

## Fall Edition



# Basketball Previews & Updates

/by Jagger Hurraw & Harrison Richter/

## Men's Basketball

The Hamilton High School Boys basketball team have begun their 2023-24 season under the tutelage of first year head coach Chase Holden. The Marines have undergone a complete coaching staff reboot, with JV coach Scott Ailes and varsity assistant Quade Pike also new to their roles.

This year's team will mix youth and experience. In addition to returning seven varsity players from last year, ten newcomers join the squad.

Holden, a Hamilton High school alum, was a part of the Marines regional title. His resume suits his great coaching ability, as the players are already showing significant signs of improvement.

Along with the coaches, junior

Andrew Merritt is also stoked for the upcoming season, "We're ready to compete. The guys have been in the gym working hard since summer. We all want to win and show our fans, coaches, and community that their dedication pays off."

Classmate Harrison Richter: "It's going to be a great season. I am most excited to see our class play against people our own age. The past two years have been a major adjustment, playing varsity ball as freshmen and sophomores."

The first boys game was at Lakewood Park Christian on Tuesday the 21st. After a hard fought battle, the boys eventually fell to the home team 62-33. The home opener is against Lakeland Christian on Dec. 2nd.

## Women's Basketball



TeigAnn Freed shows off her "Rambo" move.

The Lady Marines basketball season is starting up and they can't wait to compete. The girls are led by seniors: Brittany Heffern, Jasmine Schieck, and Maddison Dager. The Marines are coached by Andrew Baker, assisted by Taylor Brown and Justin McKnight.

Senior Maddi Dager hopes to bring the team success after sitting her junior year, "I'm hoping to help the team get some wins and prepare the underclassman for future seasons."

Brittany Heffern followed up, "I hope we work together and play hard."

Coach Baker hopes to see a 'tenacious and unified' team. The team has made a lot of progress in the off

season at summer workouts. Coach Baker also noted, "There have been many changes since last year: we lost 5 seniors and an exchange student, and we are watching to see who will fill those voids. On another note our team should be a lot quicker all-around this year."

We hope to see family and friends in the stands, In the most recent game, the Lady Marines defeated South Bend Career Academy by a margin of 59-17. Great job ladies, and we hope everybody comes out for a game!



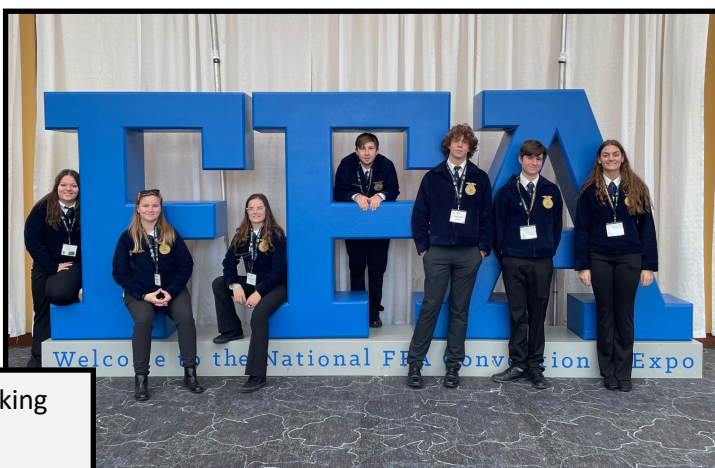
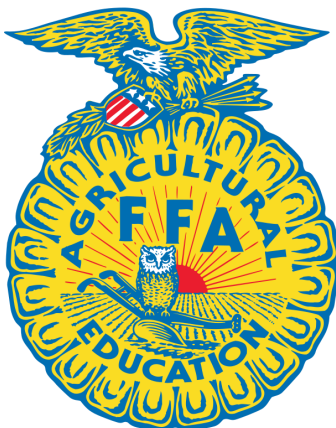
## FFA Convention

/by Zane Sharp/

Our FFA students got to attend the national FFA convention in Indianapolis on November, 1st.

The national convention is when FFA students from around the country get together to experience a wide range of activities including awards ceremonies, guest speakers, and rodeos.

Students also got to see live births from many different animals, including cows and pigs.



Hamilton members rocking their FFA swag!





# Marine Spirit Fills The Air

/by Tori Garrison/

Cheerleading is back and ready to show that Marine pride! After two excellent years, the program is starting to become something great. Although losing a few players, the team is excited to go! Head Coach Kyra Lucas when asked about her goals and aspirations, she noted, “Each year we sit down as a team and set goals for the team and as individuals.” She says that both the team and herself have met many goals and still continue to set multiple every year. Kyra goes on to say, “Our teams have been one of the largest programs that Hamilton has had over the past ten years or so. I have been told by many Athletic Directors of other schools that we have the best cheerleaders in the conference. Outside recognition motivates us to work even harder to retain that image of excellence.

Kyra and our school’s cheerleaders also have a cheer camp. “Our cheer camp program for the elementary school is very popular! The little ones absolutely love it. They ask for it all year long. We usually have 80 plus participants at our camps, which take place twice a season.” Kyra’s parting advice to anyone looking to be a future cheerleader is, “First, be dedicated to your team. Plan on working hard at practice and at home. There are quite a number of routines and cheers you have to memorize. Be a good role model on and off the court. Be a leader!”

Also interviewed was one of our senior cheerleaders, Reagan Kline. She has cheered for her whole life. “I just started cheering for my



brother's flag football team in preschool and have been in love with it ever since,” Reagan said. She then told us about what their cheer practices are like. “We start off with stretches, then kicks and jumps, after that we run through our material dances, cheers and such, then we stunt.” A funny moment Reagan remembers from cheer is when Taylor Harger did a kick at practice, but kicked so hard that her other foot slipped out from under her and she fell.” Reagan’s parting advice to anyone looking to be a future cheerleader is, “Always have spirit and don’t be afraid of what anyone thinks. And lastly, just have fun!”

The cheer team is ready to show their Marine pride and give the fans a show. The team cheers at most varsity games. Come out to a game and hear their cheers over the roar of the crowd.

# What Does Freedom Mean to Me?

/By Dade Beldon/



As a United States citizen and future marine, the concept of freedom holds profound significance in my life. It represents a core value that underpins both my role as a citizen and my commitment to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. To me, freedom encompasses personal liberties, national defense, and the right to defend what we hold dear; against ALL threats, foreign and domestic.

First and foremost, freedom as a United States citizen means personal liberties. It is the essence of the American experience, as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment safeguards my right to freedom of speech, religion, and the press, allowing me to express my thoughts and beliefs without fear of repression. The Second Amendment safeguards my right to bear arms, ensuring my ability to protect myself and my loved ones. These liberties are essential to personal autonomy and the pursuit of happiness, allowing me to live my life in accordance with my values and aspirations.

Furthermore, freedom entails national defense. As a future marine, I will be part of a noble tradition of safeguarding the nation’s security and the freedoms it represents. The U.S. Marine Corps plays a vital role in protecting the United States and its interests across the globe. This includes defending the republic, ensuring our way of life and preserving our values. Freedom, in this context, means being willing to serve and make sacrifices to maintain the peace and security that we all cherish.

Moreover, freedom comes with the responsibility to protect and uphold the values that the United States stands for. As a future U.S Marine, I understand that my service carries the weight of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It means being able to answer the call of duty, regardless of the challenges or sacrifices that may be required. Freedom is not only about enjoying the benefits of living in a free society; it is also about defending and preserving those freedoms for future generations.

Additionally, freedom means the opportunity to lead by example and inspire others. If I’m lucky enough to graduate boot camp as a Lance Corporal, I will have the privilege of serving as a role model not only to the Marines stationed under me, but to my community and its citizens as well. By upholding the principles of the honor, courage and commitment, I can inspire others to appreciate and contribute to the preservation of freedom. Freedom is not just a personal right; it is a shared responsibility that requires active participation and service to the greater good.

In conclusion, freedom as a United States citizen and future marine is a deeply cherished and respected value that encompasses personal liberties, national defense, and the responsibility to protect and uphold the principles of the nation. It is a value that defines the United States and sets the standard for democracy, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Freedom is not merely an abstract ideal, but a living and evolving commitment that requires vigilance, service and dedication. As a future marine, I am honored to embrace this commitment, knowing that I am part of a tradition that, for nearly two hundred and fifty years, has defended and preserved the freedoms we all hold dear, and I am ready to carry that responsibility with honor and dedication.



# Hall Pass

/by Harrison Richter & Andrew Merritt/

What is your most memorable Thanksgiving story?

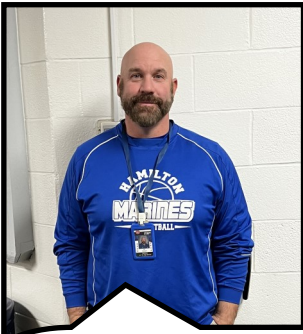
My most memorable is from this year since we don't have Thanksgiving in Thailand.

- Jenny Im



After one of my thanksgivings I sat on the toilet sweating for what felt like years.

- Zane Dull



5 years ago my uncle trumped my grandmas' ace in Euchre and she got so angry she flipped the table.

- Mr. Howard



My sister (Maddi) got so mad at a relative that she left and pouted in the car for the rest of Thanksgiving.

- Abbi Dager

## Upcoming Basketball Games

BASKETBALL (BOYS V) - ELKHART CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (A)

12/1/2023 7:30 PM

BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (H)

12/2/2023 1:00 PM

BASKETBALL (BOYS V) - LAKELAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (H)

12/6/2023 6:30 PM

BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - PRAIRIE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL (H)

12/5/2023 7:00 PM

BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - PANSOPHIA ACADEMY (A)

12/6/2023 6:30 PM

BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL (A)

12/8/2023 5:00 PM

## Thanksgiving Fun Facts



by: Fuzzy

1. There are 46 million turkeys eaten on Thanksgiving, but there are over 50 million pumpkin pies eaten.
2. WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 15, 2022) – AAA predicts 54.6 million people will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving.
3. It is predicted that 1 in 6 Americans will get food poisoning due to food from Thanksgiving. That is 48 million people.



# A Fowl Conspiracy Plucked Apart

## Benjamin Franklin's Feathered Folly

/by Dade Beldon/

In a bizarre turn of events, turkeys are being unmasked as the sinister, feathered villains of the animal kingdom. As it turns out, this revelation is not entirely new, as founding father Benjamin Franklin had once suspected these fowl creatures of harboring nefarious intentions.

Franklin, known for his wit and wisdom, expressed his concerns about turkeys back in the 18th century when he proposed the turkey as the national bird of the United States. He argued that the bald eagle had "bad moral character" and was a bird of "bad moral qualities." It seems Franklin intended to draw more attention to this feathered-yet-flightless-fiend via his humorous attempt to elevate the turkey to a symbol of American pride. Woe unto those who ignore our wisest of Founders!

Fortunately, we've hard evidence pointing to turkeys' villainous nature: their very association with Thanksgiving. While we gather around the dinner table to feast on these seemingly innocent birds, we should remember that they might be plotting their revenge. It's rumored that turkeys have developed an elaborate intelligence network, with "GobbleSpies" infiltrating our homes, learning our culinary secrets, and hatching their devious plans.

Moreover, turkeys have a history of befriending humans only to betray them. Just think about the turkey that befriend-



Ben Franklin, bifocals, THE All-American bird, and Old Glory all in one image.... You're Welcome!

ed Pocahontas in the Disney movie! Coincidence? I think not.

In recent years, reports of "turkey gangs" marauding through suburban neighborhoods have surged. They roam the streets, terrorizing innocent citizens and staging elaborate Thanksgiving heists, making off with cranberry sauce, stuffing, and pumpkin pies.

While we can't say for certain whether turkeys are truly evil, the evidence, albeit humorous, is piling up. As Benjamin Franklin's turkey suggestion remains a humorous anecdote in American history, the question remains: are turkeys really the wicked masterminds they appear as, or are we just overthinking their gobble-gobbling ways? Regardless, this Thanksgiving, keep an eye on that turkey at the center of the table—you never know what sinister plot it might be cooking up.