

LEFT | Freshman **Emily Vos** prepared to race in the 4x100 on Friday. RIGHT | Junior **Megan Kooker** took the second leg in the 4x200 relay, helping the team place eleventh overall. "The environment was so exciting, even though it was raining!" said **Kooker**.

Drake Relays

The Dutch track teams sent a message on the Blue Oval

The annual Drake Relays track meet in Des Moines took place from April 22-25. The girls' team qualified fifteen girls while the boys' placed in two events. To qualify for the Drake Relays is a feat on its own. The top ranked eighty-one sprint relay teams qualify to compete, while the distance and field events only allow twenty four competitors.

"Qualifying takes a lot of hard work and dedication. It shows that we are good enough to compete against the best runners in the state," said sophomore **Jenna Murphy**.

The boys' team had two competitors place in the top eight. Senior **Garret Jansen** placed 6th in the discus with a throw of 166-08 feet, while junior **Chase Van Sant** placed 6th in the long jump with a jump of 21-03.00 feet.

"I felt good about how I jumped overall! I felt I performed as well as I could have and being there was a big event for me. It was a goal of mine to compete there for a long time," said **Van Sant**.

The girls' team sent fifteen girls, five of which were seniors and three freshmen. Whether it was the first run for a freshman or one of the last on the Blue Oval for a senior, the Lady Dutch used this meet to send a message to other teams around the state that they are tough competitors for the state meet in May.

Identifying ... Annika Pingel

Freshman **Annika Pingel** has been competing in track events since a young age, but this year was her first time running for the high school. Sticking with the sprinters this season, **Pingel** has been competing very well and broke three school records. **Pingel**, with the help of her teammates, earned the chance to compete at the Drake Relays.

"I have been to the Drake Relays many times to watch my older siblings run, and this year it was a whole different experience because for once, I was the one running. It was a very exciting, just how I thought it was going to be. Running against the best athletes in the state and being one of them was great!" said **Pingel**.

Running has been a common love in the **Pingel** household. With three older siblings [graduates] **Jordan** and **Wade** both competing for Northern Iowa and current sophomore **Kiki Pingel** racing in hurdle events, she is well supported. Both of **Pingel's** parents, **Kari** and **Eric** have been an important part of the track staff. They both assist the track team by coaching, as well as creating various workouts. The future of **Pingel's** running career has always been on their minds.

"It's a great feeling. I'm especially excited to see what I can do these next three years," said **Pingel**.

COMPETE | Freshman **Annika Pingel** broke 3 school records this year in the open 200, 4x200 relay and the sprint medley. "It felt great because that was one of my goals this year in track," said **Pingel**.



ABOVE | (left to right) Seniors **Todd Van Dyke**, **Chase Van Vliet**, sophomores **Kent Beyer**, **Chandler Jauner**, (advisers) **Jacob Bowers**, **Amanda Stanley**, sophomore **Alex Weers**, and **Sara Aguilar**, made up the 2014-2015 Pella FFA Officer Team. The year's officers, along with the part of the chapter, attended the state convention.

Tour de Fromage

French class ventured into Des Moines

The French class took a trip to Des Moines on April 28 where they tasted a variety of French food, focusing on a variety of French cheeses. The first stop was to a bakery called La Mie. The bakery was filled with pastries such as croissants, scones, and cream cheese danishes.

"I had a lot of fun on the French trip with my class! My favorite part was probably going to La Mie Bakery and trying the different French pastries. They were all so, so delicious!" said junior **Laurel Stelter**.

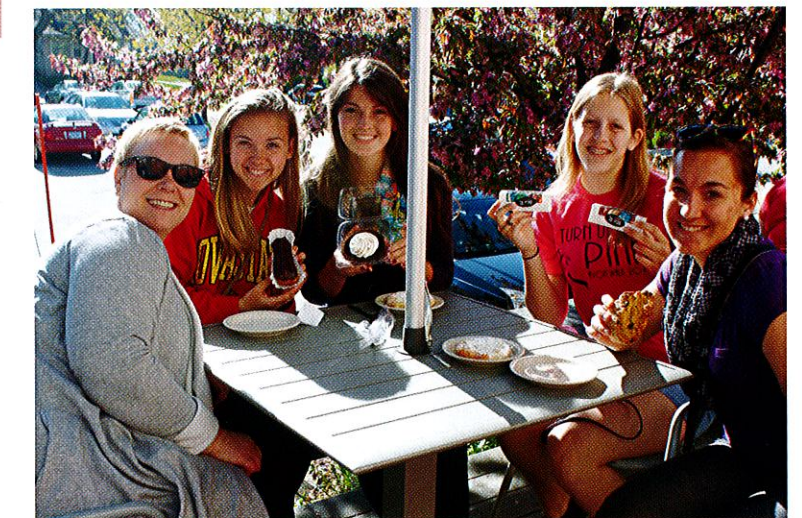
La Mie had cheeses, pastries, and baked goods from many other places besides France, such as Italy. **Travis Dingeman**, **Nathan Chaplin**, and **William Lovel** tried ham cut straight off of a pig leg.

"We went to a shop that sold prosciutto ham that cost \$90 a pound, and we said to ourselves, 'we have to have some of that,' and we did," said senior **Travis Dingeman**.

After that, they went to Vom Fass, an oils, vinegars, spirits, and liquor store. At this place they mixed different options and made various salad dressings and marinades to put on meats.

For lunch, the group went to a restaurant called Djano, a French restaurant, in downtown Des Moines. Students devoured foods such as crepes, croque monsieurs (a french version of a ham and swiss sandwich), soups and pastas.

"I absolutely loved the French trip. We went to La Mie which means "the crumb" in french. We got to taste some food that would have been made in France. Some of the foods included cod ants, macaroons, other french baked pastries, cheese made in France as well as other countries, and different kinds of vinegar and oils. If I could eat that food everyday, I would be a happy camper. Walking in each store and knowing what the vocabulary on the menus was pretty fun and enjoyable as well as spending time with my French class. Overall, it was a delightful trip and I look forward to the trip next year," said junior **Shanae Dehaan-Burch**.



ABOVE | French teacher **Beth Glassnap** and students (left to right) **Laurel Stelter**, **Shanae De Haan-Burch**, **Molly Langstraat**, and **Sara Tallman** try different pastries they bought at La Mie.

“We went to a shop that sold prosciutto ham that cost \$90 a pound, and we said to ourselves, ‘we have to have some of that,’ and we did.”
-Senior **Travis Dingeman**

FFA State Convention

Four students earned ratings in state events

State FFA was held at Hilton Coliseum in Ames from April 19-21. It was a big convention where schools from all around the state came together and collaborated on upcoming events. Some students had the opportunity to display their work, and others competed in events. Sophomore **Chandler Jahner** was able to compete at state in the Ag Radio Broadcasting event. The FFA students who participated in state went through a series of stages to qualify to compete at state.

"State convention was an absolute blast! Being able to learn, enjoy great time with friends, and being blessed to compete made for something that I will not soon forget. State convention allowed for me to bond with my fellow FFA members and members across the state. It gave me a chance to better my understanding about the organization and how to become a better leader in agriculture," said **Jahner**.

Awards

Chapter Display: Sophomores **Alaina Klyn** and **Kennedy Vande Voort** - Gold

Proficiency Award in Cattle: Sophomore **Kent Beyer** - Silver
Radio Broadcasting: Sophomore **Chandler Jahner** - Gold