

IT'S

GAME TIME

2025

GRIDIRON GUIDE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Info, stories, schedules, photos and roster from
Sonoraville Phoenix High School Football and info
on the Marching Phoenix and Football Cheer

SONORAVILLE

August 2025

2025 Gridiron Guide - Sonoraville High School

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In addition to a summer full of practices and weight room work, the Sonoraville Phoenix took time for team building exercises and outings, growing closer as a team and developing trust in each other.

“
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daughter
again—not just her
her caregiver.”



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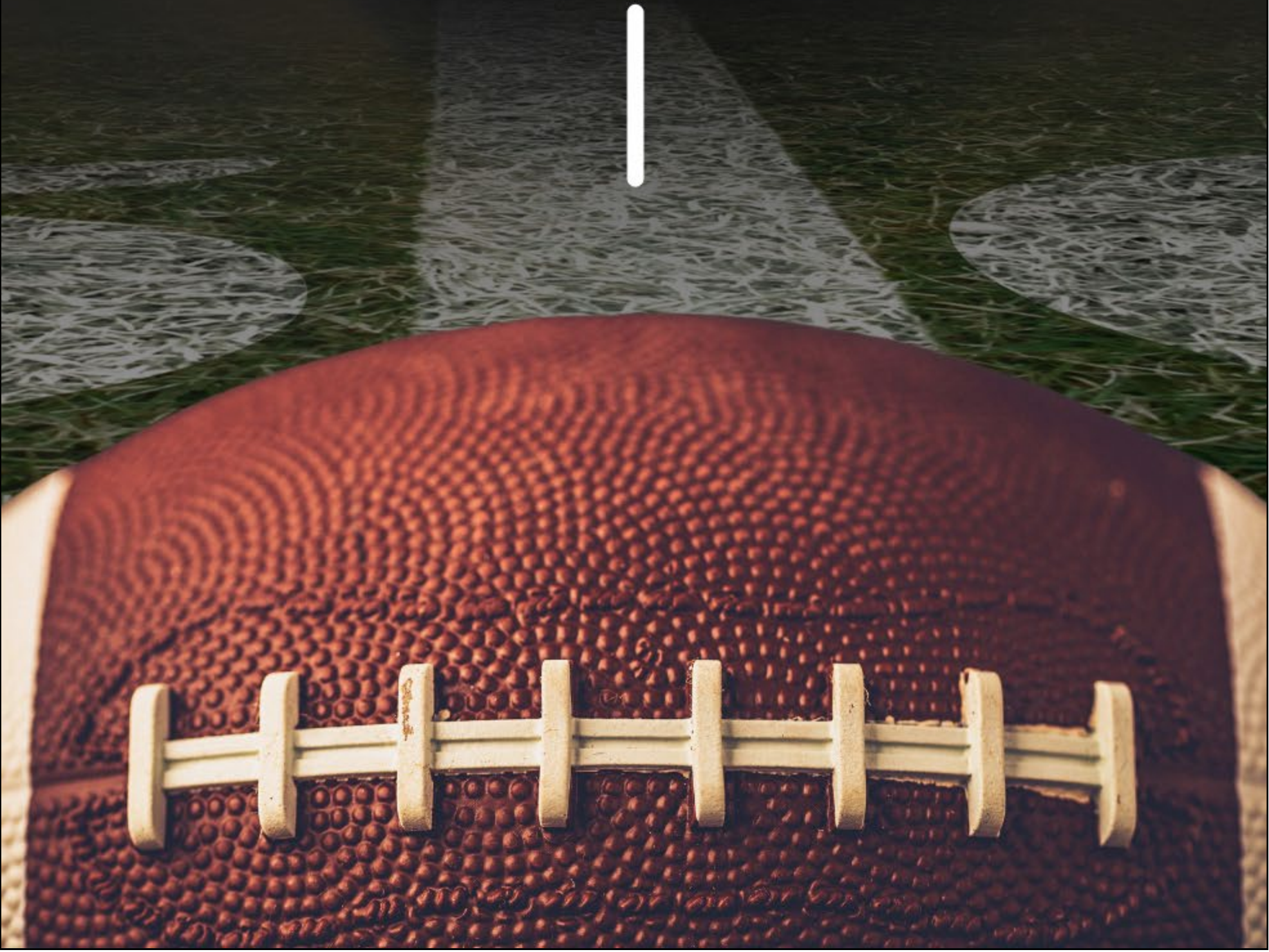
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GORDON
Gazette

***GAME
UPDATES***

**The Gordon Gazette will post
score updates each Friday
night, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
until the end of the game.**

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Team Preview: Sonoraville Phoenix

Phoenix Football puts in the work to make playoff run this season



BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff

Sonoraville Phoenix Head Football Coach Denver Pate will have his team ready for the 2025 season which begins this Friday, August 15 against Model.

Brandi Owczarz, Managing Editor
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Sonoraville Phoenix Football has their sights set on building on lessons from last season and make a run for region.

The Phoenix, who went 3-7, (3-5 in 7-AA) last season, plan to utilize some of their up-and-comers with the hope to finish the season ranked higher than last year.

Sonoraville Head Coach Denver Pate said he expects his team perform well after a summer of bonding while preparing for the season.

Pate has spent the past 11 years at SHS – this is his ninth year as head coach. While the Phoenix lost several key players at graduation, they are returning several seasoned players, and have a young team that is expected to make an impact this year.

Coach Pate talked to the Gordon Gazette about the upcoming season, the preparations the team has made and his expectations for the team.

What did the summer program involve for your team, what was the participation like and how much progress did the kids make?

We had good numbers throughout the summer. Our focus was to grow closer as a team. We planned various activities throughout the summer for our players to become a tight-knit group.

How did you keep your team motivated and encouraged during this time?

We tried to make the summer as fun for them as possible, all the while getting things accomplished on the football field and in the weight room.

Reflecting on last season, what do you hope to build on to carry into this

season?

We hope to build off the last game. Finally winning a close game after losing five games within a score was tough, but I thought our guys did an admirable job of continuing to work hard each week and was rewarded by winning the final game in a walkoff.

Were there any impact players from last year that graduated where you have a player stepping up to take the lead in that role this year?

Linebacker Corben Dixon, who holds the school record in tackles and tight end Cayman Reynolds who will now play at East Carolina. Sophomore Lincoln Lessis will be called upon to fill that role.

What are the biggest keys for this team to focus on in order to have success this season?

To continue to grow closer and a team, and develop trust in one another.

Who are some of the impact players for your team in 2025?

- Chaz Pate, SR, Quarterback. 2048 yards passing.
- Jayden Crus, SR, Running Back. 1020 yards rushing.
- Langston Butler, SR, Receiver, Defensive Back. 300+ yards receiving in an injury-shortened season.
- Will Patterson, SR, Defensive End/H Back
- Eli Fox, JR, Linebacker
- Braxen McMahan, JR, Athlete

Who do you think your toughest opponents in your region will be this year?

Rockmart.

What are your overall expectations for what this team can accomplish for the 2024 season?

To be a playoff team and fight for a region championship.



KEY PLAYERS

CHAZ PATE, QB

JAYDEN CRUZ, RB

LANGSTON BUTLER, WR/DB

WILL PATTERSON, DE

ELI FOX, LB

BRAXEN MCMAHAN, ATHLETE

2025 SCHEDULE

Date Opponent Loc.

Aug. 15 Model HOME

Aug. 22 Pickens AWAY

Sept. 5 N. Cobb Christian AWAY

Sept. 12 Coahulla Creek HOME

Sept. 19 Murray County AWAY

Sept. 26 Rockmart HOME

Oct. 3 North Murray AWAY

Oct. 10 Lakeview-FO HOME

Oct. 17 Ringgold AWAY

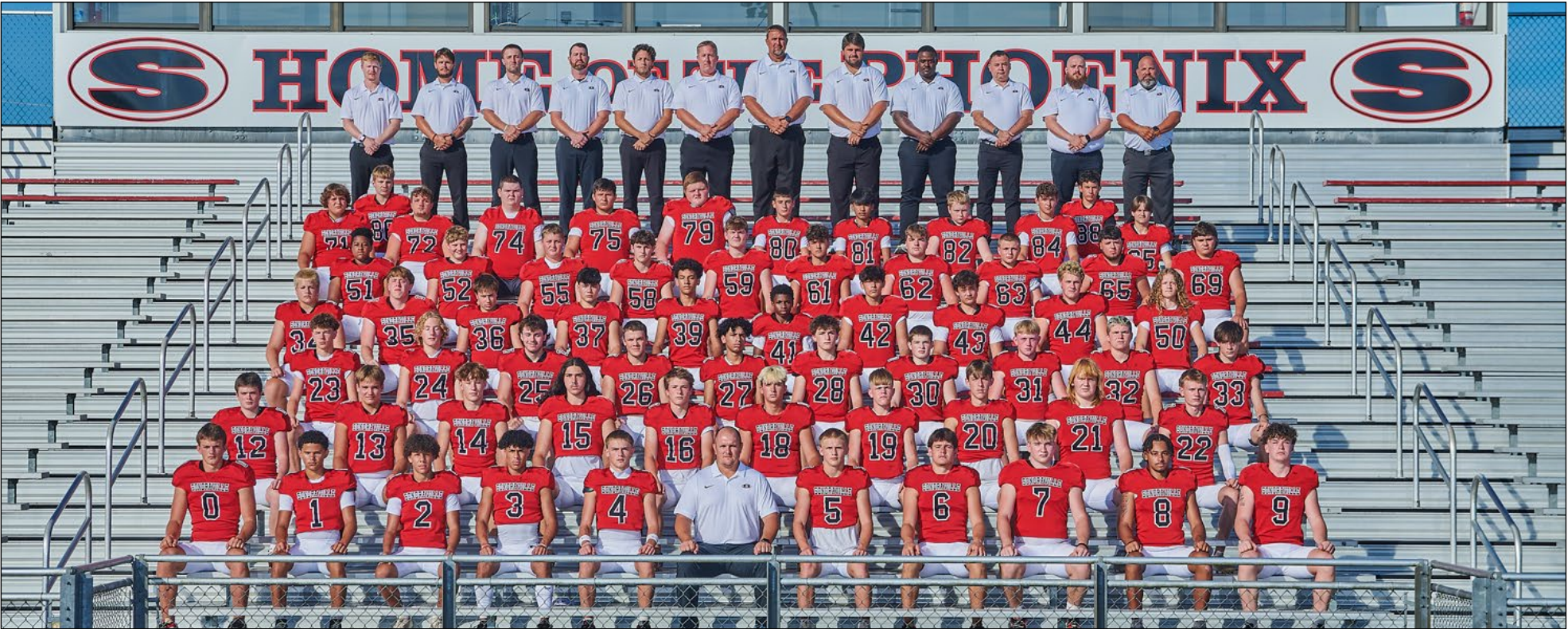
Oct. 24 Union County HOME

All Games at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.



Team Preview: SONORAVILLE PHOENIX

TEAM PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TEAM ROSTER

No.	Name	Year	No.	Name	Year	No.	Name	Year
0	ELI FOX	11	24	CAMDEN MOORE	11	58	PARKER BOWN	12
1	GUNNER WASHINGTON	9	25	BRYSON TURNER	12	59	JETT FAULK	9
2	JOSIAH CRUZ	9	26	NATHAN NEWBURY	12	61	CAMERON CAUSBY	9
3	JAYDEN CRUZ	12	27	KAYSON COHEA	12	62	KOLTER KELLEY	11
4	BRAXEN MCMAHAN	11	28	MASON FERGUSON	10	63	RON SCHEETZ	9
5	CADJRIN MCMAHAN	10	29	WILLIE YOUNG	11	65	CHRIS SMITH	12
6	JACOB HOOD	11	30	CORBIN SHIPPY	11	67	CARSON MAPLES	11
7	ETHAN COCHRAN	11	31	AYDEN RENNER	11	69	BRANSON MATHEWS	11
8	LANGSTON BUTLER	12	32	RUSH FAULK	11	70	BRAYSE LEININGER	12
9	JORDON WATSON	12	33	COLE LONG	11	71	NOLAN BRYANT	12
10	ELI BALLIEW	12	34	DAWSON RICHARDS	11	72	ELI CRAIG	11
11	WADE STEPP	12	35	LUKE BROWN	12	74	KENNETH CLARK	11
12	KORBEN BAUCOM	10	36	JOSHUA REECE	9	75	WILL CANTRELL	12
13	CHAZ PATE	12	37	TRISTEN MORAN	10	79	DAVID HIGGINS	12
14	KAYDEN BROWN	12	39	MICHAEL THOMPSON	10	80	BENTLEY HAYES	9
15	LINCOLN LESSIS	10	41	KENDRICK SIMPSON	9	81	JORDI GONZALEZ	11
16	CARTER BROCK	10	42	MALACHI CRUZ	9	82	LUCAS MARTIN	9
17	ZAC TAYLOR	12	43	DYLAN CANTRELL	9	83	JOSEPH EDGING	10
18	BRAXTEN VOLEK	10	44	WILL PATTERSON	12	84	ETHAN SMITH	9
19	JACOB PEELER	11	48	KALEB HOBBS	12	85	GAGE ROBERSON	10
20	HAYDEN MCDANIEL	11	50	SULLY GOSS	9	86	SLATER MORSS	9
21	JAYDEN LOWE	9	51	MA'JER GRAY-LOTT	10	88	DEX OWEN	9
22	DAKOTA MARTIN	12	52	TRISTAN HELTON	10			
23	ANSEN MEDLIN	10	55	OWEN HUGHES	9			

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Cheer Preview: Sonoraville Phoenix



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2025 Sonoraville Phoenix Football Spirit Sideline Team includes, back row left to right: Bella Crow, Sylvia Kirby, Raegan Hughes, Ryleigh Blalock, Molly Rampy, Haylee Price, Emily Grace Walker, Paityn Hall, McKenna Beason, Kirsten Culvey, Edie Clements, Eva Santizo, Blair Parker, and Jules Carroll. Front row left to right: Maddie Erwin, Ava Vincent, McKenna Boswell, Kayla Abercrombie, Bella Barajas, Kallie Clark, Makiah Austin, Emily Upchurch, and Macee Clark. Many of these ladies will also compete as a team for the traditional GHSA cheerleading competition season.

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Ginger Reeves has her cheer squad ready for Friday Night Lights. Reeves is an English teacher at Sonoraville High School. This is her 33rd year coaching cheerleading. This year, Reeves will be assisted by Coach Taylor Ballew, who has been coaching since the 2017 season. Also on staff is Kirsten Gordon and Coach Raven.

The Gazette spoke with Reeves recently about the upcoming football cheer season.

What training/camps did the cheer squad participate in before the start of the season?

The cheerleading program conditions as a group throughout the summer. The entire program conditions in the summer as a unit before we divide and work on individual team routines and skills.

How excited is the squad for this year?

Many of the cheerleaders choose to be on several teams. Most of the football cheerleaders are on competition, game day and basketball. The whole program is excited about the beginning of the season! We will kick off the season as a group for the scrimmage game and welcome the community campers for pre-game activities.

What do you have planned on Friday nights to keep the crowd involved?

The football cheerleading team is expected to pump up the crowd with the help of the student body and band. The band is one of the biggest supporters of the cheerleaders. The coaches expect loud, enthusiastic voices and faces each game. Stunting skills with signs have been incorporated into cheers to encourage crowd participation. SHS LOVES FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS!

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Band Preview: Sonoraville Phoenix



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2025 Sonoraville High School Marching Phoenix.

Brandi Owczarz, Managing Editor
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Justin Burke has his Marching Phoenix ready for another exciting halftime performance this year under the Friday Night Lights. This year’s performance is sure to please the community who can’t wait for the fifth and final season of Stranger Things to hit later this year!

Mr. Burke has been the band director at SHS since 2017 and a music educator for 22 years. His previous positions include Director of Bands at Screven County High School in Sylvania GA, Director of Bands at Claxton High School/Claxton Middle School in Evans County, and Assistant Director of Bands at South Effingham High School in Guyton GA. Mr. Burke’s ensembles have received consistent superior ratings at both GMEA Performance Evaluation and marching competitions. The Marching Phoenix under his direction, have won multiple class, division and grand championships in North Georgia. In addition to teaching band, Mr. Burke teaches Music Technology at SHS and is an active adjudicator and clinician.

Mr. Burke has a Master of Music Education degree from Kent State University. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Valdosta State University in 2004, where he studied trumpet with Dr. Kenneth Kirk and conducting with Dr. Joe Brashier. Mr. Burke is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA), The National

Association for Music Education (NAfME), and The National Band Association (NBA).

Mr. Burke and his family live in Gordon County. He and his wife Kristen have three children: twin sons Lewis and Jack (18) and daughter Clara (14). Mr. Burke enjoys fishing, hiking, playing guitar, golf, disc golf and Atlanta Braves Baseball.

What is your halftime show theme, or what music will you be performing for halftime this year?

“The Upsidedown: The Music of Stranger Things.” This will include The Stranger Things Theme, Runaway by Bon Jovi, Every Breath You Take by the Police with Soloist Bryson Sitten, Africa by Toto, Time After Time by Cindi Lauper with Soloist Layla Blevins, Neverending Story with soloists Trey Smith and Emily Smith, Master of Puppets by Metalica featuring the percussion section, with soloist Elijah Cornwell, Separate Ways by Journey and Running up that Hill by Kate Bush.

What did you do to prepare for the season, and will you participate in any competitions this year?

We held a 2-week band camp in July. We had a full staff of instrumental technicians from Jacksonville State University, Kennesaw State University, University of Tennessee Chattanooga and Shorter University.

We are hosting the first ever marching competition at SHS on

September 27th called the Ring of Fire. It will feature performances by 15 high school bands. We will also compete at Northwest Whitfield on Oct. 4 and at Carrollton on October 25.

2025 SONORAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PHOENIX

DRUM MAJOR: Joshua Mitchell

FLUTES: Layla Blevins, Jazzell Najera, Fernanda Canchola, Alexis Long, Gabby Johnson, Autumn Shook, Chelsea Gragg, Jarely Pedroza, Kynslee Silvers

CLARINETS: Annie Betancourt, Angel Gonzalez, Delaney Martinez, Jordan Petty, Shaelyn Bethel, Electra Henderson, Kiersten Gilbert, Karly Gilbert, Macy Parker, Daisy Lara-Olmedo

BASS CLARINET: Abigail de la Cruz Bass, Melissa Vega Bass

ALTO SAX: Logan Beckman, Solomon Freese, Nathaly Martinez, William Benson, Sebastian Goswick, Desmond Green, Desmond Worley

TENOR SAX: Declan Wang, Blake Carey

BARI SAX: Grant Kinkad, Aidan Smith

MELLOWPHONES: Drake Jenkins, Jet Johnson

TRUMPETS: Emily Smith, Logan Brown, Jackson Fowler, Luke Harkins, Robert Lewis Jr, Monserrat Arguiano, Jonathon Overfield-Gilreath

TROMBONE: Leonardo Parra-torres, Bryson Sitten, Kaiden Findley, Avery Mansion, Tanner Abbott

BARITONE: Trey Smith, Daniel Ovalle, Morgan Hudec

TUBA: Cooper Maytum, Angie Hernandez, Ian Lopez, Christian Culbertson

PERCUSSION: Jet Garland, Karaline Mahon, Jordan Payne, Michael Stevens, Alexandra Reyes, Brexton Camp, Lucca McDougale, Katlynn Hopper, Zane McFarland, Silas Anduze, Aubree Holder, Veronica Haddox, Lula Kernea, Oliver Monica

PIANO: Yareli Estrada

GUITAR: Elijah Cornwell

COLOR GUARD: Catherine Bowers, Madison Ensley, Kimberlynn Evans, Georgia Lupo, Kaydence Mathews, Ali Richards, Miley Silva, Maddie Anglin, Sophia Cascio, Dixie Martin, Valeria Orellana, Jaidyn Zulueta, Emily Roberts, Kaylene Carder

MAJORETTES: Riley Miller, Isabella Segursky, Lilly Stone, Jenica Weaver, Johnah Kinkad, Sierra Bowers, Megyn Rampy, Clara Burke, Wynn Mashburn

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