O'Rear, Gene Craig, Johnny Marston, Sonny Holley, and Chris Hannah, a relatively new addition. Fans will enjoy their performance of songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

The Northern Lights of Nashville, Tennessee take the stage at 8 p.m. Described as a Southern Americana Band, they are known for smooth three-part harmonies and songs that blend rock and country music. They were recently featured performers at the Art & Music Festival at Brier Hill Farm in Ethridge.

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Kidnapping victim calls Central Dispatch for help

By Sandi Mashburn

The victim of a kidnapping incident was able to place a call to Lawrence Central Dispatch during the weekend, securing her rescue.

On Saturday, officials with Loretto Police Department were dispatched to intercede after a woman placed a 911 call seeking assistance. She told dispatchers that she had been kidnapped by an armed assailant. The victim was in a highly agitated state but was able to provide some key information. She described the car she was in and said that she believed they were traveling along Busby Road.

Loretto police officers were able to conduct a high risk traffic stop on Busby Road, near the Main Street intersection. They were able to get both the victim and the driver, identified as Jimmy Nix, Jr., out of the vehicle without incident.

During an interview with the victim, officers learned that Nix had allegedly held her against her will and assaulted her. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle subsequent to Nix's arrest and reportedly found a large quantity of Xanax pills, two grams of methamphetamine, and a pipe commonly used with meth. The items were seized along with a .380 caliber handgun that Nix reportedly had in his possession.

Nix was subsequently arrested and transported to the Lawrence County Detention Center. He was booked under a number of charges including aggravated kidnapping, domestic assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of Schedule II narcotics for the purpose of resale, possession of Schedule IV narcotics for the purpose of resale, and driving on a revoked driver's license.

The Loretto Police Department was assisted in the operation by members of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, St. Joseph Police Department and Central Dispatch.



Hensley to run for constable in the Southern District

Hello, I am Dickie Hensley. I am running for constable in the Lawrence County Southern District. I would appreciate your vote on August 2. Thank you.
Dickie Hensley