

Night Life & City Lights

Marching Pride set to take audience on a Night on the Town with original halftime show



Photo by SHAE ROGERS / Herald Contributor

The GCHS Marching Pride Band is off to a good start under the direction of new band director James Thornton and first-year Drum Major Laura Turner . Shown (Above) are members of the band’s Color Guard out front during the halftime show at Vancleave last Friday.

By ANNETTE HARVISON
Herald Staff

The Greene County High School Marching Pride band is under new direction this year, with incoming band director James Thornton.

He said he is working to grow the band, and he hopes to find a few students that play those non-traditional marching band instruments, such as piano and guitar.

Band members met the last two weeks of July for their annual band camp, and during that time, they worked on putting together this year’s halftime show, working on the fundamentals of marching and learning a few new tunes. For some former GCHS marching band members, one tune should be a bit nostalgic. Thornton said Mississippi composer Greg Fiaris, who wrote the original GCHS Fight Song in the 1990s, has helped restore the song, as it has been changed a few times throughout the years.

“I called Greg (Fiaris) and asked if he still had the original file for the Fight Song,” Thornton said, “and he did. I got it all put back together, and we will play the original song this year.”

“We’ve been working on the fundamentals of marching. It’s to help keep them from getting injuries when keeping their instruments, bodies and feet all in sync.”

Not only did Fiaris help restore the old Fight Song, he also wrote an all original program for the band’s half-time show. Thornton said to help make learning the show easier for band members, GCHS Principal Scott Bray purchased a computer program that will map each student’s coordinates on the field, for each move, and it lets them know how many steps to take in between sets. Thornton said the program was helpful throughout band camp, and the group put in a lot of effort to

pull together as much as they could before the first days of school.

“They’ve been working hard,” Thornton said. “I wasn’t anticipating working on the show until school started because I wasn’t sure what I had, but it’s been a great camp.”

Thornton said the band has around 30 members this year, including the color guard. He’s hoping to



Photo by SHAE ROGERS / Herald Contributor

Shown (Above) are members of the drum line leading the band’s efforts in the bleachers at the Vancleave game.

And, shown (Below) is Turner directing the on-field halftime show



add a few more members, and he has plans to help the band grow. He and director Terry Slayter have put forth a good team effort and work well together, Thornton said, and the successful band camp is proof of that team effort and hard work from everyone. Thornton added that he is currently working on a plan to begin including

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