

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The 17th annual Blue Ridge Fest will take place from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on May 16 in Pickens, featuring food, classic cars and live music.

Blue Ridge Fest set for May 16

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — The opportunity to view classic cars up close and experience a variety of entertainment will take place at the 17th annual Blue Ridge Fest from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. May 16 at the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative headquarters in Pickens.

Starting at noon that day, a classic car lineup will take place, and the gates will open at 2 p.m. The largest cruise-in in the Upstate, the event will feature as many as 600 classic pre-1979 cars throughout the evening. Legendary artist Lloyd Price will headline the entertainment, which also includes The Tams and Jim Quick and Coastline.

Price, whose 1959 hit song "Personality" is one of his best known, is considered among the premier rhythm and blues singers of the 1950s and 60s. He is also known for the hit "Lawdy Miss Clawdy," which topped the R&B charts for seven weeks in 1952.

The Tams have been performing for more than 50 years, with hits such as "Be Young, Be Foolish, Be Happy," "What Kind of Fool" and "I've Been Hurt." Jim Quick and Coastline have been touring the Southeast for more than 15 years, playing nearly 300 shows a year and releasing more than 11 albums.

Charles Dalton, president and CEO of Blue Ridge Electric Coop, said Blue Ridge Fest has generated more than $1.6 million over its 17 years to support local Upstate communities. Proceeds from the event will be given to 12 local charities serving Oconee, Pickens, Anderson and Greenville counties.

"The recipients of the funds raised by Blue Ridge Fest serve our communities by providing basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and health care," Dalton said. "Thanks to the public's support, the support of our sponsors and the dedication of employees and other volunteers, we are able to make a significant impact on thousands of families and individuals."

Dalton said $183,000 was raised last year. This year's recipients are Developmental Center for Exceptional Children, Dot's Kitchen, Helping Hands of Clemson, Meals on Wheels — Anderson, North Greenville Food Crisis Ministry, Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund, Pickens County Meals on Wheels, Ripple of One, Rosa Clark Medical Clinic, Safe Harbor, Samaritan Health Clinic of Pickens County and United Christian Ministries.

Tickets are $25 for adults and $15 for children, with discount tickets available prior to the event online and at any Blue Ridge office.

"When you buy a ticket, a T-shirt or a hamburger, you're helping someone that can't quite make it on their own," Dalton said. "Blue Ridge Fest is our employees' way of giving back to the community, but we would not be successful without the public."

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's Pickens office is located at 734 West Main Street. For more information, or to buy discount tickets, call 1-800-240-3400 or visit www.blueridgefest.com.

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