



65th Chamber Christmas Parade is Saturday



The 65th Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, presented by Loretto Telecom, A Skybest Company, is to be Saturday at 5 p.m. A Kid's Place/A Child Advocacy Center is the Grand Marshal. Parade entries will enter Rotary Park off Mahr Avenue. Signs will be posted at both Mahr Avenue gates.

Santa's Workshop, sponsored by Leadership Lawrence Alumni, is Saturday 10a-2p at Rotary Park.

The Lawrenceburg Kiwanis Club will be assisting with the lineup that begins with floats at 3 p.m. Judging for the floats will be held from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m.

All other entries will begin lineup at 4:00 p.m.

The Lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree on the Public Square will kick-off the parade at 5:00 p.m.

Line-up is on Page A-3

LCSAP needs Santa's Workshop volunteers for Saturday

The Lawrence County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is seeking volunteers to help out at Santa's Workshop this Saturday at Rotary Park gym from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Leadership Lawrence County is hosting the workshop that will offer lots of fun activities for kids of all ages. Volunteers will

be needed from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The coalition will need to know names and cell phone numbers of any volunteers so we can co-ordinate help throughout the day. If you know of youth that need community service hours or any adults that would like to volunteer please let us know!

To volunteer, contact Jenny Golden, LCSAP Director at 931-244-5533. The coalition needs one volunteer per "shift" or if someone needs multiple hours, they are welcome to sign up for multiple shifts. The shifts are: 9-10:30 a.m. 10:30-Noon and Noon-2p.m.

Loretto's Ralph J. Passarella museum reopening a hit



Andrew Busby as Mr Glen

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

Once in a blue moon there are events so inspiring that they leave the heart swollen with emotion and the mouth momentarily speechless. It could be a child's first school performance. It could be a concert or an opera. It could be a lovely piece of art or a choir's song. I have experienced these things for sure in my lifetime but can't say how long it has been since something carried me away—that is, until I attended the reopening of the Ralph J. Passarella Museum in downtown Loretto.

Weeks ago, friends contacted me about pieces of my father, Dr. Malcolm Weathers' history. They asked about his farms as well as Loretto Pharmacy, which we just called "the drugstore," and the hospital. Then, recently, I was invited to an event that reminded me of my love for this community of Loretto.

"Please come," organizer Vicki Beckman had told me. "We are reopening the museum."

"You will want to be there," Dianne McMasters said later. "My grandson, Mason, is portraying your daddy in the living wax museum presentation."

To say I was flattered would be an understatement. That people at the museum recognized my father's contributions to Loretto humbled me. My mother, Mary Eleanor Weathers, was unable to attend, but she has watched the video I made of Mason's coming alive (after I pushed his "button") and telling about his life in Loretto at least a dozen times.

Loretto is very fortunate to have had the vision of Louise Passarella Brown. Her brainchild became the Ralph J. Passarella Museum, named in memory of her husband, who with her started Loretto Telephone Company during the time of switchboard operators and party lines. After Ralph died, Louise raised her seven children and built the business into one of Tennessee's most successful small telephone companies. She also gathered a group of people to work together to give back to the community. They called themselves the Loretto Lift-Up Committee, and they held fundraisers and worked tirelessly

on improvement projects all over town. My mother was one of the charter members and delightfully cooked Weiner Schnitzel for Oktoberfest and hosted a Gone With The Wind ball at her home.

Before selling their beloved telephone company, Louise and her family, along with the new owners, SkyBest Holding Company, LLC, donated the museum she had nurtured and supported to what would become Loretto Lift Up, Inc. These dedicated folks then spruced up the museum, focusing on clever vignettes to tell Loretto's history. At the reopening, I was wowed by the fruits of their labor.

The museum is outstanding!

I don't believe I have ever seen a museum in any town with as beautifully displayed a collection of memorabilia. As I walked from station to station and pushed the wax characters' "buttons," I heard "Albert Neidert" (Easton Busby) talk about the first casket company and "Tony Henkel" (DC Potts) remember his time as Loretto's first mayor. "W.H. Augustin" (Henry Augustin) started the Bank of Loretto and a lumber company that is still in existence today. "Father Heuser" (James Gabbett) shepherded the wave of Catholic homesteaders who populated the fledgling town, then called Glenrock, and

Continued on Page A-2



DC Potts as Tony Henkel (left) and Mary Gabbett and daughter Annaleigh (right) examining museum artifacts.



Finley Boston as girl who witnessed the circus train wreck

Loretto After Hours
December 5th, 2019

Stop by to Shop our local merchants staying open until 8:00pm!

'Weathers' Park- 'Hanging of the Greens' Tree Lighting Ceremony
5:00pm: music by LHS band and Santa appearance

Green's Home Center -Tasting with Tastefully Simple and Cider	Lo-Town Brew -Serving coffee at 'Weathers' Park	Sarah C. Rountigue -Free gift wrapping with purchase
Main Street Trading Co. -Guess the Ornaments Game with Prizes!	McMasters Home Gallery -Coloring contest for the kids while you shop!	Fay's Flowers -Refreshments, Select Fall/Christmas décor on sale!
'Pearls...for the Home' -Ugly Christmas sweater contest, cider, ornaments	Hund Haus Wine and Spirits -Tasting from 5:30 to 7:30	Magnolia Nails and Spa -Free 10 minute Salt Room
Loretto Florist -Christmas ornaments on sale, serving cider, cookies, cupcakes!		Gift Certificate Specials