

Show Stopping Show Choir



○ Sophomore **Morgan McAninch** sings a solo in the Pella Bravo performance. “I chose to do a solo because I wanted to push myself to be a better singer and to be more confident,” said **McAninch**.



○ Junior **Ally Groenendyk** dances in the parent preview. She has enjoyed show choir since freshman year. “My favorite part about show choir is the uplifting atmosphere and the relationships I make,” said **Groenendyk**.



○ Freshman **Amelia Carlstone** participates in show choir for the first time this year. **Carlstone** enjoyed being in Bravo. “I made a lot of new friends and everyone was super nice to me,” said **Carlstone**.



Parent Preview

AcaPella Performs “Listen To the Music”

AcaPella and Bravo gave parents, friends, and family a preview of their show choir performances on January 11. Sophomore **Abbie Brand** enjoyed the performances at the parent preview.

“It’s not only the singing, it’s about working together with people from every grade in the high school to put on a show for our audience that brings a level of joy that can only be experienced in show choir,” said **Brand**.

Brand enjoyed show choir very much and

said that they she had many fun memories from this season.

“The best moment in show choir this year was when we stood in a circle and sang our ballad,” said **Brand**. “Looking at all the seniors who will never get to participate in show choir another year was a reminder that we don’t have much time left in this building, surrounded by our people, doing the activities we love.”

Sophomore **Milo VanHaften** participated in AcaPella for the first time this year.

“My favorite part of our show is the Tenor/Bass song,” said **VanHaften**. “I love the energy it brings to our performance.”

VanHaften really enjoys show choir, but said it can be hard, especially for someone’s first year in show choir.

“Keeping our energy consistent and not looking tired through the entirety of our show can be difficult,” said **VanHaften**. “It’s something you need to learn to do.”



○ Sophomore **Jack McGuire** bodies his way into the pain against Pella Christian.

Q: What do you think your future on the Pella High School Basketball team will look like?

A: I believe the future is very bright for this program. The freshmen this year have a lot of potential, and a lot of the guys in our grade keep getting better. I believe that after our senior year, it will be a fun team to watch

5 Minutes With Jack McGuire

Q: What is it like being a starter on varsity as a sophomore?

A: It is a bit overwhelming at times because you feel this sort of pressure to perform or do more than you can, but all you have to do is play your game.

Q: What is the most challenging part of being a student-athlete and balancing your school life with your basketball life?

A: I would say the school work after practice because I am lazy, and I don’t like homework, so I procrastinate, and it’s hard to balance my time.

Q: How does it feel to lead Pella in total points and rebounds this season?

A: It feels good because the work I have put in my whole life is paying off, but I am more proud of the bond and success of our team this year. I do not want it to end.

Extreme Weather Leads to 7 Snow Days

Iowa was hit with extremely low temperatures and constant snow fall in January. Pella had a low of -17 degrees with around 2 feet of snow. Snow was falling all day long and the winds were blowing at 40mph. At one point, it was actually dangerous to go outside. As a result, Pella Community Schools had 7 days off of school.

Sophomores **Bennie Dothager, Teagan Hoekstra, Trace Hopkins, Ryder Paxton, Rex Rhamy, John Shaw,** and **Maddox Smith** took advantage of one of those 7 days off of school. They all spent the night at **Hoekstra’s** house on a school night anticipating that school would be called off the next day. That day, they decided to all hang out together at Caldwell Park.

“Once we were outside, we realized the snow was perfect for snowballs, and we started rolling the snow for our snowman,” said **Hoekstra**.

After about 30 minutes of work, the snowman was complete and stood at nearly 8 feet tall.

“I think it was worth it because it was up a very long time, and we could see it standing everyday when we went to school,” said **Hoekstra**. “However, the most difficult part was putting the middle ball on the big ball, but we got it with some muscle power.”



○ Sophomores **Rex Rhamy, Bennie Dothager, Trace Hopkins, John Shaw, Ryder Paxton, Maddox Smith,** and **Teagan Hoekstra** built a massive snow man at Caldwell Park.