

Change in performers won't dampen Blue.

Blue Ridge Electric Co-op ready to rock Friday

BY MIKAYLA SHARPE
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — Blue Ridge Fest will be in full swing this Friday, and with the unfortunate cancellation of Bobby Rydell's performance, Blue Ridge Electric Co-op snagged legendary performer **Ben E. King** just in time for the festival.

With timeless hits such as "Stand By Me" and "There Goes My Baby," King is sure to get the crowd bee-bopping to his classic tunes still heard on the radio today.

Rydell, known for his best-selling hit, "Wild One," is unable to perform at Friday's festival as he faces an upcoming medical procedure, a press release said.

In addition to King, rock 'n' roller Jimmy Clanton is predicted to be a crowd favorite. Clanton is known for his 1958 smash hit, "Just a Dream," as well as "Venus in Blue Jeans," "Go Jimmy Go" and "Another Sleepless Night."

Jim Quick and his Coastline Band are no rookies to Blue Ridge Fest's stage — the fun-loving Southern band is back for another round of good-time tunes. Quick and Coastline have been charming the South for 15 years and released their 11th album, "Down South," in 2010.

A '50s-themed festival wouldn't be right without a car show. The festival is set to display more than 600 vintage automobiles throughout the evening, making it the biggest classic car cruise-in in the Upstate.



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The annual Blue Ridge Festival in Pickens has provided over \$1.3 million to local charities over its 15-year run. This year's event, featuring a classic car cruise-in and timeless musician Ben E. King, will be held at the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative facility in Pickens on Friday.

"With the weather looking good for Friday, we're expecting more classic cars than ever before. This will probably be the biggest Blue Ridge Fest of its 15-year history," BREC employee Liza Holder said.

Of course, the most important reason to attend Friday's festival is to support

Upstate charities. Each year, it raises roughly \$150,000 for Oconee, Pickens, Anderson and Greenville counties, Holder said. Since it began, Blue Ridge Fest has distributed more than \$1.3 million across the Upstate.

This year, local charities affected by the festival are: Anderson Interfaith Minis-

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Ridge Fest mood

tries, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Helping Hands of Clemson, Meals on Wheels-Anderson, Meals on Wheels-Pickens, Mountain Lakes Access Health, Oconee AID Association, Oconee Presbyterian Service Fund, Sabrina House Children's Charity, Safe Harbor, Samaritan Health Clinic of Pickens County, Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources and United Christian Ministries.

You may not want to forget to sign up for the raffle contest — the first-place prize is a new, cherry-red 2011 Chevrolet Camaro. Second place is a \$5,000-cash prize. Raffle tickets are \$10 and can be purchased along with festival tickets online, by phone or at any BREC office.

General admission advance ticket payment is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 6-12. Visit www.blueridgefest.com, call (800) 240-3400 or visit any BREC office or Blue Ridge Security Systems offices in Anderson. Pre-ordered tickets will be ready for pick-up at the festival gate. Ticket prices at the gate are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

The festival is at BREC's Pickens office grounds, 734 W. Main St.

"We're so excited for Friday," Holder said. "Ben E. King, Jimmy Clanton and Coastline are such phenomenal musicians; it is going to be a great night of music, cars and family fun."

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