

# Fair...from Page 1A



**Hilda Thomason said postponing the Georgia Mountain Fair this year and for the first time ever “breaks my heart.”**

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

week and wanted to know what we were planning on doing,” Taylor said. “He said that all his other fairs except for one in October and one in November (had) canceled.

“He said that if we are proceeding with the fair, then he would help try to find another carnival. They were just not traveling because they didn’t

have any fairs scheduled.”

The fairgrounds has a two-year contract with Amusements of America, which will roll over to cover the fairs of 2021 and 2022.

Director Danny Burch discussed the financial aspect of the fair, noting that diminished attendance this year would put the group in a bad position.

“We all know that over the past years, it has always been a struggle for us to make money with the fair,” Burch said. “If we have a 30 percent decrease in attendance, then we are in the hole in my opinion. We are going to come away from the fair with no money left.

“We have got to continue on to the rest of this year and so forth. Just from a strictly business standpoint, even if you don’t believe that this virus is real, at this point I think it behooves us to postpone this fair.”

With the combination of the carnival not being a part of the fair and the group likely to lose money this year given the uncertainty about attendance amid the pandemic, the decision was made to postpone the Georgia Mountain Fair until 2021.

Fairgrounds General manager Hilda Thomason said that the situation this year is “unique,” and it has the organizers of every fair and event in the country wondering what to do.

“There’s a lot of people that don’t know what to do, and nobody knows the answer – this has never happened,” Thomason said.

The full lineup of vendors who were scheduled to do the fair is being moved to the Fall Festival, which is scheduled to run Oct. 9-17. To alleviate some of the loss of not having a fair, the fairgrounds is aiming

to make the Fall Festival that much more festive for people to enjoy.

“We are planning on having the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade during the Fall Festival,” Thomason said. “We are going to do the 70th

Anniversary Party on the night before the Fall Festival starts, on Oct. 8.

“We are just very sad and disappointed that we can’t have it, but there is so much uncertainty right now, and we have to think of safety first. We

just want people to understand, and maybe next year we can have the biggest fair we have ever had.”

For more information on upcoming events, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

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Jerry said the museum could open as early as this Friday, July 24, despite initially aiming for a launch date coinciding with next weekend’s Moonshine Cruiz-

In at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

“I hope everyone comes out and supports us, because everything goes to charity,” he said. “We’re open all day long,

and it’s only \$5. Kids 12-and-under are free, so it’s affordable for everyone. I believe we’re all going to have a really good time here.”



**The museum will house approximately 100 classic cars, hot rods, motorcycles and more.**

Photo by Lowell Nicholson