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HANOVER TWP. – The Whippany Park High School Marching Band, “The Pride of Hanover Township,” earned its fifth consecutive Gold rating at the New Jersey Music Educators’ Association (NJMEA) Marching Band Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Wayne Hills High School in Wayne.

The Gold rating is the highest rating that can be awarded. Special recognition for “Outstanding Musical Contribution” was given to two Pride members. Senior trombone soloist Brian Stock as named for his part in “Luck Be a Lady.” Stock stated, “I think the Gold rating was well de-

served. All of gold rating the hours of practice paid off – and I enjoyed every minute of them!” Also honored was senior trumpet soloist Olivia Vieira for her solo in “Jersey Girl,” who said, “It felt really good to get the award but it’s more about the group as a whole. You don’t have a great soloist without a great band.”

Additionally, the judges offered praise for the unique nature of the show’s musical content, and the high level of musicianship and musicality demonstrated by the 160 plus members of the ensemble.

Stated Band Director Carl Sabatino, “The band and color guard came through

with a stellar performance in front of a very appreciative audience. We knew early on in the season that this group had the potential to really be exceptional and Saturday evening really confirmed that. The season is far from over but the excitement of the performance will stay with us for a while.”

“The students and staff embraced the show concept from day one and we the feedback has been tremendous,” Sciaino continued. “We always try to stay true to our own style which, I’d like to think, has made us fairly unique.”

The Pride can be seen performing at all home foot-

ball games during the fall season.

Whippany Park held its annual homecoming football game last Friday, and the Pride had close to 50 alumni musicians and color guard members joining the performance both in the stands and on the field. Alumni band is a tradition at Whippany Park, Sabatino said. “It’s great to see alumni still care about the program and want to remain connected to it. Even when alum can’t make it back to the game we will receive an email from them to check in and tell us they wish they could make it back. It means a lot to us.”