

FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT - 2018

Thursday, August 23, 2018

21B

Marching Pride ready to take fans on journey through ‘pop’ culture



Photo by Annette Harvison - Herald Staff

The Greene County Marching Pride band is ready for the 2018-2019 marching season with a salute to popular culture featuring songs from some of the most popular performers in recent years. The band, led by Drum Major Christian Pope, is shown here performing for the first time last Friday at Collinsville.

GCHS Band’s 2018-2019 show showcase’s music by Justin Bieber, Imagine Dragons and more

By ANNETTE HARVISON
Herald Staff

Band, are you ready to take the field? Yes, they are! The GCHS band gave its first performance of the season last Friday night on West Lauderdale High School’s field, and now the Marching Pride is looking forward to a great season of performing.

Some call it football season, but for this group of GCHS students, it’s marching season. To them, there’s nothing like marching into the football stadium to the beat of the drum cadence.

The rain didn’t stop the band from playing the GCHS “Fight Song” or the “Hey Song” for Wildcat fans making the trip to Collinsville. They have added a few new songs to their Friday night soundtrack, and the GCHS cheerleaders and Sassy Cats dance team have the moves to go with the grooves.

This year’s halftime show is composed of medleys from various volumes of the popular pop compilation albums, “Now That’s What I Call Music.” The band began working on their show in July. In a month’s time, this group had memorized their music and learned to put a marching routine with it. And since the band uses the field across the road from the high school, Friday night was the first night they have performed their show on the football field. The band uses yard lines and hash marks to determine placement of movements.

While the performance on Friday was solid, the band will add more to the show in the coming weeks.

The GCHS Marching Pride is under the field direction of drum major Christian Pope, a GCHS sophomore. Junior Hannah Parker serves as the band’s assistant drum major.

The band has 36 members this year, which is a good indicator of growth in the program. Many incoming freshmen have filled the gaps left by the departure of last year’s graduating seniors.

Section leaders for this year are Alyssa Grimes (clarinets), Ali Eubanks (flutes), Taelor Simon

(trumpets), Regan Walley (low brass) and Parker Dickerson (percussion). The flag corps has eight members with Jala McArn serving as captain and Makaila Valentine serving as co-captain. Returning as majorette is Edee Havid.

This group of students represents the band at each football game, greeting and welcoming band members from opposing schools. During competitions, the section leaders are the students that step forward to accept scores. They show outstanding leadership and instrumental skills and guide new marching band students through the process of learning to put a half-time show together. Marching and playing at the same time is a challenge in the beginning, but band members quickly get the hang of it with practice.

“They put on a good show,” said color guard sponsor Emily Wilkins. “They pulled the show together well and sounded great!”

The GCHS marching band will attend a state competition in Gulfport in October. The band will be judged on the performance of their halftime show and will compete against schools from across the state.

Marching in step, drum corps, color guard and overall band show are the various components judged during this competition. The Marching Pride attends this friendly challenge each year, and represents our school district very well. These students will attend at least one other marching compe-

titition this season.

Each Friday morning during marching season, the band marches through the hall of the high school to boost school spirit. They play the “Fight Song” and other fun tunes to get students pumped for the game. Cheerleaders and the dance team choreograph dance routines to the songs, and together, it is a great display of teamwork and bonding among the GCHS student body.

Terry Slayter and Zac Wilkins are leading the band program for the school district. They have been working on increasing interest in the band and developing great musicians. Friday night’s performance by the band demonstrated their growth and improvement, and with continued support, the program will continue to grow and flourish. Many band students continue their education past high school with band scholarships.

The band organizes fundraisers to purchase new instruments and music each year, along with many other band items. Last year, the band purchased quite a few new instruments, including the tuba that adds a deep sound to the music. Band Boosters, much like many other groups at the high school, rely on the support of the community to help the band program continue to grow. The booster club is made up of parents of band members and individuals interested in the



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