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Vanilla Ice, Jerry Jeff Walker, Pat Green headline 'biggest pre-party of the year'

GRAY WHITTEN
The Battalion

The sixth annual Ag Kickoff treats Aggies to everything needed for a good time: someone old, someone new, a rapper from Garland and a few

surprises, too.

Texas country music, ranging from the classic songs of Jerry Jeff Walker to the catchy party tunes of Pat Green, will take over after Vanilla Ice warms things up tonight at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.

The amphitheater will be filled with several thousand students and fans gathered together to start the night off with food, drink and good live music.

The Ag Kickoff is billed as "the

biggest pre-party of the year," and the three headliners are all aiming to keep the claim accurate. The first Kickoff, held in September

The first Kickoff, held in September 1993, featured Walker and Robert Earl Keen in the first concert event of its kind at Wolf Pen Creek.

After a sold-out show at the Texas Hall of Fame last year, Vanilla Ice is back and preparing to take the stage in College Station again. Presumably the stage will be lit up and chumps will be waxed like a candle.

This will be Vanilla's last show as the old-school rapper loved by the 20 million anonymous owners of *To The Extreme*.

When he reappears, The Iceman promises a different, more aggressive format to go with his forthcoming Universal album (featuring collaborations with KoRn, The Bloodhound Gang and Lenny Kravitz).

In an interview with The Onion earlier this year, Ice commented on the style of his current show.

"As far as my music goes, my music's still hardcore—you know, the new music, at least, is pretty hard-edged. It's going to be a shock for people to see me like this, because it's definitely a swing to a different side of what you'd expect. Definitely," Ice said.

Ice said he still enjoys performing his most notable song.

"I enjoy playing it still, you know? It's my number-one hit," Ice said.

Whatever the changes, Ice will give several thousand happy Ags the chance to garble the words to "Ice, Ice Baby" at full volume.

Also appearing at the Kickoff is Green's enthusiastic style of Texas country.



Pat Green



Jerry Jeff Walker

Schaberg said the singer is gaining fans across the state, and he feels Green is close to making it big.

"Pat Green has a new live CD that just came out in the last couple of days," Schaberg said. "I think this album is really going to be an eye opener for a lot of people on Pat. This is one of the strongest live CDs I've ever heard."

Schaberg said half of Green's new album, *Here We Go* was recorded locally at Shadow Canyon, and the other half at Gruene Hall in Stillwater.

After a five-year absence, Walker is once again a part of the Kickoff.

Mark Schaberg, the event promoter, said he is excited about Walker's return to the bill.

"Jerry Jeff Walker is, of course, nothing less than an icon," Schaberg said.

Walker will take the stage as the closing act of the Kickoff and finish the show in time for the audience to make it to the first Midnight Yell of the season.

The Kickoff will give Aggies one more chance to see Green in a small setting close to home.

Old school rap and country will share the stage tonight in College Station. Tickets will be available at the gate, and doors open at 6 p.m.

Ticket sales for the Aggie Kickoff benefit the A&M Bonfire Committee.

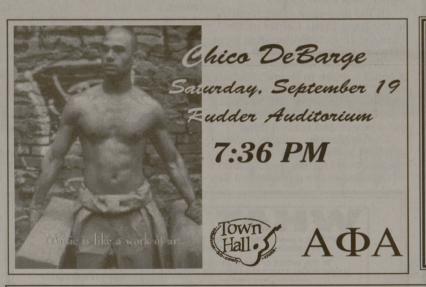




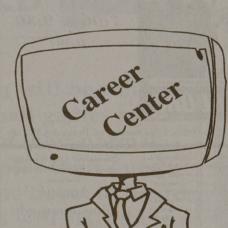
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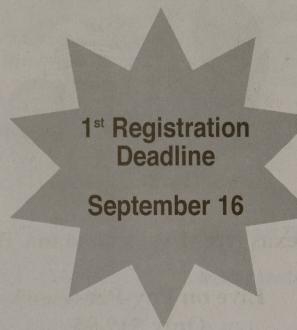
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