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Competing in the 'big leagues'

Returning Thespians hit UNI campus for competition

Attending various workshops, along with watching plays and musicals, were highlights of the Thespians' trip to the University of Northern Iowa's campus Nov. 15-16. Additionally, the group connected with two graduates who now attend UNI.

"My favorite part was hanging out with everyone and getting to see some people at the college that had graduated from Pella," said sophomore **Craig Miller**.

One was **Marielle Gaiser**, pictured above with seniors **Jack Parisee** and **Aaron Van Maanen**, a DJ for the campus radio station.

"My favorite part of the entire trip was getting to be on the radio," said sophomore **Elyse Parisee**. They also visited with graduate **Micah Zeimetz**.

Two students brought home awards. Junior **Davis VandeSteege** entered in the theater marketing event and received two superior ratings from the judges.

"The best part was performing in the individual events," said **VandeSteege**. He will now have the chance to go to the International Thespian Festival in June.

Junior **Victoria Karnes** also received a superior rating for costume designs for the school play "Don't Drink the Water."

Fingerprinting 101

Criminal Justice lab takes prints

"I loved finger printing. It was fun and interesting to learn how to use the brushes to find them [the finger prints]," said senior **Sage Brandt**, far right. Students spent two days learning about and gaining an understanding of different ways to find fingerprints.

Several different methods were demonstrated to lift prints off objects. "My favorite thing was using different techniques to lift your fingerprint. It was weird how lotion and things like that affect the clarity of your fingerprint. It was fun!" said junior **Kira Hanson**.

This is the first year that a Criminal Justice class has been offered at Pella High. "It was fun to experience something outside of the classroom. I learned a lot," said senior **Ben Atkins**, far left. "I hope to never encounter this experience in real life."



30 → NOVEMBER

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Sophomore **Katelyn Kime** takes her health into own hands with CrossFit

What is your favorite workout so far? Least favorite?

Q

“My favorite thing is the warmups we sometimes get to play really fun games or climb the big rope. My least favorite workout is when we have to do running workouts for a long period of time.”

What is your favorite thing overall about the class?

Q

“My favorite thing about the class is that it’s a friendly environment and no one compares how good or bad you do!”

Q

Since you have started working out regularly during the week do you feel like you are doing better in other aspects in life?

“Since I have started the class I feel like I have been making healthier decisions and feel a lot better about myself.”



Junior **Morgan Terpstra** holding up the note that she recieved.

Paying it Forward

Action advances next level of kindness

One morning when they arrived at school, seven students opened their lockers to find an envelope containing 10 one dollar bills and a note encouraging them to Pay it Forward.

“We tried to choose people we somewhat knew and that we thought would take full advantage of the opportunity to Pay it Forward. We would have loved to do it with all students, but teachers and nurses don’t get paid enough for that,” said Anonymous.

Pay it Forward was set into action by a person who wanted others to see how good it feels to be a blessing to someone.

“With what our family has been through we’ve realized how extremely blessed we have been and have been trying to find ways to return the favor, so to speak,” said Anonymous.

This is how Pay it Forward works: a person receives 10 one dollar bills. Five of them are for them, five are for someone else. The catch is to remain anonymous.

“Sometimes when we go out to eat, we pick

a table in the restaurant and pay for their meal without the people knowing who did it,” the originators disclosed.

Even though they have done this on a few occasions, they have one occasion that sticks out in their mind.

“My favorite reaction was at a restaurant in Des Moines. It was the first time with our kids along that we paid for someone else’s meal. We let them pick the people, and they chose a table of teenagers. The waitress told us when the teenagers found out someone had taken care of their bill, they immediately started talking about what they could do with the money they didn’t spend on the meal to Pay it Forward. It was great to know that there was going to be more good done,” said Anonymous.

“Every time we do something like this, we try to keep it discreet and not let the people know it was us. We want the focus to be on Paying it Forward rather than where it came from,” added Anonymous.

Seeing is believing

Somreat experiences ‘white stuff’ for the first time

Freshman **Janyret Somreat** experienced her first snow Nov. 11.

“I found out that the snow was not for me!” said **Somreat**.

In the Midwest, students often look forward to the first snow of the season. This lets them know that the holidays are on their way, and so is break. But, for **Somreat**, she had never

experienced any of this.

“I really liked the break that we got,” said **Somreat**.

Snow was not one of Somreat’s favorite things about moving here from Cambodia.

“One of my favorite things is seeing and getting to know new people,” said **Somreat**.

NOVEMBER → 31

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