

GCHS band to honor country with patriotic halftime show and competition program

Marching Pride wants ‘You’ to join them in celebrating the USA

By ANNETTE HARVISON
Herald Correspondent

The Greene County High School Marching Pride band will honor our country during halftime this season with a show titled “Patriot Traditions”. GCHS Band Director Terry Slater has chosen a sample of lyrical American patriotism including well-known songs such as “Yankee Doodle”, “America the Beautiful”, “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “Shenandoah.”

The GCHS marching band is under the field direction of Wesley Harvison, a GCHS senior who has been a dedicated member of the band since he was in junior high school.

Even before he was in marching band, Harvison traveled with the band to help with the set-up of half-time show props and went to competitions to lend a helping hand as well. Harvison has put in many years of practice and preparation to lead his fellow band members and has done a great job.

“I have not seen any person as dedicated to his band as Wesley,” Slater said. “He has been a great asset to this band and I’m proud to have him.”

The Marching Pride is 36 members strong this year with seven seniors. Those students may be wrapping up their high school band careers this year, but could go on to perform with college bands and perhaps pursue a career in music.

The GCHS Flag Corp has eight members. Flag Captain is senior Bailey Hobby with junior Jayla McArn serving as Co-Captain. Freshman Edee Havard will take the field as Majorette. Drum line Captain is junior Parker Dickerson.

The tunes from the halftime show represent significant eras in American history. “Yankee Doodle” was made popular during the time of the American Revolution. The tune has many lyrics, all satirical in nature, about various times leading up to and during the war. “America the Beautiful” was originally a poem written by Katherine Bates in 1893. She shared and freely allowed the use of her poem and was proud to have had her words in a song.

“Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” was a song composed for a light-hearted wartime movie during World War II. While producers were uncertain of the response the movie and song would receive, both were a success.

“Shenandoah” is a traditional folk song with an uncertain origin and was widely heard on the battlefields throughout the Civil War. Much like “Yankee Doodle,” “Shenandoah” also has various sets of lyrics.



Senior Drum Major Wesley Harvison is shown directing members of the Marching Pride during the GCHS marching band’s halftime show at Wildcat Stadium / Johnny Ainsworth Field last Friday night.

Members of the Marching Pride are all dedicated and passionate about music and their enthusiasm is contagious.

Along with performing during halftime, the band creates a soundtrack to Greene County’s ‘Friday night lights’, performing “The Star-Spangled Banner” prior to kickoff and keeping the student section rocking with drum cadence.

Wildcat touchdowns are marked by the school fight song, with fans chanting the ever-famous ‘Go Wild-Cats’. They sing along to the “Hey Song” and tap their feet to other popular tunes while they wait for plays to be made. Sometimes the crowd gets to witness a battle of the marching bands as each band will try to outplay one another in the stands. Though GCHS marching band may not be as large as some, the sound is booming.

Band members say they enjoy the thrill of marching into Johnny Ainsworth Stadium, everyone in step, and have been waiting for this moment since last year’s final game.

The GCHS Marching Pride band will attend two competitions this marching season. The annual MHSAA State Competition will be held in Gulfport. Slater has also entered the band into Groovin’ in the Grove, a marching band competition in Hattiesburg. The band practices every day and stays after school two days a week to create a seamless show.

The band booster club plays a large role in the activities of the marching band. The group of volunteers is made up mostly of parents and family members. They run the concession stands during the games, which is a hectic and busy job. Many of them have been doing this for years.

As band members move up and the numbers in band grow, the band booster club should also grow. They are exactly what their name says; they are there to give the band a boost when needed.

That boost may be treating them to a meal after competitions or providing a morale boost such as the ‘Fun Day’ band members enjoyed as they ended their two-week band camp.

See MARCHING PRIDE

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GCHS is once again blessed with an excellent twirler in majorette Edee Havard. Havard is shown above performing during the Marching Pride’s patriotic salute last Friday during the Wildcats’ game against George County.

Good Luck **WILDCATS!**



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