

And the band plays on

WCHS band packing show with patriotism

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Patriotism and Pioneer football will become synonymous this fall with the help of the Warren County High School band.

The halftime show this year is entitled, "Letters from Iwo Jima," and readings of letters of lovers separated by war will be played while the band honors those who fought in World War II.

"We hope to pay tribute to the Greatest Generation as well as tell the story of two young people torn apart by the war," said band director Duane Farnham. "One of our members suggested the idea of doing a show like this and I had done something similar in a National Guard band I am in."

"I've had a chance to meet some survivors and they're so prideful. It's amazing to see."

Selections from the show include "America the Beautiful," "In the Mood," and "The Marine's Hymn." The act will feature solos from



Jared Carnes stays ready during band practice held at Nunley Stadium Friday.

color guard members Celeste Hobbs and Olivia Woodlee, along with a trumpet solo from Jacob Miller.

The WCHS band, under the direction this fall of drum major Quinten Vasquez, was hard at

work last week at camp perfecting its show. Driving rain and humid days didn't faze the musicians, who got a chance to perform the show to parents Friday afternoon. Farnham believes his group is coming together

nicely as the season nears.

"We have a young group that's doing a good job. They've exceeded expectations and overcome adversity," said Farnham.

Fans can hear the soothing sounds of the WCHS band at the Pioneer pep rally, which will be held Thursday, Aug. 16 at Nunley Stadium. The band will be included in the festivities, which will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The band won't get a chance to take the field at Nunley Stadium for a halftime performance until Friday, Sept. 7 when the Pioneers play their home opener against Shelbyville.

When the lights come on for the football team, it becomes practice time for the band. Friday nights are a good way for sharpening the skills of the band, which will be busy with its own competitions this fall.

The band is set to compete in Sequatchie County Saturday, Sept. 22 and in Clinton Saturday, Sept. 29. The band also gets to defend its home turf in competition Saturday, Oct. 6.



Jeffery Simmons photos
Jacob Miller will get a solo during the WCHS band show, titled "Letters from Iwo Jima."

Basketball camp

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Getting a chance to see the school players up-close was a big boost for the campers, according to Stotts.

"Saying the kids were excited was an understatement," said Stotts. "Kids in Warren County need positive role models like our Pioneers – mentors they

can look up to. Having them at camp was awesome."

The camp was geared to boys and girls in grades K-5. Along with drill work to instill and improve fundamentals, Stotts and Simpson had different topics they discussed with campers.

Included in discussion was teaching kids there's

no 'I' in team, instilling leadership at an early age and handling emotions on and off the floor.

Stotts is hopeful to continue the camp in the future and attendance grows.



Jeffery Simmons photo
Luke Simpson sizes up the defense of Pioneer Sloan Seymour during Thursday's basketball camp.

Soccer

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"Come out and show me you're willing to work. I can teach you a skill if you work hard," said Jackson. "If I've never seen a kid, or they've never been on the team, it's good to get multiple looks. The more I see them, the more I can find out if they'll help us."

Attendees are asked to wear appropriate soccer apparel and cleats. In case of rain, tryouts will be moved inside. Attendees should have footwear for indoor play. A waiver will also need to be completed and signed by a parent before tryouts. Coach Jackson has forms and can be reached by email at lmattjackson@gmail.com.

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