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AG KICKOFF

Concert marks beginning of classes, football

By ANNE HOAR
The Battalion

The eighth annual Ag Kickoff will fire up tonight at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater, marking the start of school and celebrating the beginning of the football season.

This year's concert will feature performances by Texas acts Pat Green, Pushmonkey, Cary Pierce and Dub Miller. Country comedian Doug Moreland will be the master of ceremonies.

Pat Green returns to College Station to headline the Ag Kickoff.

"Playing in the fall is always fun because everyone's excited to be hanging out with their buddies again," Green said. "The school is steeped in tradition, and the Ag Kickoff is slowly working itself into a tradition of its own. It's a very fun project to be involved in."

The term "Texas music" is often used to describe Green's music.

"It's anything that's more roots-driven and not commercial," Green said. "It's more of a true art form than the pop-country that you hear on the radio."

He said that the goal of his music is to bring the days of Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings back to the country music scene.

Green's performance will feature music from his new album, *Carry On*. It features new material, and Green calls it one of his favorite projects.

After the Ag Kickoff, Green will perform at Farm Aid, the concert held to benefit family farmers, on Sept. 17 in Washington D.C. Willie Nelson, Barenaked Ladies and John Mellencamp will also perform at Farm Aid.

Green said he is a fan of Jackopierce and he is excited to perform with Pierce, a co-founder of the band, at the Ag Kickoff.

Green and Pierce both have roots in the College Station music scene.

Pierce will open the show. Pierce returns to College Station after touring the country in support of his debut solo album, *You Are Here*.

"It's great seeing the old Jackopierce fans again and creating new fans," Pierce said. "It's exciting to see more and more people singing along to my new stuff than the old stuff."

Pierce said

that he will play Jackopierce songs such as "Vineyard" and "Trials" and "The Best Thing" and "Home," hits from his new album.

Pierce's former band dissolved after 10 years and six records together.

"It was just time to call it quits," Pierce said. "I think that Jack always wanted to go to New York and be an actor, and I always wanted to do a solo career."

This will be Pierce's first time to perform at Ag Kickoff as a solo artist. He played the annual concert as a member of Jackopierce three times.

"Ag Kickoff always has an awesome crowd ... and it gets bigger every year," Pierce said. "Jackopierce's biggest following was in College Station, and I'm looking forward to doing the show. I'll definitely be hanging out in the crowd after my show. ... Connecting with the fans is always one of my favorite parts of my shows."

Pushmonkey, a group inspired by AC/DC and KISS, will add a more modern rock sound to the concert.

Guitarist Will Hoffman said the group is excited to perform at the Ag Kickoff.

"We'll get a chance to show some country-loving Aggie fans a chance to rock," Hoffman said.

Hoffman said the group has fans from a variety of backgrounds in College Station and the fans always turn out in big numbers and get involved in the show.

College Station fans were filmed in a portion of the video for "Caught my Mind," which was filmed during a live performance at the Texas Hall of Fame. The video was awarded No. 1 video at the Austin Music Awards during South by Southwester in March. The "Caught my Mind" video was recently featured on the HBO drama "The Sopranos."

The members of Pushmonkey are currently writing songs for their next album, which they plan to release in early 2001.

College Station's own Dub Miller will also perform. Miller's song "Fightin' Texas Aggie" is a standard at parties and local country dance halls. The song describes Aggie life and refers to the Aggie experience.



Pat Green will perform at Ag Kickoff Friday
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<p>Bible</p> <p>Grace Bible Church 700 Anderson, College Station 693-2911 Services: 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. College Sunday School Class 9:15 & 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Methodist</p> <p>A&M United Methodist 417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8781 Sunday Services: 8:50 & 11:00 a.m. College Sunday School 9:45 Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff am-umc.org</p>
<p>Catholic</p> <p>St. Mary's Catholic Center 603 Church Avenue in Northgate (979) 846-5717 www.aggiecatholic.org Pastoral Team Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor Rev. David A. Konderla, Associate Pastor Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott, Deacon David Reed, Martha Tonn, Lillian Smith, Maureen Murray, Jill Bludau Daily Masses Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church Tues. & Thurs. 12:05 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean) Weekend Masses Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish) Sun.: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Confessions Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment.</p>	<p>Presbyterian</p> <p>Covenant Presbyterian Church "A welcoming community of faith who reaches out to care for one another & proclaims the love of Jesus Christ to all" Thomas W. Estes & G. Thomas Huff - Ministers Currently Meeting at Pebble Creek Elementary Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Coming Soon (2001) to Flock Prairie & Wellborn Office: 3404 South College Ave., Bryan, TX 77803 (979) 846-5631, www.covenantpresbyterian.org</p>

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