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like this regularly, so that everybody can come into town, spend money in our restaurants, go out to shop – just have a good time in the city,” said Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales. “This is a beautiful place.

“You’ve got all the views, the lake, the mountains. Everything is right here. Just come here and have a good time, enjoy our little town.”

Ordiales said she spoke with both locals and people from out of town, all of whom expressed interest in the event returning next year, which she said she’s hopeful the city can make happen.

“I’d like to thank all of the vendors,” said Ordiales. “They are Sundance Grill, Zaxby’s, The Smoken Parlor, Barney’s Tap & Grill, the Boy Scouts of America and Heavenly Bake Shop. We really appreciate them supporting us, our very first big effort on the street.

“This is the first time we’ve ever done this, so we’re really excited about the turnout and the way that everybody is having a good time. We have music by Tim Massey, and the Elvis impersonator was Steve Cooper of Heavenly Bake Shop.”

Now in its ninth year, the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In brings in annually people from all over the Southeastern U.S. and beyond.

Raymond Montgomery of Olive Branch, Mississippi, is a longtime friend of Moonshine Cruiz-In Organizer Rakes Parrish, and he said the Cruiz-In has grown every year since it started nine years ago.

“It’s a love of cars,” said Montgomery, explaining why the Cruiz-In has become so popular. “We just love to go on cruises like this, meet different people. Every year we come up here, we just have a reunion.”

Montgomery has a 1948 Plymouth, and he inherited his love of cars from his father.

That sense of family tradition is something that Wayne Porter of Navarre, Florida, would definitely say plays into his passion for cars, which he collects with his



Sally Field and Burt Reynolds in this classic Pontiac Trans Am. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Moonshine Cruiz-In Organizer Rakes Parrish and Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

family.

This is Porter’s second year driving up for the Moonshine Cruiz-In, and he brought his 1928 Ford painted Smart Car Orange, which he purchased some seven years ago. His car is unique in that, instead of hotrod barrel seats, he decided to make and install whiskey barrel seats.

“It’s the enjoyment of showing what you’ve done,” said Porter. “We love showing the car. Whether we get a trophy or not – it’s not about trophies or anything, it’s just showing the different cars.”

Lonnie Garrett out of Yorkville attended the Cruiz-In on the Hiwassee Downtown Square with his friends, and he stayed the entire weekend of the event.

This was Garrett’s first year attending the Georgia

Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In, and he brought his 1949 Ford Custom.

For Garrett, as with many classic car enthusiasts, antique cars signify a bygone era, a golden age of American automobiles that most people don’t even see in their rearview mirrors anymore.

“I like to see the older cars that are still going, some of the old history,” said Garrett. “I don’t like these new computerized cars in this fast-moving world. I like these old ones that I know will work. You can fix them out on the side of the road, but you can’t do that with the computerized ones.”

Cruiz-In participants spent that day making various stops in the area, escorted around Towns County by local law enforcement.

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released album “That’s Life.”

Those who attended the Butternut Creek Festival over the weekend will be familiar with Country River Band, which specializes in classic Country Music. Show times on Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

On Saturday, July 22, Crystal Gayle brings her gorgeous hair and beautiful voice to Anderson Music Hall. Gayle replaces Little Miss Dynamite, Brenda Lee, who regrets she won’t be able to perform due to a broken foot. Gayle will follow the Mountain Home Music Band. Show times, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

On Sunday, July 23, Interfaith Worship Service will be held beginning at 11 a.m.; the Gospel Music Show begins at 2 p.m., with The McKameys; Archie Watkins and The Inspirations, and Chris Rumpfelt and Family.

On Monday, July 24, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Ronnie McDowell and Blend will perform prior to the annual Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant at 8 p.m.

McDowell, of course, is famous for No. 1 hits “Older Women” and “You’re Gonna Ruin My Bad Reputation,” and 11 more Top 10 hits. He has also released more than 20 studio albums, and has

been signed to Curb Records since 1986.

On Tuesday, July 25, Anderson Music Hall favorites Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers perform. Of course, their all-time favorite hit “All The Gold In California,” is just one of their 35 Top 40 hits on the Country Music charts.

The Gatlin Brothers will follow Nashville’s own Shelby Lee Lowe, who has established himself as an authentic Country Music entertainer with comparisons to revered Country artists such as Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings and Dwight Yoakam. Show times are at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Of course, if you want to hear a real Haggard, that would mean attending Wednesday, July 26, to hear Merle’s oldest son, Marty Haggard.

“This is the first time we’ve booked Marty here,” said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. “He’s got a wonderful voice and yes, he does sound a lot like Merle Haggard. He will be doing a tribute to his father on Wednesday, July 26.”

Marty Haggard follows Soco Creek Band out of Fairview, North Carolina, with show times at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 27, is Bluegrass Day, with performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., with Rhonda Vincent, Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long, and Raymond Fairchild.

On Friday, July 28, Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band lead off the day, followed by legendary Mickey Gilley of “Urban Cowboy” fame. Gilley is a cross-over artist – Country and Pop, with a Royal lineage. He is a cousin of “The Killer,” Jerry Lee Lewis. Show times are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m., the annual Talent Contest with Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band. This year features 35 entries.

The music shows come to a close on Saturday, July 29, with Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band, and B.J. Thomas, famous for a career of Pop, Gospel, and Country Music.

His legendary song, “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head,” was featured in the Paul Newman, Robert Redford classic, “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.” It was also the Academy Award winning song for 1970.

Thomas is also remembered for “Hooked On A Feeling,” and “Hey, Won’t You Play, Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song.”

Army Veteran Ronald Tomczyk receives Quilt of Valor

Ronald Tomczyk was presented a Quilt of Valor on July 6, 2017, at his home in Blairsville, GA, by Misty Mountain Quilters Guild, Quilts of Valor quilters, Anna Stone and Bonny Garrett.

Mr. Tomczyk grew up in a rural area in central Wisconsin. He joined the Army just one year after graduating from high school. He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany as company clerk until he was sent to Vietnam. He served in Long Binh at the United States Army Republic of Vietnam Headquarters for one year. His rank was Staff Sergeant GE6. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Ronald Tomczyk earned an Undergraduate Degree in Economics and Accounting from the University of Wisconsin, in Stevens Point, WI. He earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on finance from Texas A & M. He worked in



Army Veteran Ronald Tomczyk

the paper industry for 29 years, banking for 8 years, and public accounting for 3 years.

He and his wife, Pat, have lived in Blairsville for 12 years. He is active in many service projects in the community and at St. Francis Church. They have one son and one daughter.

Quilts of Valor are given to veterans who have served in combat to thank them for their service. You can nominate a veteran for this honor. Go to the Quilts of Valor Foundation’s website, www.qovf.org, to submit a combat veteran’s name. Click on Take Action and Request a Quilt.

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