

ALA Trumps Trump, PSC Stands in Solidarity



EDUARDO LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Ever since President Trump was elected into office there have been increasing amounts of stress felt students who are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA recipients. When President Obama was in office, he signed an executive order to protect children who came to this country at a young age from being deported. It gave them to a social security card and a work-permit, which allowed them to work legally in this country.

With the increasing amount of students who have DACA statuses or are undocumented the school began to lack resources to help those students. One of the biggest clubs at Prairie State College, All Latin Alliance, brought those concerns to the Student Trustee, Octavio Origel Jr. He sat down with ALA's President, Yesenia Munoz, and then took the time to talk to many students to understand more about their concerns. After hearing what everyone's concerns were, he decided to be their voice for the board meeting. On February 28th, the school held its monthly board meeting to discuss issues about the school and its students. At the meeting, when Octavio's turn to speak in front of the board members came, he wasn't alone. He had the full support of All Latin Alliance, which stood in solidarity with him filling up the majority of the room. As ALA stood up, you could see and feel how much of an impact they made, and planned to make to show the school that this concern needed immediate attention. After the meeting, many club members were overjoyed to see that change

was indeed coming, especially their club advisor, Jennica Rodriguez, who was the happiest of them all. Following this meeting, President Winfree released this letter to students on March 7th, showing the progress that was made:

"Dear Students,

At Prairie State College, we have been closely monitoring President Donald Trump's recent efforts to change the U.S. policies on immigration and undocumented individuals. These executive orders and policy proposals could have a direct and adverse impact on the lives of some of our students and their families. I want to reassure you that the college remains committed to its mission and values of accessibility and diversity on our campus. At PSC, we will continue to create opportunities for immigrant students, and provide resources to help them succeed. In fact, during the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, students and board members joined in solidarity as a show of support of our undocumented students.... The college also has formed a task force whose objective is to help the college and its students navigate through this time of uncertainty. In addition, we are pursuing ways to better assist current and future immigrant students by developing initiatives to increase scholarship funds available through the PSC Foundation. Understand that we will continue to protect the privacy of our students as required by the Family Education Rights

and Privacy Act (FERPA), and we do not collect or maintain information about student immigration status, except for those students who are on campus with a student visa. At PSC, we stand in support of our students. We will continue to monitor the situation and other proposed legislation, and are we are prepared to work within our legal capacity to advocate for students and keep them on the path to success.

Please know that there are staff members on campus who are dedicated to helping students who may need assistance during this time, or have questions or concerns. If you are looking for more information on scholarships or other available support, you can start here: prairiestate.edu/apply-reg-pay/how-to-enroll/undocumented-or-dreamers.aspx. Also, students who seek counseling can contact Shannon Word at (708) 709-3511 or Jennica Rodriguez, Hispanic Outreach Specialist/Enrollment Advisor, 709-3510, Office 1204. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these individuals or a member of the administration. We are all here to help our students, and will do our best to offer whatever answers or assistance we can."

The Pioneer would also like to let the students of Prairie State College know that we stand with you, and that you are not alone. Please utilize the information provided in President Winfree's Letter, or contact us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu so we can direct you to the appropriate channels.

Hoops! There it is: PSC's Basketball Season Wraps Up

RAMON MORGAN
STAFF WRITER



Photo Courtesy of prairiestate.edu

The Prairie State College men's basketball season ended on March 5th, with their final game played against Triton College. It was a game that had the crowd on the edge of their seats. The Pioneer's freshman forward, Desmond Trapp, attempted to make a three-point shot as time expired, in an attempt to force overtime but the shot was no good, as called by the referees. Trapp finished the season first team all-region with 13 double doubles over the season. In basketball, a double is the accumulation of a double-digit number total in one of five statistical categories—points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocked shots—in a game, so a double-double is an individual basketball performance in which a player accumulates a double digit number total in two of five categories.

Prairie State College unfortunately lost the game, 85-84, ending their season. Despite the loss, this season was a great improvement compared to last year's (2015-2016) season, in which the team finished 8-22. The men's basketball team developed to 19-13 for the 2016-2017 season, with an 11-5 home record.

In other sports news: The women's basketball season also ended on March 5th in an overtime game against Carl Sandburg College. The final score of the playoff game was 68-65, with the Pioneers losing their final game. Overall, the women's basketball team finished 15-14 for the 2016-2017 season, *not bad ladies!* The spring sports season starts this month with baseball, softball and tennis all gearing up and ready to go! Good luck to all the teams for the 2017 season from your friends at *The Pioneer*.

Chicago Public Schools have a Chance DAPL Devastation

EDUARDO LOPEZ

STAFF WRITER

Growing up in the city of Chicago, there are many rappers who just need that one break to get big. However sometimes they get the fame and fortune they've always wanted and they tend to forget where they grew up and to help those in need. Chancellor Johnathan Bennet - better known as Chance the Rapper - is an independent musician that releases his music totally free of charge. Chance was nominated in seven categories at the 2017 Grammys. In the seven categories, he won three out of those seven nominations that included Best New Artist, Best Rap Album, and Best Rap Performance. This was unheard of from an unsigned artist to win Best New Artist award, as the standard in the past was to be backed by a record label in order to receive Grammy Recognition. Chance has been making history. With the honor he was bestowed, he came back to his hometown of Chicago to help his community. On March 3rd 2017 he met with Gover-



Photo Courtesy of Billboard.com

nor Rauner to talk about the dire situation with Chicago Public Schools budget crises, which threatens to have CPS closing schools earlier this year than it attended to. His meeting with Gov. Rauner lasted around 40 minutes and when Chance emerged from the meeting, he told reporters on site that he was "a little bit flustered" and that he was disappointed with how Gov. Rauner gave a lot of vague answers to his questions concerning the education of Chicago's youth. As of March 6th 2017, Chance announced via a press conference that he will donate \$1 million to Chicago Public Schools to aid in the reformation of the budget. Many are prais-

ing him for this kind gesture and thanking him for giving the youth a fighting chance at a good education. Even the former First Lady, Michelle Obama, tweeted "Thanks @chancetherapper for giving back to the Chicago community, which gave us so much. You are an example of the power of arts education" and we also want to thank Chance the Rapper to still give his time from his extremely busy schedule to care about the lives of his hometown. Chance hasn't let his fame cloud his knowledge of what is right and his love for his city.

Sources: Chicago Tribune, People Magazine



EDUARDO LOPEZ

STAFF WRITER

Photo Courtesy of CNN.com

Since last summer, a controversial plan to build a 1,172-mile pipeline from North Dakota to Illinois has been in limbo until recently. The controversy around the Dakota Access Pipeline stems from its construction that will go through Standing Rock Reservations. The Sioux Tribe is angry that the oil company doesn't regard the environmental impact this pipeline will have. They fear that if the oil in the pipeline leaks, it will leave irreversible damage to the environment and waterways that Native Americans currently inhabit and use for drinking water. Also to add to the problem, is that fact that the pipeline will disrupt and destroy sacred burial sites with its construction.

Major celebrities are standing in solidarity to support the protestors to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Stars such as Ro-

sario Dawson, Mark Ruffalo, Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, and Chris Evans are all protesting its construction and using their fame to speak out against this monstrosity. The list of those lending their voices and star power is a lot larger, but it shows how when working together with the people celebrities can use their fame in a positive matter to show the world we need to support the people who are there, fighting for an end to the pipeline. Recently, President Trump signed an executive order to approve the construction of DAPL, so the government sent out an eviction notice to the protestors there. Some left on their own will out of fear and discouragement but others were brutally forced by police. This isn't the first of bad decisions by our government, and it won't be the last. In the coming months, we will see the results of this disappointing move by our President, but for now, we're all being let down.

Op: Trump Military Spending, Too Much?

ANTHONY MILLER

STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump is planning on increasing the military spending by 10%. Alone, this line might seem like another boring news article but it is not. A 10% increase to the military's budget sounds like a great idea, however let's look at the facts. The world is currently in a time of peace: we have fewer wars, less conflicts, and less disease than ever before in any point in human history. The truth of the matter is that you are safer now than any other time in human existence. Also did you know that America spends more on its military than about seven countries combined? To put that another way: If you were to add up the annual spending on military for China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, United Kingdom, India, France, and Japan you will still be a couple billion short of what America spends each year. Why the President believes that a leading world super power that consumes about

596 billion dollars each year in military spending needs a 10% increase in its already massive budget is a troubling question to say the least.

However, there are some more points that we need to touch on as well.

The 10% increase will not come out of thin air, and with taxes being such a "no-go" for politicians the money has to come from somewhere right? Well worry not readers, the president has a plan for where to get this money from. In order to increase the military spending of the largest militarized country on earth we are going to slash billions of dollars from the EPA and State department.

You read that correctly, the Environmental Protection Agency is going to be suffering a devastating blow of billions of dollars



Photo Courtesy of The Odyssey

in cut backs; one almost wonders what will be left of the organization once the budget cuts take effect. The programs effected through the State department and EPA has yet to be determined, however, one only needs to imagine the effect this budget cut will have on generations to come.

One positive fact about the budget cuts is that President Trump has stated that he will leave social security and Medicare programs alone. Although the shock waves of this proposed budget has yet to be felt, it is not over stepping by saying that they will be felt for generations to come.

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BSU Does It Again! PSC's Got Talent Rocks the Auditorium

AVERY MANUEL

STAFF WRITER

When the School closed back in January, it seemed like BSU's talent show was not going to happen, and the curtains were going to remain closed to the idea. However, Black Student Union President, Alexis Bennett, and her Vice President, Ashley Bennett, and Avery Manuel decided that the show must go on despite the current odds stacked against them. The trio mapped out everything and with the help of Helen Manley, the Student Life Coordinator and BSU Advisor, they got the auditions that they wanted to hold, but the catch? They only lasted one day.

Through the power of social media, and word of mouth, people came out to the auditions. The number of people that came both shocked and impressed the BSU members, especially since it was so short notice. It seemed that they had luck and great student support on their side. In the auditions, they had some returning and well known acts from previous shows and some new faces too, which pleased them. So after a round of interesting auditions, BSU had its lineup! They narrowed

their final list down and then they put on a show for the people.

Avery Manuel was asked to host the event, and honored by this request he responded enthusiastically, "Yes! Of Course!"

Now preparing for a great show was amusing and challenging for Manuel. Not only did he have to help make sure things were running smoothly behind the scenes prior to and during the duration of the show, he had to get the crowd pumped and keep everyone entertained, which is not an easy feat.

The show rolled around on February 23rd, and everyone was as excited and as nervous as the contestants. Manuel recalls the moments leading up to the show:

"We all gathered in the back (off stage) to ease the tension, we relaxed our nerves, took deep breaths and then we prepared to hit the stage. I was ready to fulfill my job and give the people what they wanted; they dressed me in a purple church robe. My energy was pretty high at this point. So, I come out, the crowd takes one look at me and erupt in laughter, wondering simply why."



"The way he started the show in that choir robe I knew it was gone be a great show" Kaitlyn M recalls that opening moment with a smile.

From that moment, the thought crossing everyone's mind was "let's make the most out of what is here." And they did.

The night was truly one to remember, from the performances of the contestants to a special act by Ayodele Drum & Dance, the crowd remained on its feet, soaking in the talent that filled the room. At last, the night had to come to a close, and winners had

to be selected. There were three places to be awarded in the contest by the great 3 judges that lent their time, which was what everyone was anxious to find out.

In third place was last year's 1st place dance act winner, Marcel Williams. In second place was also a return performer from last year, rapper James "HEAVIE" Bryant, only this time he was by himself (he was part of a larger act in the previous show). In first place were the newcomers; an amazing singing duo, which consisted of Quinshawn Bolden and Moriah Terry.

The Pioneer caught up with a few students to explain the night and got a few brief quotes

"Avery Was hilarious" - Le'asia

"The Duo of Moriah and Quinshawn? Absolutely amazing!" - Nadia

Im thankful for BSU...And glad I got as far as I did" Heavie "Phenomenal"

With all the positive feedback it begs the question, what is next for BSU??

Listeners were Jazzed at PSC's Jazz Fest

NICK ULANOWSKI

STAFF WRITER

On Friday, February 17th, Prairie State College hosted its 29th annual Jazz Festival. It was largely organized by Valerie Nicholson.

The Jazz Fest began with a short speech from WDCB 90.9 FM radio host Paul Abella. He stated that "the future of jazz" was about to perform. "Who knows? We might see the next Cory Wilks. We might see the next Miles Davis."

Valerie Nicholson spoke next. "Welcome to the 29th annual jazz festival." She gave mention to the Southland Arts Municipal Alliance who was hosting and she recommended that audience members look into them and their good

work. They host a number of jazz sessions in and around Chicago's south suburbs. "It's not about age. It's about passion," she added.

The fest featured Jazz Masters Jam, a group of professional jazz musicians who have often come to Prairie State to play every year, and two south suburban middle school bands.

Members of the O.W Huth Middle School band and their instructor Mr. Ronald Harry then entered the stage. They played the songs "Our Night in Tunisia" and "Papa's got a Brand New Bag." After their performance, Valeria spoke well of the performance's conductor. "Mr. Henry, by the way, is a wonderful

trumpet player."

Next to perform was Coolidge Middle School lead by conductor and band director Mr. Mario Moody. He stated that they unofficially call the school band "The Sound of Soul." They first played the songs "Rule" by Count Baisey and "After Blue" by Monga Santa Maria. After playing these two songs, Mr. Moody said, "I'd like to thank Professor Nicolson and the entire staff. [...] Thank you for the opportunity. I appreciate it. For this last selection if you want to clap, dance with us, that's okay." The band then finished their performance by playing Mary Ann by Ray Charles.

Valerie encouraged the audience to check

out the Prairie State art gallery during intermission. When the show began again, Valerie Nicholson presented Sam Higgins with the Excellence in Jazz Leadership Award. During Higgins' acceptance speech, he said: "It has been an honor being in education. As any educator will tell you, we do this for the love. We definitely don't do this for the money."

He also stated that it has always been his dream to teach music and perform music. He thanked his wife for being there by his side.

Paul Higgins then spoke about the upcoming performing acts of the Jazz Masters Jam. He said, "You are about to witness royalty."

Jazz Masters Jam performed the duration of the show. Orbert Davis, Ed Peterson, Valerie Nicholson, Ernie Adams, Larry Gray and with special guest Rubem P Alvarez took the stage and brought the house down. At one point, 9th grader Juan Luis and another south suburban teen, Duan Louis, joined the stage and played music with the professionals.

Orbert Davis made this statement after sharing the stage with the young musicians:

"I don't know about you but that's inspiring. I don't have to tell anybody in this room that we're in troubled times but there is hope. I won't go into the many reasons why. But this is hope."

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

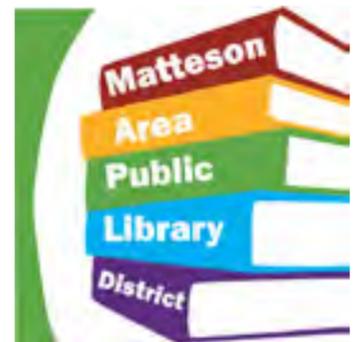
Throughout the month of April the Matteson Area Public Library District we host a series of events that bring awareness to the topic of sexual violence. Here is a list of the planned activities throughout the month.



- April 1st - 30th Library hours: Stop- in and Write a Postcard to legislators to speak-out about this issue. Make your voice heard. Write a postcard to your state/local representatives that insure stronger laws will be enforced for this crime.
April 5th, 2017: 7:00 PMYWCA Sexual Violence Awareness Program Counselors will be discussing consent, prevention, and what to do in the aftermath for the survivors of this crime.
April 8th, 2017 : 1:00 PMMovie Showing : The Hunting Ground Emmy winning documentary highlights the crisis of sexual assault on college campuses. Registration required
April 10th, 2017: 7:00 PMWrite a Love Letter to Yourself. Stop in and write a letter to yourself and express yourself about this issue.
April 22nd, 2017: 10:00 AMSelf Defense Program One Light Self Defense team will be teaching self-defense and safety awareness in this 3 hr program. Registration required
2:00 PMSilent No More SPEAKOUT! In a closed safe place a sexual violence crises counselor will be available along with provided materials to draw, write, or just speak to others about this issue and your feelings.
April 26th, 2017: 4:30 PMWear Denim for a Purpose Make & Make a Denim Craft
National Denim Day is a campaign that was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court, where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her rapist remove them, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Participate in National Denim Day in our library and community by wearing jeans and make a craft from denim to take home. Registration required.

Every Monday, the library will post a new Ted Talk that focuses on this crucial issue. Look for the link on the library's webpage, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

- 1. Violence Against Women: Jackson Katz
2. A Call to Men: Tony Porter
3. How We talk about Sexual Assault Online: Ione Walls
4. Find Your Voice Against Gender Violence: Meera Vijayann
5. Our Story of Rape & Reconciliation: Thordis Elva & Tom Strange



Matteson Public Library District located at 801 School St. Matteson IL. 60443. For more details about specific events visit www.MAPLD.ORG , call 708-748-4432 ext 203 or email @ ASDEPT@MAPLD.ORG.

It's Up to Us to Learn About National Debt

PETER BRASSEA
GUEST WRITER

My name is Peter Brassea and I am in a nationwide college competition called Up to Us. The main goal is to teach millennials about the Long term national debt. It is Prairie State's first time ever being in the competition. I am team leader of Prairie States team for the Up to Us competition. I got picked because of my past leadership roles at PSC and I also was referred by Terrence Dillion, a student at JSU who referred me. I was flown out to CA in January for 3 days and was trained extensively on these events, and how to lead events, etc.

So far, we've had 2 events on campus in February. The first one was called "My Two Cents Day" and that was

on February 9. Students learned about the national debt and signed a pledge that said they had been informed of the national debt and that the next time they went to vote, they'd be more mindful of who they were voting for and how that person will help the national debt. In exchange for signing the pledge, we gave away over 360 Krispy Kreme Donuts and over 70 cups of coffee! We also had a raffle for anyone that took a picture with the Instagram cutout. The prizes were a 3 month Netflix subscription, a Starbucks gift card, a target gift card, and a google chrome cast! It was a big hit.

Our second event was on Feb 21 and this was our "wildcard activity" called "Trivia Day" at PSC. We played many games of trivia regarding the national

debt, jeopardy style. We spun the wheel on the projector to determine the difficulty of the question asked, from low to high. The top 3 winners of all games got big prizes. The first winner got a 32' inch flat screen, the second place winner got a JBL Bluetooth speaker, and the 3rd place winner got a HP printer. We also did raffles that day too, and gave away a subway gift card, a Panera bread gift card, and a Chili's gift card.

Both events were big turnouts and we gave out over \$500 in prizes etc. However we did so good in our events, that the nonprofit organization has asked us to host up to two more on campus in the next month or two. Just in the month of February alone, we got over 740+ to sign the pledge.

PIONEERS
Baseball Schedule - 2017

Table with columns: Date, Day, Time, Opponent, Location. Rows include games from Feb 15-16 to May 27, listing opponents like Jackson State, Marist College, and various local colleges.

STAFF:

Editor-In-Chief:
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Staff Writers:
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Avery Manuel
Anthony Miller
Ramon Morgan
Nick Ulanowski

Vision Statement

To be recognized as Prairie State College's leading and most trusted media network, reaching not only our home campus, but through our neighboring communities as well.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Prairie State College *Pioneer* is to be the most precise, most wide-ranging and most thought-provoking source of news, sports, and entertainment for the PSC campus community.

The core values that the Editorial Staff and the Reporters of the *Pioneer* should operate on are:

- To react quickly to any newsworthy events, whether on campus, around the community, in the state, or in another part of the world if we believe that the news would impact our readers.

- To actively seek content that will interest and inspire readers, provide quality entertainment, provoke thoughtful discussion, and advance the reader's knowledge.

- To create a platform that is a direct reflection of the diversity and uniqueness of the backgrounds, goals, needs, and interests of the readers.

- To consistently hold the ethical guidelines of *The Pioneer* and Prairie State College in high regard and to cultivate the most professional atmosphere at times, whether in office or on location.

- To develop professional and successful student journalists that will be able to use the skills gained working on *The Pioneer* and studying at Prairie State College in every aspect of life.



Tennis Schedule - 2017

Date	Day	Time	Opponent	Location
Feb. 6	Mon.	2:30 p.m.	Lewis University - Exhibition	Homewood, IL
Feb. 11	Sat.	3:00 p.m.	Illinois Wesleyan - Exhibition	Bloomington, IL
Feb. 22	Wed.	2:30 p.m.	Olivet Nazarene - Exhibition	Bourbonnais, IL
Feb. 23	Thur.	2:45 p.m.	Chicago State - Exhibition	Homewood, IL
Mar. 18	Sat.	2:00 p.m.	Lewis & Clark Community College	Godfrey, IL
Mar. 25-26	Sat.-Sun.	TBA	Pioneer CD Classic	Homewood, IL
Apr. 1	Sat.	10:00 a.m.	Concordia University - Chicago	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 1	Sat.	2:00 p.m.	Concordia University - Wisconsin	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 3	Mon.	2:45 p.m.	College of DuPage	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 4	Tues.	2:45 p.m.	Moraine Valley Community College	Palos Hills, IL
Apr. 6	Thur.	2:45 p.m.	Oakton Community College	Des Plaines, IL
Apr. 8	Sat.	2:45 p.m.	Sauk Valley Community College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 11	Tues.	2:45 p.m.	College of Lake County	Grayslake, IL
Apr. 13	Thur.	2:45 p.m.	McHenry County College	Crystal Lake, IL
Apr. 18	Tues.	2:45 p.m.	Elgin Community College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 20	Thur.	2:45 p.m.	Waubensee Community College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 20-30	Fri.-Sun.	TBA	Region Tournament-Moraine Valley	Palos Hills, IL
May 5	Fri.	TBA	University of Missouri	Chicago Heights, IL
May 15-19	M-F	TBA	National Tournament - Colin College	Plano, TX

Head Coach: Brian Johnson
Assistant Coach: Linda Gates

Revised: 2/27/17

*All times are Central Standard Time



Women's Softball Schedule - 2017

Date	Day	Time	Opponent	Location
Mar. 3-4	Fri-Sat	TBA	Bandits Dome Tournament	Rosemont, IL
Mar. 11-17	Sat-Fri	TBA	Myrtle Beach - Spring Break Tournament	Myrtle Beach, SC
Mar. 21	Tues.	3:00 p.m.	Kankakee Community College	Kankakee, IL
Mar. 23	Thur.	3:00 p.m.	College of Lake County	Grayslake, IL
Mar. 24	Fri.	3:00 p.m.	South Suburban College	Chicago Heights, IL
Mar. 25	Sat.	Noon	Joliet Junior College	Joliet, IL
Mar. 28	Tues.	3:00 p.m.	Waubensee Community College	Chicago Heights, IL
Mar. 30	Thurs.	3:00 p.m.	McHenry County College	Chicago Heights, IL
Mar. 31	Fri.	3:00 p.m.	Triton College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 2	Sun.	Noon	Rock Valley College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 4	Tues.	3:00 p.m.	Moraine Valley Community College	Palos Hills, IL
Apr. 8	Sat.	Noon	Harper College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 11	Tues.	3:00 p.m.	Morton College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 13	Thurs.	3:00 p.m.	Oakton Community College	Des Plaines, IL
Apr. 15	Sat.	Noon	College of DuPage	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 18	Tues.	3:00 p.m.	South Suburban College	South Holland, IL
Apr. 21	Fri.	3:00 p.m.	Kankakee Community College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 22	Sat.	Noon	Joliet Junior College	Chicago Heights, IL
Apr. 23	Sun.	Noon	Triton College	River Grove, IL
May 1	Mon.	TBD	Region IV Playoff-District C	TBD
May 3	Wed.	TBD	Region IV Quarterfinals	TBD
May 6	Sat.	TBD	Region IV Tournament	TBD
May 17-20	Wed-Sat	TBD	NJCAA Championship	Clinton, MS

Head Coach: Frank Wilkins
Assistant Coach: Dan Corradetti

Updated 2/22/17

*All times are Central

** All games are Doubleheaders unless specified as a tournament.