

Marching band brings the beat

By Alisa Raufeisen

Every individual of the band has his or her own strand, weaving together their formations alongside the color guard's flourishes of fuchsia to forge the marching band "basket," according to drum major **Kristen Pankratius**.

"The hardest thing to culminate is coming together as a full ensemble because each person has so many individual responsibilities," said Pankratius, a junior. "And from there it moves on to you and your section; there are so many factors on top of the group responsibilities."

Since June, the marching band has been practicing their 2017 show. Some weeks members have worked the equivalent of a full-time job on their drills — 40 hours.

Working to weave the show together is first year band director **Karl Vierling**.

His teaching approach is new to the band, he said. One is called "an adjustment method."

"Band members freeze and keep their horn up, and they make an adjustment to fix their posture," Vierling said. "Then we have them check their marks as a way of reinforcing the relationship of space. It's made them very good at drills already."

Tonight, their hard work will debut with the new stadium.

The band of about 70 members will present a tale of 1001 nights, "Sheherazade," a Persian legend featuring King Shahryar imprisoning a woman named Sheherazade.

She is a storyteller and exchanges one story to the king in return for a day of freedom until she runs out of stories to tell.

Head drum major **Sarah Burton** said "it's Arabian nights-esque."

Vierling added "it's something that'll definitely pop."

Costing over \$40,000, the white, navy blue and silver uniforms feature shiny buttons and new hats called shakos with 14 inch plumes.

"Everything you've seen the last three years is gone, and we have a totally new uniform concept that we will be presented that night," Burton said.

But tonight's halftime show will only give a glimpse into the story.

Band leaders hope they will entice the crowd to attend their other performances. Members hope to shed new light on the marching band program.

The whole "Scheherazade" story will be told this November during the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) preliminary competitions where they plan to "show how each of those 1001 nights would be," said Pankratius.



From the left, musicians Hannah Hunt, Foluke Ajiboye, Luke Riley and Landon Phillips practice their second arrangement for the halftime show to be performed tonight on the turf (Photo by Alisa Raufeisen).

Perry alumni transfer advice to Falcon players

By Alisa Raufeisen and Lukas Sakalinskas

Mike Feigel suited up in 1990. **Paul Toler** suited up in 2001. **Matt Henninger** suited up in 2002. It's 2017, and it's time for the varsity team to suit up on their own turf.

As the football team gears up for their first 2017 season game against the Greenwood Woodmen, a few of their coaches take the time to reminisce on their time wearing their helmets along with their silver and blue jerseys, and planning to keep the Falcon pride strong.

Toler, now a math teacher, went undefeated with his team his freshman and sophomore year, then helped his team make it to sectionals his junior year.

Toler surely doesn't stray too far

from his roots. He is still involved in the Perry football community as the current defensive coordinator.

The stadium will bring Perry alumni, students, staff and families closer together in their common bond to the school, he says. "We will have something to call our own."

Feigel, the varsity assistant coach, says he made lifelong friendships through football when he played in 1987-1991 on offensive line, defensive line and as linebacker.

He's glad that today's Perry students have the stadium there to remind them of the school and area neighborhoods rallying together.

"I want it to be a symbol driving the community," he says.

Ex-linebacker and head football coach Henninger agrees. "Now, we'll be able to be much more efficient. Having our own stadium is almost surreal. It gives us a rallying point and a true home to protect," he says.

But Henninger doesn't feel offended that he never played at 401 W. Meridian School Road.

"I never really minded going to the Southport stadium," he says. "The coaches did a great job not making a big deal out of us not having our own stadium."

Toler, the former center offensive liner, says he hasn't coached any differently for this Greenwood game than others.

Each game is important to play well.

While he wants players to appreciate their own turf, he wants them to stay humble and simply focus on winning their first game of the season.

In fact, Toler soon tires of talking about the wonder of the stadium.

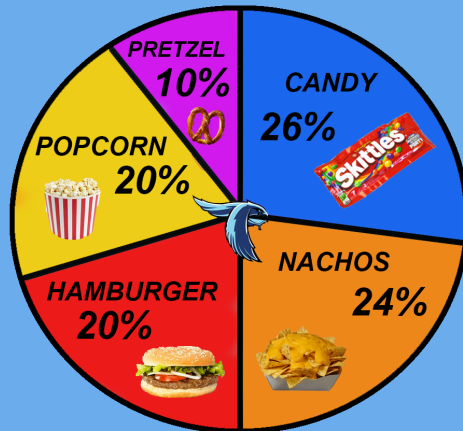
With a stern look in his eyes, he says, "this needs to be a different season" (Last year's record was 3-7).

Henninger and Feigel stress that they don't want players to get overwhelmed by all the hoopla.

"I want our guys to come out focused," Henninger said.

"We need to execute plays and limit mistakes. More than anything, we need an all-out team effort."

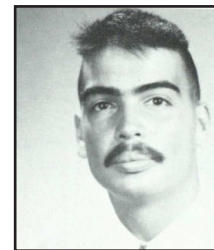
Falcons' favorite concession snacks



Poll of 100 students conducted by Lexie Julbert (Art by Allie Wooton).



Paul Toler's yearbook picture in 2002 (Photo provided by Passages).



Mike Feigel's yearbook picture in 1990 (Photo provided by Passages).