The people voted, and they brought the blue wave back to Illinois. In the race for governor, Democrat JB Pritzker won the election against the current Republican governor Bruce Rauner. Pritzker is a wealthy businessman from Chicago whose platform is to make Illinois a progressive state. A few of Pritzker’s ideas for doing so are legalizing marijuana, lowering property taxes, providing affordable healthcare, and proposing a renewable energy act.

In an email correspondent with governor Pritzker’s press secretary, Alex Hanns, his office provided information from Governor-elect Pritzker on these issues. In regard to the legalization of marijuana, Hanns states, “He is committed to working with community stakeholders and policymakers to legalize and decriminalize marijuana, reduce mass incarceration, and reinvest in Illinois communities.” Pritzker’s overall plan is to legalize marijuana and tax it to help boost state revenue.

This plan involves “legalizing and taxing the recreational use of marijuana, which is estimated to generate as much as $700 million a year for the state.” While there is push back from other state officials in Springfield, Pritzker hopes to have marijuana legalized by the end of 2019.

Another issue governor Pritzker is focusing on is lowering property taxes while not taking away funding from schools. For all people of Illinois, this is a very important issue since Illinois has been dealing with rising property taxes for the better part of a decade. Pritzker says, “We should implement a progressive income tax, allowing us to lower the burden on property taxes for school funding and to protect the middle class. That revenue can be used to move the state closer to the constitutional goal of the majority of education funding coming from the state.”

While there are many issues with Illinois, one of the main concerns for its citizens is healthcare. One of Pritzker’s main platforms was healthcare, and, so far, he has been focusing on this intently. According to him, he has proposed a public health insurance option called IllinoisCares that will offer citizens the chance to buy low-cost health insurance.

One of the final issues discussed in the email was Pritzker’s plan for renewable energy throughout Illinois. “[There are] plans to take many steps to set us on a path to 100% clean energy, such as increasing the percentage of Renewable Portfolio Standard to move beyond 25% by 2025, making Illinois a hub of battery technology development, and holding utility companies accountable for implementation of energy efficiency programs under the Future Energy Jobs Act.” With Chicago being the third-largest city in the US, this could mean cutting a significant amount of pollution from not only Chicago, but the country.

Illinois is transitioning from its previous red status to blue, and many are anxiously waiting to see what is to come. Only time will tell if Pritzker speaks the truth of his promises and ideas for the future of Illinois.
Salute to the Sky, Tuskegee Airmen

Written by Ida Alessandrini

November 13 & 14 Prairie State College hosted special exhibits featuring information and artifacts about the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen had a dream of flying and fought to save our freedom during World War II the Airmen have also risen above many obstacles.

An original Tuskegee Airman, O. Lawton Wilkerson, was in attendance. Wilkerson is now a 96-year-old man who served in World War II. The opportunity to meet him and thank him for his service was very special.

In PSC’s Parking Lot D, a mobile movie theater truck housed a 160-degree panoramic screen, and surround speakers made the viewers feel like they were right there during the events. Attendees had a chance to watch a half hour documentary informing them about the Tuskegee Airmen and learn about a damaged plane called the P-51C and how it was restored after a devastating crash where the pilot, Don Hinz, lost his life. More than $500,000 in donations were raised to help restore the plane after the crash.

Before or after, visitors had a chance to visit the mini-military museum that was located in the Conference Center. The museum offered information about women and men who served in different divisions in World War II.

Also available for viewing were photos, artifacts and uniforms from WWII.

Prairie State also showed a film released in 2012 called “Red Tails,” which told the story of African American pilots who were part of the Tuskegee Airmen training program. These pilots faced segregation but nonetheless kept their ground in World War II until they were called to serve.

In honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, we are encouraged to...

“Aim High, Believe In Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready To Go, Never Quit and Expect to Win”
Icy Roads Ahead

Written By: Julia Porco

Winter is coming! Actually, it’s already here, and you know what that means; people are going to completely forget how to drive in the cold, icy Chicagoland area. Regardless of how you feel about winter, it’s important to prepare yourself for the season when it comes to driving.

Here are a few helpful tips to keep you safe when driving this season. First, when thinking about vehicle safety, it’s always important to know if there is something wrong with your vehicle, so if you have any problems indicated by the lights on your dashboard, go get those checked out and fixed. Even if you don’t have any of those lights on, it still never hurts to check. This is a proactive action you can take to that will not only keep you safe but save you some big bucks in the future.

Second, these harsh winter roads can be a dangerous thing. With all types of possibilities that can happen while driving in winter conditions, it’s important to have a winter emergency kit.

This kit should be comprised of the basics, like food, water, chargers and flashlights. However, a winter kit should also include kitty litter to help create traction in case you get stuck in a snow bank. It should also include a shovel, window scrapers and blankets in the event you get stranded somewhere. These little things can help make a big difference in the case of an emergency and put your mind at ease while you drive.

The third thing you’re going to want to do is to check your tires. Having tires in good condition can make or break your winter season. If your tires are old and balding, now is a great time to get some new ones. You can even take it a step further and get snow tires, which provide extra traction in snow and on ice. This can help prevent sliding accidents, which, let’s be honest, are most accidents in the winter months.

The last thing you’re going to want to keep track of, which is important, is antifreeze. Antifreeze something you don’t want to skip out on when it comes to car maintenance for the winter. Its purpose is to transfer heat away from your engine and help prevent rust and corrosion in the cooling system.

Without it, your car can freeze, and your heat won’t work. This can cause huge issues for your bank account and the longevity of your car.

Hopefully, you don’t get frustrated due to the weather and forget how winter works, but if you do, don’t sweat it. Follow these helpful tips, and your winter will fly by.
Letter from the Editor in Chief

It’s a special time of year; the holiday season is here. I’m so happy, but I can’t believe how fast the time has gone. Is it just me? This year, many have been faced with challenges. Nevertheless, I’m glad you have held your head steady and fought through the semester. As we begin to prepare for finals, I’d like to stress the importance of registering for next year’s classes.

Each year, there are high amounts of students who wait until the first week of classes to register. I recognize that finals will be over with soon, and we are ready for winter break. However, before winter break, you should see your advisors, so the first week of next semester can be a breeze. Not being in attendance during the first few weeks of the semester can really put you behind. Also, regular attendance throughout the year is just as important for students success.

I know that many of us are thinking of relaxing, making extra money, or planning a family trip for the holidays. Holidays are an important time for the year for families. As you plan these activities, please keep in mind that the semester does pick back up on Jan. 14, 2019.

This holiday season, continue to make education a priority. I want to wish all of you and your families a safe, happy, healthy and relaxing holiday season.
Prairie State College Athletics

Written by Dan Forgarty

Every college student must fight a battle with time management, especially at the community college level where students are often supporting a household. According to a study done at University of California Santa Cruz, a college student is expected to spend three hours dedicated to school work out of class for every one hour spent in class.

This means that a full-time student, at twelve credit hours, is expected to spend thirty-six hours out of class on studying and doing coursework. Time management struggles can be difficult for any student, but they become especially difficult for our student-athletes.

According to Business Insider, student-athletes are practicing up to forty hours a week, in conjunction with their academic responsibilities. This suggests that the average Prairie State student-athlete may be juggling a thirty-six-hour course load, up to forty hours a week of athletic responsibilities, and possibly a paying job.

This can easily amount to a hundred hours a week of time commitments. Does this burden solely rest on the shoulders of our student-athletes, or can the school’s faculty be doing more to alleviate this struggle? In future editions of The Pioneer Newspaper, we will be taking an in-depth look at some of Prairie State’s athletic programs.

Vietnam War Commemorative Ceremony

Written by Ida Alessandrini

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, Prairie State College partnered with the villages of Matteson and Richton Park to host a Welcome Home Commemoration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. the Coffey Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol posted the colors. The congregation then sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. After, an invocation was read by Rev. Joe Jamison who has served in the US Army. Georges Sanon, the coordinator of the Student Veterans Center at PSC, presented the Missing Man Table, a display created to honor fallen and missing military service members. Born in Chicago and raised in Hyde Park, Mr. Eddie Rogers, the keynote speaker, was introduced. He served in the United States Army from May 1963 to June 1989. Following his speech, Prof. Brian Donovan, the Student Veteran Club faculty adviser, read a letter from the US Senator Tammy Duckworth, a wounded veteran herself, and a State Assembly Resolution.

Remarks were then made by Mr. Russell Litko, the Assistant Director of Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Litko then introduced the mayors of Richton Park and Matteson. The veterans who were in attendance walked across the stage in Barns and Noble Auditorium to receive commemorative certificates and pins. Mr. Litko then read the names of fallen Vietnam Veterans.

Following the reading of the names, “Taps” was played by Neil Venhuijen, Navy (Ensign), and the Prairie State College Veterans Music Associates performed “America the Beautiful.” Finally, the Coffey Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol retired the colors.

It was a beautiful ceremony to thank our Veterans for their sacrifice and service for our country.
Review of “The Grinch”

Written by Esmeralda Manzo

When people speak of the film “The Grinch,” what usually comes to mind is the live-action rendition starring Jim Carrey, released in 2000. The dark, weird one with the crude humor, which was more so aimed at an adult audience.

Moving forward to November 9, 2018, Illumination and Universal Pictures presents a fully animated feature version of Dr. Seuss’s classic “The Grinch,” which follows the same plot of “a cynical grump” whose main short-term life goal is to steal Christmas from all the people he lives near, only to have his feelings and attitude towards Christmas completely change, all because of a little girl named Cindy Lou Who.

This beautifully animated version with engaging graphics is aimed towards a younger audience. Now, although this version generally follows the same plot, there are some major differences I noticed. First, in contrast to Jim Carrey’s crude version, where The Grinch is almost always mean to everybody including his dog, Max, in the 2018 version (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch), The Grinch is much kinder to his dog. When he bums Max out by his being miserable, he even ends up apologizing to him to mend things between them. Their relationship as a whole comes off as more empathetic and understanding.

Also, all of the Grinch’s life events leading up to him living in a cave with just his dog, which explains why he is the way he is, seem more summarized.

In the Jim Carrey adaptation, they got into more detail of why the Grinch became miserable and hated Christmas so much, who Cindy Lou was, what her role was in the Grinch’s life, and how big of an impact she had on his life and vice versa. In this 2018 version, we only get a glimpse of each of these points.

All in all, both of these adaptations have two major similarities. First, in some way or another; they show the backstory of the Grinch: what caused him to become miserable, isolated, jealous and annoyed at the happiness of others. And finally, they both had teach us an important lesson--the true meaning of Christmas, which is that it’s not just about receiving the gifts, or who has a better display of Christmas decorations.

It’s not about outdoing each other or showing off; it’s about enjoying the company of your loved ones, participating in giving and not only receiving, appreciating every moment because there will be no other exactly like it, and allowing the things you go through in life to make you stronger and more understanding towards others, rather than making you miserable and isolated.

With that being said, this new 2018 brightly animated version is one worth watching.
Review of “The Gravedigger”

Written by Taylor Ashmore

Intense, exciting, and passionate. “The Gravedigger: A Frankenstein Play” was performed on Nov. 19, 2018, by our very own Prairie State Players in the Barnes and Noble auditorium. The play’s storyline is a follow-up to the classic story of “Frankenstein.” This is the story of Doctor Victor who assembled the Monster and is now in search of him.

Differing from the original classic, playwright Joseph Zettelmaier takes us further into other areas perhaps the original “Frankenstein” novel had not taken us. This story provided the audience with lessons about pain, loneliness, and love. However, there is also plenty of humor throughout as well.

The title “Gravedigger” derives from a gravedigger named Kurt, played by Victoria Dean, a drunkard with a bad leg who has made money on the side by selling body parts to a man named Victor, played by Bejor Weathersby Grove.

Victor once used the parts Kurt brought him to create the Monster, played by Kyle Taylor. A year later, Kurt finds an oversized man with a bandaged face hiding in an open grave. He takes pity on the “lummox,” who in turn takes the name “Anton” in honor of St. Anthony, whose image hangs in Kurt’s hut.

Soon, Kurt and Anton form a strong friendship. Kurt aides in helping the Monster understand that his emotions of betrayal and despair are common amongst humans; the world is not solely out to hurt him specifically. Kurt teaches Anton that, in life, it is not the focus on the absence of pain that will help him and his yearning for death, but it is about learning how to endure the pain that will lift the pressure.

When entering the theater, the set instantly created a dark, dramatic atmosphere, yet there was no obstructed viewing for the audience. No matter where they sat, they could see everything that was happening on the stage. The sounds that played during the show were sensational and added an eeriness that set the perfect tone for the story.

This play tugged on the heartstrings. At the end of the tale, the Monster finally experiences people who truly care about him, regardless of how he was created. Aided by the thrilling performances from the cast, audience members left the play filled with emotion after watching Anton’s life-changing journey.

Special thanks to SGA for sponsoring the show. The Prairie State Players and all members involved in the cast and crew have once again put on a riveting performance.
MERRY HOLIDAY
to
Everyone and
a HAPPY NEW YEAR!