

Beau's Buddies holds country concert

By Kelley Kirk

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When Dr. John Gibbs became the patient, he vowed to make a difference in other cancer patients' lives.

Gibbs was diagnosed with stage two liposarcoma in early May 2007. He underwent extensive chemotherapy and surgical procedures to rid him of the cancer. On Nov. 10, 2007, he was declared to be in remission.

"While he was in treatment he made a pact that if he survived that he just wanted to do something to make a difference," said Debbie Hudson. Hudson is one of 10 board members of **Beau's Buddies** Cancer Fund, the fundraising organization that Gibbs established last year. **Beau's Buddies** seeks to enrich the lives of patients and their families actively fighting cancer in Eastern North Carolina. The organization's motto is "Friends helping friends."

In its first year, they held a fundraising dinner and golf tournament.

"We wanted to do something different this year and discussed a concert," Hudson said.

Tonight **Beau's Buddies** will present a concert with country singer Heidi Newfield at the Hilton Greenville in one of the ballrooms.

"We did a dinner and auction last weekend and she was actually here for that, too. She was so down to earth, it really made a difference. She was just wonderful," Hudson said.

There are two ticket options for the fundraiser: attend the concert only at 8:30 p.m. for \$39 or arrive early to enjoy dinner and an open bar at 6:30 p.m. for \$69. The deadline to reserve tickets for the dinner was Wednesday. The doors for the concert will open at 8 p.m.

"It's going to be a good night for the people that are there, and they are helping make a difference. It's a win-win." Hudson said.

Newfield was willing to assist the organization since cancer has touched her own family. Her mother-in-law, who lives here in Greenville, is currently undergoing cancer treatment. Her husband, NFL sports agent Bill Johnson is a Greenville native who graduated from J.H. Rose High School.

Newfield's a California native, growing up on a horse farm in Healdsburg, in middle of the Sonoma County wine country. Her parents exposed her to the music of Ernest Tubb, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline. Newfield's older sisters introduced her to The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith and AC/DC. With a diverse palate of musical tastes, Newfield also fell in love with traditional blues, learning to play harmonica at an early age.

Newfield originally sang in the band Trick Pony with Keith Burns and Ira Dean. Newfield last performed in Greenville with her former band at the Winterville Watermelon festival in 2005.

Contact Kelley Kirk at kkirk@reflector.com or (252) 329-9596.

If you Go!

What: Heidi Newfield concert

When: 8 p.m. today

Where: Hilton Greenville, 207 S.W. Greenville Blvd.

Cost: \$39, \$19 for ages 20 and younger

Call: 916-2884

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