

# Hee Haw show to benefit Hawkins

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Local comedians are staging a Hee Haw and Howdy show Saturday to benefit retired Dyersburg Police Capt. Rayburn Hawkins, who has cancer.



Hawkins

Hawkins, 63, is battling lung cancer that has seeped into his bones. He was diagnosed with cancer last July, after seven months of inconclusive tests,

biopsies and exams.

Since then, he's undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatments, said his wife, Melinda.

The group performing the Hee Haw show is the same one that staged it in May to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Some cast members have changed and new musical numbers have been added, said Patsy Lawson, spokeswoman for the group.

They're doing it again because so many people missed it the last time, Lawson said.

Hee Haw and Howdy will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Dyersburg Middle School auditorium on College Street in Dyersburg. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Dyersburg Police Department or at the door.

All money raised will go to pay the Hawkins family's medical bills, Lawson said.

"We decided to do it for someone in Dyer County," Lawson said. "We felt like he gave his life to the community."

Hawkins was a police officer for 24 years.

Tab Hawkins, one of the main characters in the show, is Capt. Hawkin's brother.

A natural comedian, Tab Hawkins has performed Hee Haw shows around the country, many of them to raise money for the cancer society. He lost a child to cancer several years ago, Lawson said.

He never thought he'd be doing a benefit for his brother.

The medical bills for cancer treatment are just staggering, Tab Hawkins said. "We're just trying to ease the financial burdens."

"He has spent his whole life helping other people. I'm just glad we can return the favor."