



# HIT THE CYCLE!

Pike County's Tristin English hit for the cycle for Georgia Tech over the weekend.

See page 9A



# PIKE COUNTY JOURNAL REPORTER

ONE DOLLAR

www.pikecountygeorgia.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019



SPECIAL PHOTO

Eat all the pancakes you want this Saturday to help American Legion Post 197.

## Pancake breakfast to help Post 197

Pike County American Legion Post 197 will have a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13. Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast will go towards programs that help veterans and their families in our community. The special breakfast will be held at the Pike County American Legion Post 197 at 645 Meansville Street in Zebulon. Breakfast guests will receive two sausage patties, all-you-can-eat pancakes and a drink for a \$5 donation.



## Golf tourney to benefit FCA

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes Outdoors will host the Pike County Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 11 at Cedars Golf and Country Club in Zebulon.

The group is looking for sponsors and four-person teams to make the fundraising event a success. Check in will start at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Registration forms are available at fcaoutdoors.org and they can be scanned and emailed to Paul Dennis at pdennis@fca.org.



## Farm Tour features local agricultural industry

This year's Pike County Farm Tour exposed students and special guests to the vital world of agriculture within Pike County. The March 29 tour welcomed students from FFA and 4-H to experience the vast reach of agriculture. The tour first visited University of Georgia's Bledsoe Research Farm in Williamson where attendees learned about turf grass breeding and research, wheat breeding and genetics as well as the use of technology in agricultural research.

The tour stopped at Bottoms Nursery where everyone learned about what it means to be a fam-

ily farm. While learning about small fruit producing plants, students also learned being a farmer also means being a mechanic, businessman, field worker, electrician, welder and much more.

Caldwell Farm hosted a delicious lunch provided by Pike County Farm Bureau and Pike County Agribusiness Authority. Attendees enjoyed the picturesque views of the Flint River while hearing moos in the background. Caldwell Farms demonstrated working cattle and artificial insemination as a way of improving herd genetics.

See FARM TOUR page 2A



PHOTO BY BROOKLYNE WASSEL / UGA EXTENSION PIKE COUNTY

UGA Griffin professor Dr. Paul Raymer (right) explains ongoing turfgrass research at Bledsoe Research Farm in Williamson.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL McDANIEL / PIKE COUNTY JOURNAL REPORTER

Above, visitors of all ages enjoyed the 50 vendor booths - including plenty of savory food booths and inflatables for the kids - during the first ever Williamson Wisteria Festival. Below, wisteria plants were also available for visitors to purchase and take home.

## Festival draws hundreds of visitors

The first ever Williamson Wisteria Festival brought a large crowd to Benson Hilley Park as 50 vendors of all types lined the city's walking track. Eighteen acts took part in the event's Talent Showcase on Friday night, with Lyla Carroll taking home the \$100 grand prize for her skillful playing of the piano.

Next year's second annual Williamson Wisteria Festival and Talent Showcase has already been planned for April 3-4.



Williamson council member Carol Berry was the emcee for the first ever Williamson Wisteria Festival's Talent Showcase. The judges for the talent show included council members Melissa Kelsey and Stephen Levin and Williamson librarian Kristy Lucio.



Mayson Wood (left) and Julianna Brown (right) enjoyed the free face painting booth at the first ever Williamson Wisteria Festival. The city planted wisteria in several areas of Benson Hilley Park with signs that say, 'Watch Us Grow!' so that visitors to the festival can see their progress over the years and enjoy their beautiful purple flowers and unique fragrance.

## Easter Events

### Planned for community

Many community events to celebrate the Easter season have been planned across the county, including Passover demonstrations and experiences and Easter Egg hunts for local children.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

The Pike County Parks and Recreation Authority is bringing back its annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 0 to 12 years old. This year, kids will enjoy a flash-light egg hunt held Friday, April 12 at the PCPRA baseball fields.

The free event includes prizes awarded in four different age groups (0 to 2, 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12). Attendees are asked to bring their own flashlights and baskets or bags to hold the eggs. The event will start at 8 p.m. For more information, call Paul Harvey at 770-567-2027.

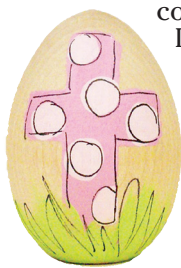
#### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Life Springs Church will host a Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt and Concert starting at 6 p.m. at the church's outdoor pavilion on Saturday, April 13.

"Bring the whole family for a night of fun at Life Springs Church," said pastor Alex Smith. "Join us for egg hunts, food, activities and a concert featuring Logan Winkles and Hartley Station!"

There will be egg hunts for three different age categories to start the event. There will be an egg hunt for kids 0 to 4 years old starting at 6 p.m.; for 5 to 8 years old starting at 6:30 p.m.; for 9 to 12 years old starting at 7 p.m.; and when it gets dark, all ages are invited to participate in the glow in the dark egg hunt. The live music concert will start at 7:30 p.m. and feature Logan Winkles and Hartley Station.

See EASTER page 3A



## April 13 fundraiser to fund Paris in Pike

The eighth annual Paris in Pike Fashion Show for special-needs students will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 26 at Christ Chapel Community Church in Zebulon. The show includes a shopping trip for local kids with special needs to pick out their outfits for the fashion show.

Organizers are hosting a barbecue fundraiser from noon to 2 p.m. April 13 at Freshway to help fund the show and shopping trips. Plates are \$10 and include pulled pork, baked beans and chips, pre-order at 770-468-1612.

The first Paris in Pike Fashion Show was the idea of elementary school students Scarlett Mullis and Abbi Hood.

Over the years, hundreds of students have shined with the spotlight on them as they tell a little about themselves and then show off their special talents on stage.

The fashion fundraiser will help raise money for the Pike County Navigator Team which helps local families of kids with special needs and also plans to offer a scholarship in memory of a local student.

See PARIS IN PIKE page 3A





## FARM TOUR: Spotlights local businesses

FROM PAGE ONE

The last stop was Wild Daisy Farm in Molena where the Meeks have created a unique, straight to consumer operation. Students were able to take in the views of fresh lavender while hearing about farm to table and diversifying operations.

"Overall, the Pike County Farm Tour was a great day celebrating local agriculture," said Pike's Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Brooklyne Wassel. "The tour could have lasted weeks without truly

capturing the reach of agriculture within this community, but it did capture the heart that makes the industry so unique. Thank you to everyone that made the day such a success!"

PHOTOS BY BROOKLYNE WASSEL / UGA EXTENSION PIKE COUNTY

At right, Pike County 4-H educator, Penny Cosper, holds up an example of wheat research at a local farm.

Far right, Farm Tour attendees learn about artificial insemination at Caldwell Farm from local cattleman Will Godowns.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ELLIS

Linda and Floyd Walker enjoy dancing during the Williamson Music Barn's recent fundraiser.

## Music Barn raises funds, spirits

BY JOHN ELLIS

There was a large turnout at the Williamson Music Barn's annual barbecue fundraiser event Saturday, March 30. Several bands played throughout the day, including the Rivers Edge Band, Generics, Young Spirit, Wranglers, New Creations, Colonel Mustard Band and Slim Pickins Band. There were all types of music played from slow tunes to fast tunes, gospel and bluegrass to pop, rock, jitter-bug and line dancing music.

Barbecue plates were sold throughout the day and the parking lot stayed full for most of the afternoon as the seven bands played on stage and others musicians jammed together in the parking lots and around the sheds behind the main building. Visitors came from near and far to attend the annual event.

The Williamson Music



Young Spirit was one of many groups who performed at the Williamson Music Barn's annual barbecue fundraiser March 30. The venue welcomes visitors for free shows each Friday.

Barn is a non-profit organization that provides free live music in a family-friendly atmosphere. The annual fundraiser brings in funds for necessary repairs and to help keep the place open. The venue gives local and surrounding area bands a place to play and great entertainment

for the listening public. They Music Barn is open each Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. and three bands play for one hour each. There is no cost to get in. Everything is on a donation only basis, including the snack bar. A donation box is in the main lobby and they are greatly appreciated.



Some of the many who attended the Williamson Music Barn's recent fundraiser included (l-r) Lynn Wolfe Gillespie, Jack Japfe from Chippewa Lake, Michigan who was visiting his daughter Vickie Redding and David Thompson who plays violin and mandolin for Rivers Edge Band.

## Veteran forester also serving on American Farm Bureau committee

Pike County Farm Bureau (PCFB) Director John Mixon is serving as the chairman of the Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Forestry Committee for 2019.

Mixon leads the committee in shaping GFB's policy relating to forestry in Georgia. The 10-member committee is made up of producers from each of GFB's 10 districts. The committee gathered during the GFB Spring Commodity Meeting Feb. 20-21 to consider GFB policy on issues that affect the state's timber growers. The committee, one of GFB's 20 commodity advisory committees, will meet again this summer. GFB will finalize its 2020 policy during its annual convention in December.

Mixon, of The Rock, grows trees for timber, pulpwood and chip-and-saw on 150 acres.



[PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA FARM BUREAU]

Pike County Farm Bureau's John Mixon is chairing the Georgia Farm Bureau Cotton Committee and serves on the American Farm Bureau Federation Federal Lands Issue Advisory Committee.

He holds memberships in the Kiwanis Club, Georgia Forestry Association, Arborist Association and the Society of American Foresters.

Mixon served as

director of the Georgia Forestry Commission from 1973 to 1995. He also served a stint as president of the National Association of State Foresters.

Mixon also serves on the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Federal Lands Issue Advisory Committee. Mixon represents Georgia as one of 10 members of the committee, which is one of 13 committees AFBF established to form its positions on topics that affect broad segments of U.S. agriculture.

Founded in 1937, Georgia Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization and has 158 county offices. Its volunteer members actively participate in local, state and national activities that promote agriculture awareness to their non-farming neighbors.

# PIGGY BANK DAY

at



## UnitedBank

Equal Housing Lender FDIC

SATURDAY  
APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM - 12PM



- Each child who opens a Minor Savings Account will receive a Piggy Bank
- When making a deposit, each child will receive a special prize
- Snacks and activities for kids

685 Griffin Street • Zebulon, GA • [accessunited.com](http://accessunited.com)

### REGIONAL TEACHER JOB FAIR

Saturday, April 27, 2019 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location: Luella High School  
603 Walker Drive, Locust Grove, GA 30248

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Those eligible for teaching certification for the 2019-2020 school year

#### WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Information about South Metro Suburban Region & Schools
- Meet staff and representatives from eight (8) South Metro Suburban School Systems representing 125+ schools and over 100,000 students
- Human Resources Staff from Regional School Systems including Henry County, Fayette County, Newton County, Spalding County, Upson County, Butts County, Pike County & Lamar County

#### WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- At least 15 copies of a one-page resume to provide System Human Resources & School Reps

No Pre-registration Required. For more information contact Griffin Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) at 770-229-3247 or visit [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

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