

# Get Ready! The GCHS Marching Pride is Ready to...



The GCHS Marching Pride Band

Photo by John Sims Studio

*GCHS Band bringing classic jams from GNR, Bon Jovi and Led Zeppelin to halftime this season*

By ANNETTE HARVISON  
Herald Staff

It's that time of year again... Marching season, and when those Friday night lights hit Johnny Ainsworth Stadium, the GCHS band is ready to put on a rocking show in the stands and during their halftime performances.

New band director Kevin White said the band has been working hard and he believes The Marching Pride will be great this year. "I am excited to see what this year is going to bring," White said.

The GCHS Marching Pride band has been working hard to prepare for the season. The band will be

performing a rock-and-roll themed halftime show, and the Sassy Cats dance team will be back on the field with the band.

The band is under the field direction of junior Drum Major Christian Pope. Color guard captains are junior Makaïla Valentine and senior Faith Brondum, and Sassy Cats captains are senior Willow Brown and sophomore Jaycie Tungett.

The first song for this season's halftime show is Guns N Roses *Sweet Child of Mine*. In the late 1980s, Guns N Roses was at the top of the charts, and *Sweet Child of Mine* was a favorite of many teenagers and young adults in the rock and roll scene. The song's

popularity has lasted through the decades, and even today, many young people know the tune.

Bon Jovi's *Dead or Alive* is the second tune for the band. The song came out in 1987, and one year later was used in the popular modern western, "Young Guns". The slow ballad by the rock star added a rock and roll touch to the film. Senior Hannah Parker finishes her last high school marching season with a solo in this tune.

The band will finish its halftime show with Led Zeppelin's *Black Dog*. This song takes us back to the 1970s, and even though this song was nearly a quarter century before any of these band students were born, they have gotten into the groove of the song and will take quite a few fans on a trip down memory lane with this hit. *Black Dog* still maintains its popularity and intrigues a few band students to check out more music of times past.

This will be the first year

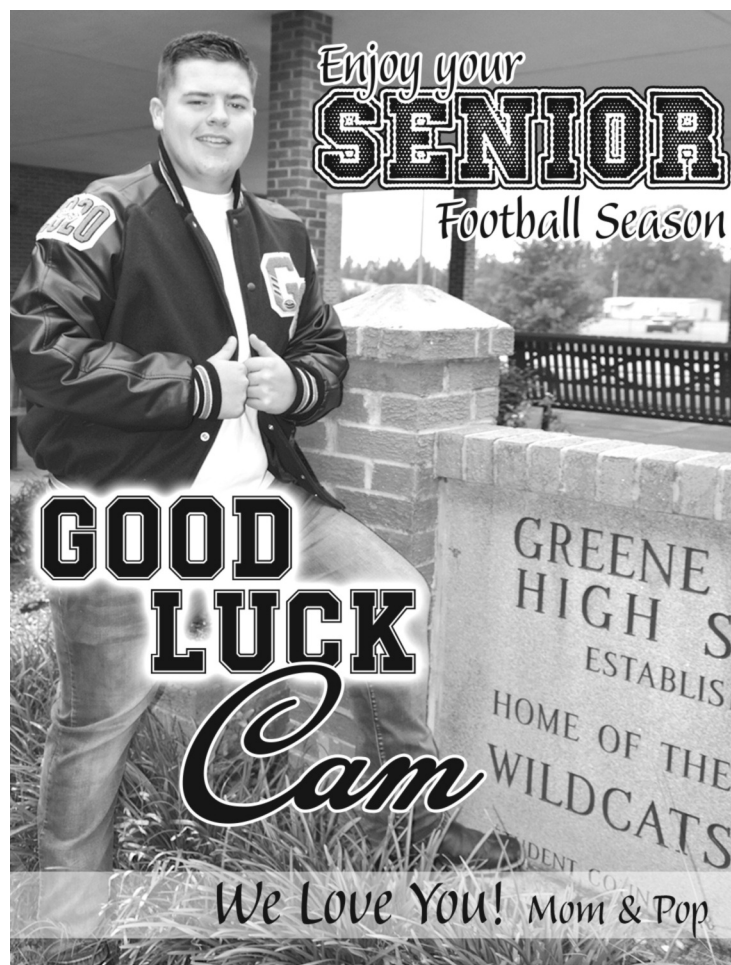
in a couple of years that the Sassy Cats will join the band on the field during halftime performances. The Sassy Cats and color guard members held their week-long camps in July and have worked hard on their routines. The color guard and dance team have come together to add some flair to the stands while the band plays. They have come up with a marching and stand routine that keeps them dancing in the stands.

"The students have been working hard on marching and playing," White said. "We have been working on marching fundamentals, and they have been doing a great job."

This group of students learns to work together to make a seamless halftime show. They practice each day of school and hold after school practices three days a week. Though they may be small, their sound is mighty. All these students have set aside differences and disagreements to

make a thrilling show for the fans. They must learn to trust one another on

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