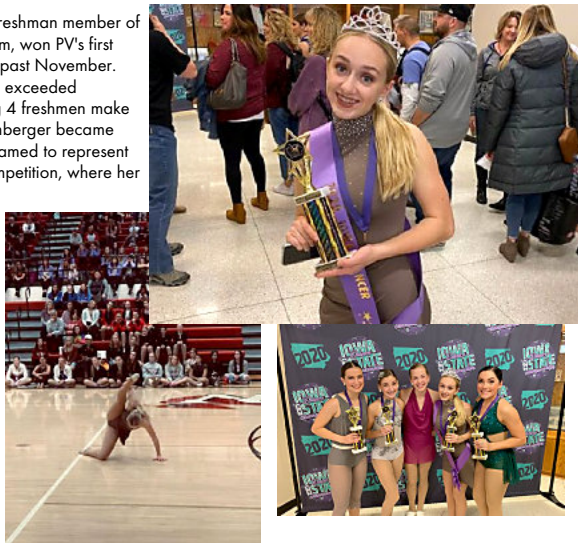


Dancing Queen

Josie Kaffenberger, a freshman member of the Platinum dance team, won PV's first ever state solo title this past November. After the class of 2023 exceeded expectations by having 4 freshmen make the varsity team, Kaffenberger became one of the 5 dancers named to represent PV at the state solo competition, where her perfectly executed routine earned her the top spot. Kaffenberger's win there has been widely celebrated by dancers and non-dancers alike, and was a result of lots of hard work on her part. "I truly believe that the more time you spend in the studio will clearly show through your ability in dance," she said after her victory.



This winter, PV's wrestling program hit a milestone: the school's all-time win record was broken by Senior Eli Loyd. The previous record of 186 wins, held by Travis Willers, was bested by Loyd in the beginning of February by his win over North Scott's Nate Link. "It just really shows that the hard work and dedication, starting from when I was kid, has just paid off in high school," Loyd told the QC Times, continuing that "the most wins at PV, that has my name on it." Loyd is a state and four-time MAC champion, and also currently holds the school records for most pins, most falls, and fastest pin time.

Pinning a Record 2

Olivia Waytenick, the 1 year old daughter of AP Lit teacher, Mrs. Luxemborg, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia early this winter. PV students and staff rallied around the family, selling "Be Olivia" shirts to raise money for her medical costs and adding "For Olivia" to the back of the warmup shirts of the varsity boys basketball team. Olivia has been undergoing chemotherapy at the University of Iowa Children's hospital, and was released in January to continue her chemo from home.



5 Olivia Strong



8 Donating to Change



On Feb. 5, numerous PV students and staff gave up their early out to donate blood at one of PV's multiple blood drives. The event is popular among students, as participants love the positive impact they can make by simply donating blood. The event draws in both donation veterans and newbies, all eager to help. Being able to give such an important resource to those who are in dire need of it is at the root of many students decisions to donate. Junior Rohan Abernathy-Wee said he believes that "since I have a healthy body and blood that it's just the right thing to do." An experience that can quite literally save lives, PV's blood drives continue to be an integral way that students and staff give back to the community around them.

Bild-ing STEM 9



Mrs. Bildner, science teacher and head of PV's Women in STEM club, received the Iowa STEM award this past January to acknowledge her work in the field of education. She was recognized for both her outstanding teaching skills in her science classes and her encouragement of women through her female STEM club. She started the club with a few students after seeing the lack of women in STEM classes, and set to work to try to change that. The club has grown to become a network of women learning about these traditionally male-dominated fields. Outside of her work with women in STEM, Bildner is beloved by all of her students, and says her approach to teaching is to "push for more student centered learning."

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TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE



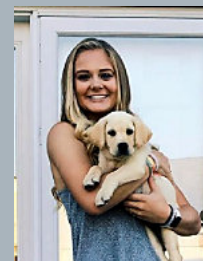
4 Political Prowess



As the election cycle approached, many juniors and seniors became very involved in the political process. With Iowa being the first in the nation to vote, many PV students met candidates, participated in discussion forums, and eventually caucused on February 3rd. "It doesn't matter what your persuasions are, voting is about getting to shape the nation that we're going to grow up in," said senior John Mendelin.

CHASING DOWN THE DREAM

PV students dream big, knowing hard work and determination can get them anywhere. Here's how these Spartans are chasing their dreams.



Jordyn Edwison '21
"I hope that I have a very successful future and life when I'm an adult."

3 Next Level



On November 26, 14 PV athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. The culmination of a life time of hard work, this letter signing ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of PV's students across multiple sports. Often a stressful process for those involved, the road to commitment is not easy. "I always knew that I wanted to row in college, but I never knew how stressful it would be to get there," explained rower Brenna Morley, a Duke commit. Now that they've reached the end of the process and their letters are signed, these senior Spartan athletes are eager and ready to begin their collegiate athletic careers.

6 Holiday Festivities

The Festival of Trees, an annual holiday display of Christmas trees and decorations, provided fun artistic opportunities for PV students this year. Many students sang musical pieces with their choirs, performed dance routines with their local studios, or showcased their artwork at the popular holiday event. Many participants enjoyed their artistic experience at the festival; senior Katie Gropel, who performed with her choir at the event, said it "just gets you excited for the season."



Glowing For a Cause

7



While most 3D art students tend to use clay for their projects, Laylon Baucom was recognized for his unconventional, activism-centered idea. Using recycled materials to create a gallery of glowing jellyfish, he wanted to work with the types of trash that are currently being pulled from the oceans. Each handmade jellyfish is made from an array of items that Baucom found throughout the school's recycling boxes, such as plastic bottles, straws and saran wrap.



William Farmer '21
"I hope that one day my kids will do better in the world than I did."

Hitting a High Note

10



Early in February, 17 PV band members were accepted to the SEIBA honor band after a long and thorough audition process. SEIBA, which stand for South-Eastern Iowa Band Association, hosts a prestigious honor band once a year for students excelling in their music studies. The audition process consists of two etudes, a minute long solo, and two memorized scales, all played as closely as possible to perfection. Making it through these highly selective auditions and into the band itself is a large honor. Senior clarinetist Sakshi Lawande, who made the cut, said that "It takes constant practice to prepare for SEIBA, so it feels good to know that the practice paid off." 4 flutes, 3 clarinets, 3 trumpets, 3 horns, 1 euphonium, 1 bassoon, and 3 percussionists from PV were accepted to the honor band.

TOP 10 WINTER

THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF...



Erik Volfson '21
"My future dream is following in my dad's footsteps and becoming an Anesthesiologist."