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Section: LIFESTYLE

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The event:

The Hope Gala and Hope Gala Late Night raised more than \$350,000. The events on Aug. 2 were held consecutively at Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort.

The scene:

The Hope Gala, formerly known as Extravaganza, began with an honoree's reception, followed by a silent auction, then dinner and live auction.

The Hope Gala honored **Buffalo Rock's** James Lee, Jr. His son Jimmy Lee III accepted for him. The theme was "A Night of Knights." Everywhere attendees turned there were symbols of the medieval period, including costumed performers. Designer Bob Vardaman helped with the décor. In the live auction, the visit with Sen. Richard Shelby in Washington, D.C., and Senate seating package was won by Jennifer Wilson. The "Fighter Pilot for a Day" package was won by Barbara Nichols.

For the first time, the Hope Gala was followed by Hope Gala Late Night. The extended evening that included dancing and an auction started at 9 p.m. at the Ross Bridge Club House. That portion of the night was presented by the American Cancer Society's Junior Executive Board.

Spotted:

Honorary chairman Fox deFuniak, event chairwoman Laura McDonald, and committee members Terry Chapman and Jennifer Wilson

Among guests at the gala were Jeffrey and Gail Bayer, Ann Bruno, Kenneth Bruno, Theresa Bruno, Michael Choy, Burton and Laura McDonald, Mark and Paula Midyette, Fouts and Allene Parnell, Edward Partridge, Clayton and Sherri Pledger, Charles Roundtree, Ann Lee, Jodi Lee, Rose Lee, LaTanishia

Walters, Robin and Carolyn Wade, Linn Wheelock, Byrd and Laura Williams, Lisa Sharp, Scott Pruitt, Scott and Tracy Parks.

Late Night guests included Magen Hughes, Matt Little, Robyn Henderson, Evan and Shelby Gentile, Leighton Denman, Millie Powers, Anne Martha and Brian Corley, Dorsey Cox, Leslie Cooper and Jennifer Cooper. The events benefited cancer research, education programs, advocacy efforts and patient support.