

# Freedom Fest celebrates Fourth with concert, fireworks

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Fireworks and country music stars will punctuate Goodland's Freedom Fest Fourth of July celebration this year.

Tracy Lawrence, DreamWorks recording artist, will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert will start with a performance from Shad and the Minutemen, an area band, at 6:30 p.m.

Beer will be served in a roped-off section at the concert.

Chamber Manager Courtney Warden said she has sold 150 tickets so far and has sold out of the 30 "meet-and-greet" tickets at \$100 each.

"I really think it's going good and everyone's supporting us," she said.

Tickets are still on sale at \$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP reserved seating. The Chamber can now accept credit card payments, too, Warden said.

"I've gotten quite a few calls about that," she added.

At a board meeting last Tuesday, Warden gave members a work schedule for the weekend. She asked the members to sign up for an event and recruit people to help work with them.

"It's too much to expect everyone to be at every event," said Chamber President Donna Swager.

Warden said Justin Bentzinger, a owner of the building that houses the Chamber office, had volunteered to help organize the parade.

Ken Clouse, and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said he would talk to the Leadership Sherman County group to see if the class could work.

Other members said they could talk to the Goodland Lions Club, Rotary, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other groups.

Warden said they need to find someone to clean up the fairgrounds after the concert Saturday. The board members agreed to ask the Boy Scouts, 4-H or other groups to sign up as a community service project.

She said they need 16 people to help carry in concert equipment and another six to help with the band. The band needs three recreational vehicles, she said, to change outfits at the concert site.

Warden said the vehicles would be used for only about 30 minutes and the band would liable for any damages.

The Chamber talked about buying rain insurance for the event for about \$1,000. The insurance will cover the loss if at least a quarter-inch falls.

"I'm going to advocate in favor of that," said Clouse.

Last year the fireworks display was rained out along with the Chamber dinner.

The Chamber depended on the dinner to pay for the fireworks and was financially strapped after the event.

This year, the city, county and businesses have all pitched-in making the Chamber less dependent on the dinner proceeds.

The fairgrounds will be open to vendors, Warden said, and they need someone to run the concession stand. She said the Sno Cone booth and a kettle corn booth are lined up, but they want to have a concession stand to sell hot dogs, nachos, candy and more.

"If we do it, we get the money," she said, adding they could hire high school students to work.

Board member Brian Linin suggested they enlist a group like the music boosters or XPressos to earn money by running the concessions.

Warden said the Chamber could hold a give-away for a Lawrence signed guitar and T-shirt at the concert.

Billboards to advertise the concert, one for westbound and one for eastbound traffic, will go up on I-70 next week, Warden said. She said she got a 'thank you' sign to place on the billboard after the concert, too.

Board members agreed to advertise the concert and Freedom Fest on KFNF radio in Oberlin. Clouse said the station will reach further east than the stations here and into Nebraska.



Tracy Lawrence

## Freedom Fest events

Goodland's Fourth of July Freedom Fest weekend will run from Friday, July 1, thorough Sunday, July 3. Monday is reserved as a rain date.

- Friday** – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Sizzlin' Summer Sales.  
5 p.m.: Chili Cookoff at 11th and Main.
- Saturday** – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Sizzlin' Summer Sales.  
8 a.m.: Citywide garage sales.  
9 a.m.: First National Bank mud volleyball tournament at the old highway department building, 1201 West U.S. 24.  
10 a.m.: Freedom Pageant at Gulick Park for ages 2-7.  
4 p.m.: Vendors set up at Sherman County fairgrounds.  
5 p.m.: Gates open for Tracy Lawrence concert at fairgrounds.  
8 p.m.: Lawrence takes the stage.
- Sunday** – 3 p.m.: Parade on Main from 17th Street to the fairgrounds.  
4 p.m.: Carnival rides will be open at the fairground, 50 cents each.  
6 to 9 p.m.: Chamber Freedom Fest dinner and entertainment.  
at dusk: Fireworks display.

## Music star lists history, favorites

Tracy Lawrence lists his favorites:

**Color:** Cadillac pearl white.  
**Food:** All! Mexican especially.  
**Drink:** Coca-Cola.  
**Snack:** Chips and salsa.  
**Ice Cream:** French vanilla.  
**Dessert:** Hot apple pie.  
**Restaurant:** Ruth Chris'  
**Place:** Napa Valley, Calif.  
**Book:** Left Behind Volume 1  
**Movie:** The Big Lebowski  
**TV Show:** CSI  
**Sports Team:** Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs, Arizona Diamondbacks, Tennessee Titans, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Green Bay Packers  
**Actress:** Kate Hudson, Jennifer Aniston  
**Actor:** Mel Gibson  
**Musical Artist:** Eric Clapton  
**Song:** Drops of Jupiter by Train  
**Car:** Mercedes Benz 600 Coupe Convertible

The basics on Tracy Lawrence's life.

**Birthday:** January 27  
**Born:** Atlanta, Texas  
**Hometown:** Foreman, Ark.  
**Residence:** Nashville, Tenn.  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Blonde  
**Height:** 6'0"  
**Family:** Wife Becca, daughters Skylar JoAnn and Mary Keagan  
**Siblings:** Brothers Laney and Sam, Sisters Wendi, Daphyne and DeRenda  
**Musical Influences:** Merle Haggard, George Strait and Keith Whitley  
**Hobbies:** Fish, workout, cook, attend football and baseball games, tailgating, four-wheeling.  
**Pet Peeve:** Lazy people.  
**Boxers or Briefs:** Both.

## Country artist set to play the old, the new and the hits

Tracy Lawrence started his music career in Foreman, Ark., at age 15. He practiced in honky-tonks, eventually risking it all and heading to Nashville in 1990.

There he worked on side jobs while perfecting his music. He competed in singing contests and it was a live performance on a Kentucky radio station and a showcase at Nashville's Bluebird Cafe that led to a deal with Atlantic Records.

Four Top 10 country chart hits came from his first album, "Sticks and Stones" (1991). His next album, "Alibis" (1993) had four No. 1 hits.

His catalog includes the CDs "Alibis" (1993), "I See It Now" (1994), "Time Marches On" (1996), "The Coast Is Clear" (1997), "Lessons Learned" (2000), "Tracy Lawrence" (2001), "Strong" (2004), "Live" and "The Best Of."

Some of his hit songs include "Alibis," "Can't Break it to My Heart" and "If the Good Die Young."

Lawrence was named Billboard's Top New Male Vocalist in 1992, the Academy of Country Music's Top New Male Vocalist in 1993 and Best New Touring Artist in 1993 by SRO Inc., a booking company for artists out of Middleton, Wis.

He was awarded Country Weekly Golden Pick Awards' Video Artist of the year in 1995 and got the Editor's Choice Platinum Pick crown in 1996.

He contributed the singles "Renegades, Rebels and Rogues" to the "Maverick" soundtrack and has starred in two Country Music Television specials. One special featured footage from a United Service Organization tour where he entertained troops in Kosovo.

He was No. 2 on the list of most-played artists in all genres in the mid-1990s.

The album "Time Marches On" went double platinum.

The concert scheduled here on Saturday, July 2, said Lawrence, will feature older material and songs from his most recent album "Strong."

The album features "Paint me a Birmingham," "It's All How You Look at It," "Strong," "Stones," "Everywhere But Hollywood," "A Far Cry From You," "Bobbie Darwin's Daughter," "What the Flames Feel Like," "Sawdust on Her Hero," "When Daddy Was a Strong Man," "Think of Me" and "The Questionnaire."

Most recently, Lawrence released the single "Used to the Pain." The song will be on his next album, scheduled for release on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

"My music is often a snapshot glimpse into my heart and head," Lawrence's record company, DreamWorks, quotes him as saying. "You can't separate Tracy Lawrence the person from Tracy Lawrence the music. It's all part of my fiber. A part of who I am. It's the paths I've crossed ... the pleasures and the pains of life's experiences ... my life's little gems. Those are the elements that have lead to my personal musical identity."

## Lawrence tour dates

Pittsburgh, Pa.	June 26
Springdale, Ark.	July 1
Goodland, Kan.	July 2
Roswell, NM	July 3
Garland, Texas	July 4
Laughlin, Nev.	July 9
Pleasanton, Calif.	July 10
Trinidad, Calif.	July 12
Santa Maria, Calif.	July 15
Palmdale, Calif.	July 16
Merced, Calif.	July 19
Central Poing, Ore.	July 20
Silverton, Ore.	July 21
Susanville, Calif.	July 22
Fountain, Colo.	July 23
Fort Hood, Texas	July 29
Owensville, Mo.	July 30
Davenport, Iowa	Aug. 2
Little Valley, N.Y.	Aug. 4
Altamont, Ill.	Aug. 6
Belvidere, Ill.	Aug. 12
Mansfield, Ohio	Aug. 13
Zanesville, Ohio	Aug. 19
Oklahoma City	Aug. 27
Woodstock, Va.	Sept. 1
Bethany, Mo.	Sept. 3
Nashville, Ind.	Sept. 10
Southbend, Ind.	Sept. 11
Abingdon, Va.	Sept. 17
Frederick, Md.	Sept. 22
Bloomsburg, Pa.	Sept. 24
Longview, Texas	Oct. 1
Bellville, Texas	Oct. 14
Fort Worth, Texas	Oct. 15
Aiken, S.C.	Oct. 20
Kennesaw, Ga.	Oct. 21
Walker, Minn.	Oct. 29
Green Cove Springs, Fla.	Nov. 4
Homestead, Fla.	Nov. 6
Allentown, Pa.	Nov. 10
Columbus, Ga.	Nov. 19

