

# What a Comedian: Owensboro native brings Huff's HaHa Club home

BY MICHELE LOHMAN  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Laurie Huff, an Owensboro native and entertainment industry veteran, will be returning to the stage locally for Huff's Haha Club "Home for the Holidays."

The show features Huff, along with industry friends and a Kentucky comic, performing stand-up comedy. The performance begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, on Frederica Street's Kentucky Sound Stage, the former Malco location.

Huff said that her mom, local visual artist Diane Huff, introduced her to the visual and performing arts at a young age.

"(My mom) is actually a visual artist herself, so she, obviously, got me involved with visual arts, but with dancing and acting and music and everything else," Huff said. "I became a little bit more serious about it in high school, in particular. I was a member of Owensboro Dance Theatre (ODT) and performed with Theatre Workshop of Owensboro (TWO), and then went on to Western Kentucky University (WKU) and got my BFA in performing arts."

In addition to being a member of both the ODT and TWO, Huff also participated in the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts and "The Stephen Foster Story," a long-running musical production out of Bardstown.

She said she first began performing professionally during the summer while she was in college, and, after graduating from WKU, she returned home to Owensboro and worked at the RiverPark Center, assisting with the show tours coming into the venue.

"I was basically saving up money in order to move," Huff said.

The move would take her to Chicago, Illinois, where she said she was given "wonderful opportunities."

"I was primarily focused as a dancer at that point in time. So, I danced with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and with some concert dance companies there," Huff explained.

"But I still remained involved with acting opportunities, too. I was part of some improv troops while I was up there, in particular, an improv kitchen, which was like this novelty restaurant



Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | awwarren@messenger-inquirer.com

**Laurie Huff poses on stage on Friday at the Kentucky Sound Stage. Huff, who is returning to Owensboro, is bringing the Huff's HaHa Club to the Kentucky Sound Stage.**

that hired improv actors to be waiters and serve customers while doing comedic skits."

Improv, or improvisational theater, involves actors creating scenes, dialogue and characters off the cuff without preparation.

After her time in Chicago, Huff moved on to Las Vegas, Nevada and Los Angeles, California, continuing to pursue opportunities in the performing arts, even traveling and performing internationally for certain projects, but she's called Los Angeles her home for about 10 years.

"I still have a residence, an apartment, in California, but my family has always remained here, and I love my family. So, I've always enjoyed coming back to visit and have been specifically wanting to spend more time here," she said.

And, as a way to spend more time with her family and to showcase her craft to the Owensboro community, Huff has brought the first installment of Huff's Ha Ha Club, "Home for the Holidays" to the Kentucky Sound Stage, a production space that opened in the spring.

"(Kentucky Sound Stage) has finally created a way to bring more performance opportunities to Owensboro, which has been great for me being in the final position of wanting to actually create and produce my own shows and projects of that nature," said Huff.

She said that she left home



Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | awwarren@messenger-inquirer.com

**Laurie Huff talks about her career in entertainment on Friday at the Kentucky Sound Stage.**

to pursue her dreams, but she's thankful that more opportunities for the performing arts are popping up in the area.

"I'm very excited and blessed to have the opportunities I have had, but I never really wanted to necessarily be that far away from home, so I was always wishing that there were ways to make connections here at home," said Huff.

Huff's Ha Ha Club's "Home for the Holidays" is her first production in Owensboro, and she will also be performing during the show, though, she said, she's produced other shows in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Chicago.

"I have returned home to see family, but I haven't necessarily had the opportunity to showcase some of what I've been doing for my old friends and extended family," she said.

She said that the ultimate goal is to bring in national talent to collaborate with local, up-and-coming talent.

"Home for the Holidays" is described by Huff as, "basically taking a humorous look at the holiday, and everything that goes with that like coming home and the annoyances and trials and

tribulations of being with family, as well as the stress of the holidays and really being able to make light of that."

Along with Huff, the performance will feature three more comedians, two from Nashville, Tennessee, Moody Molavi and Judson Veach, and Kyle Allen, a Western Kentucky comedian from Mayfield.

She recommends that the audience be above age 16 because of the later time and potential for adult content.

In addition to the comedy performances, a display of art pieces from Huff's mom, a long-time member of the Owensboro Art Guild and former art instructor at Kentucky Wesleyan College (KWC), will be exhibited. The artist also has a solo exhibition currently on display at the Downing Museum in Bowling Green through Dec. 31. Select pieces of artwork will be available for purchase at the event, too.

Huff said that planning for a second installment of Huff's Ha Ha's is in the works for January, but she's looking for more local talent to take the stage. She has open mic nights scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7 and 14, at the Kentucky Sound Stage. Open mic nights, Huff said, are for getting comfortable with performing and trying out new material.

"I'm definitely looking for more local talent. I feel like there's always been artistic talent here," she said.

Tickets for "Home for the Holidays" are \$25 and can be purchased on Eventbrite.com or at the door. Promotional code Local5 can be used to receive a \$5 discount on tickets.

For more information on upcoming shows and open mic nights, those interested can follow Huff on Facebook or Instagram, or reach out via email to huffshahaclub@outlook.com.

## COUGARS

FROM PAGE B1

be cleaned up before February.

### VS. EVANSVILLE DAY SCHOOL AT THE BEAVER DAM TOURISM CLASSIC

McLean finished the week with a needed bounce-back Saturday, defeating Evansville Day School 61-34 at the Beaver Dam Tourism Classic held in Ohio County. The Cougars regained their shooting touch and produced a more complete effort, pairing efficient offense with defensive control to close the week on a high note.

McLean shot 44.4% from the field and went 8-for-20 from beyond the arc, a stark contrast from the previous night. Bozarth led the way with 17 points, knocking down five three-pointers on eight attempts. Reid Gatton delivered one of his strongest offensive performances to date, scoring 11 points on 5-for-8 shooting while adding a free throw. Baird scored 10 points and hit two threes, and Groves added eight points while continuing to provide structure in the halfcourt.

McLean also got meaningful production from several role players. Gavin Mauzy scored seven points, including a three, and Will Gatton was perfect from the field, going 3-for-3 for six points.

The Cougars' balance showed up in the way the scoring was distributed and in the way possessions were finished, with McLean con-

verting 24 field goals and limiting wasted trips.

The Cougars were also solid at the free-throw line, hitting five of seven. While that number did not need to carry the game the way it did at Webster County, it was a welcome correction after the struggles the night before at Muhlenberg.

### LOOKING AHEAD

McLean County's record stood at 3-2 after the four-game week, and the Cougars finally returned to Calhoun for their home opener Tuesday, Dec. 16, against Ohio County. After that district matchup, McLean will head back out for the Southwire Classic at the Owensboro Sportscenter, facing Butler County on Friday, Dec. 19, and Owensboro on Saturday, Dec. 20. The Cougars will then return home Monday, Dec. 22, to host Valley in the Independence Bank Christmas Tournament.

The early weeks have tested McLean County's ability to find consistency from night to night — from grinding out a win with modest shooting at Dawson Springs, to producing a breakout shooting performance in a double-overtime loss at Webster County, to navigating a difficult district road game at Muhlenberg and finally responding with a sharp, confident win over Evansville Day.

The Cougars have already shown the kind of resilience that will matter later in the season, and the schedule ahead offers little time to slow down.

## LEGAL NOTICE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**  
**Snow Removal Services**  
McLean County Courthouse, PVA Office, and Sheriff's Office

**1. Introduction**  
McLean County Fiscal Court is requesting sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to provide snow and ice removal services for designated county facilities, including sidewalks and parking areas, during the winter season. The intent of this RFP is to ensure safe, timely, and reliable access to county facilities during inclement weather events.

**2. Facilities Covered**  
Snow and ice removal services under this RFP shall include, but are not limited to, the following locations:

- **McLean County Courthouse** – sidewalks, entrances, and parking areas
- **McLean County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) Office** – sidewalks, entrances, and parking areas
- **McLean County Sheriff's Office** – sidewalks, entrances, and parking areas

Exact service areas may be reviewed during a site visit if requested by the County.

**3. Scope of Services**  
The selected contractor shall provide all labor, equipment, materials, and supervision necessary to perform the following services:

- Snow plowing and removal from parking lots and drive lanes
- Clearing of sidewalks, ramps, and building entrances
- Application of NON-Corrosive ice control materials as needed
- Return visits as necessary during prolonged or repeated weather events

All work shall be performed in a manner that minimizes damage to pavement, curbing, landscaping, and structures.

**4. Service Timing and Performance Standards**  
• Snow and ice removal services **must be completed prior to the opening of regular business hours** on days when inclement weather occurs.  
• County offices generally open during standard weekday business hours; services shall be scheduled accordingly to ensure safe public access at opening.  
• The contractor must be capable of responding promptly to overnight, early morning, weekend, and holiday weather events.

Failure to meet required service timelines may be considered grounds for contract termination.

**5. Contractor Qualifications and Requirements**  
All proposers must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Demonstrated experience providing commercial or governmental snow and ice removal services
- Adequate staffing and equipment to service all listed facilities concurrently if necessary
- Ability to respond quickly to changing weather conditions

**6. Insurance Requirements**  
The successful contractor shall maintain, at a minimum, the following insurance coverage for the duration of the contract:

- **Commercial General Liability Insurance** with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- **Automobile Liability Insurance** covering all owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles

Proof of insurance shall be submitted with the proposal and maintained throughout the contract term. McLean County shall be named as an additional insured where applicable.

**7. Business License Requirement**  
All proposers must possess and maintain a valid McLean County business license. Proof of licensure shall be included with the proposal submission.

**8. Proposal Submission Requirements**  
Proposals shall include, at a minimum:

- Company name, address, and primary contact information
- Description of relevant experience and qualifications
- List of equipment to be used for snow and ice removal
- Proof of required insurance coverage
- Proof of valid McLean County business license
- Proposed pricing structure (per event, per inch, seasonal, or other clearly defined method)

**9. Evaluation Criteria**  
Proposals will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Experience and qualifications
- Ability to meet required response times
- Adequacy of equipment and staffing
- Compliance with insurance and licensing requirements
- Cost and overall value to McLean County

McLean County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities, and select the proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the County.

**10. Submission Deadline and Delivery**  
Proposals must be received by:  
10 a.m. Central Time on December 29th, 2025

Delivered to:  
McLean County Judge/Executive's Office 210 Main Street, Calhoun, KY 42431

Late proposals will not be accepted.

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## DID YOU KNOW?



By Duke Brubaker

Fernando Mendoza, Quarterback for Indiana University, became the first player from IU to win the Heisman Trophy, securing the award after leading the Hoosiers to an undefeated regular season.

Archie Griffin of Ohio State remains the only player in college football history to win the Heisman Trophy twice, claiming back-to-back awards in 1974 and 1975.

The Hesiman trophy is modeled after Ed Smith, a running back who played for NYU in 1934, but Smith did not realize he was the model for the famous award until 1982.

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