

Domestic Violence Campaign Brings Awareness to PSC



EBONY HAMPTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Not everything is candy and ghosts. This fall month is dedicated to a serious topic, not just spooky nights leading up to Halloween; October is nationally known as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States – more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year. What that means is that nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by a partner and report a related impact on their functioning. These numbers are just as shocking as what happens at the collegiate level. Campus assaults across the United State are another serious problem. Campus Safety Magazine reports that 43% of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors including physical, sexual, tech, verbal or controlling abuse. 2% of college women report knowing a friend who

has experienced violent and abusive dating behaviors including physical, sexual, tech, verbal or controlling abuse. More than half (57%) of college students who report experiencing dating violence and abuse said it occurred in college. 58% of college students say they don't know what to do to help someone who is a victim of dating abuse. 38% of college students say they don't know how to get help for themselves if they were a victim of dating abuse. More than half of all college students (57%) say it is difficult to identify dating abuse. This is a serious issue amongst college students, luckily, students at PSC are becoming more educated on how to identify and cope with Domestic Abuse.

On October 19th Prairie State's Personal Counselor Shannon Word, NCC, LCP, Hosted the summit *Coping with Domestic Violence: Helping a Friend or a Loved One* in the Learning Achievement Center. Guest speakers from the South Suburban Family Shelter spoke on Domestic Violence to PSC students and members of the community. On a daily basis, students are made aware by various flyers around campus that domestic abuse is NEVER acceptable, and there are numbers that they can

Image Courtesy of solomonswords.blogspot.com

call outside of the Campus advising office. These flyers can be found in the restrooms and wherever there is a bulletin board. The flyers stand out to students not only because of the life-saving content, but for the color. The flyers are a brilliant purple, but not by coincidence. Purple is the color that represents Domestic Violence Awareness, and many students have worn purple throughout the month of October to stand in solidarity with those who have suffered this nightmare. Others that have no prior knowledge, have relied on their fellow students to learn about domestic violence awareness month, fostering comradery and school spirit, truly embodying what it means to be a PSC Pioneer.

If you or anyone you know are in danger or experiencing domestic violence, please do not be afraid to speak out! Contact the PSC Advisory Office at 708-709-3509 during hours of operation or the National Domestic Violence Hotline for 24/7 emergency assistance at 1-800-799-7233. Speak out. Get help.

Rotaract Organization Steps up to the Challenge

KYLE BRODNICK
STAFF WRITER

"What makes the world go 'round?" This question often pops up in day to day life, and yet no one has a solid answer. Sure, there is a scientific answer, but what about the things that give it meaning? So let's start, what makes it go round? Rotary helps largely in making the world go 'round. It is on the forefront of international humanitarian efforts, and brings together business owners and professional leaders to advance goodwill and world peace. Headquartered in Evanston, Illinois where it began over a century ago, Rotary International is home to over 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million members worldwide. It is an organization that is open to everyone regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, color, creed, religion or political preference. Humanitarian efforts have provided students in medical programs with travel abroad scholarships in order to assist in eradicating polio. The Rotaract club at Prairie State College is lending a helping hand right here in our own surrounding communities. The club is constantly on the lookout for more members as they have started canned food drives, toy drives for less fortunate children, and soup kitchens for the homeless in the community. Rotary is also developing relationships with big businesses in this community to assist in service efforts, because after all, the motto of Rotary is "Service above self." The club is also working on a mentoring program, where its main target is middle school children and parents, in efforts to assist with funding, college attendance, and giving them firsthand accounts of what community colleges can do for them and their families. There are also events in the works for a Business Networking Mixer event, where members can network with business professionals in their area of study, and build lasting relationships!

If you'd like to be a part of a service based, international initiative, join them in the Board Room, 2274, Tuesdays at 4PM.

Prairie State Donates Water to Flint

RAMON MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

Prairie State College participated with the Veterans of Foreign War Post 311, 307 Civil Affairs Brigade Family Readiness Group, National Women's Veterans United States, Marian Catholic High School and other schools to collect cases of water for Flint, Michigan. The water supply in Flint was changed from Lake Huron to Flint River to save the state money. Unfortunately, the water supply for the city was then deemed unusable. It was later judged unsafe to drink and unsafe to use for bathing due to the Flint River's high levels of contamination. CNN estimated 6,000 to 12,000 children have been exposed to lead.

The Prairie State Pioneer interviewed Adjunct Professor Salena Vancleef, a humanities professor at Prairie State College. Vancleef

awarded her Humanities class 50 bonus points if they donated a case of 24 water bottles to Flint, Michigan. The class worked in project groups of 4. The class donated 51 cases of water bottles and the total count of donations was 1,296 water bottles.

Prairie State's involvement in water donation was George Sannon of the Veterans Department's idea. The water supply donated 750 cases of water. Professor Vancleef said, "People have no access to water through their regular plumbing. And so they need drinking water. They need water to wash their hair. They need water to cook with. It's so strange to me because water is something in this country, we should not have any problems getting to people. And the fact that it's taking Flint this long to get thier act together is startling and upsetting." She also thinks that donating water can go

along with her lesson plan in class. "Donating water to a group of people who need it is enlightening for you, because you have to think about other people rather than just yourself. Community and compassion and helping other people has been a big focus when talking about the Eastern Religions."

KLLM Transport Services donated a driver to help support the effort. Last weekend, 750 cases was delivered to Flint. Everyone involved with the water drive was happy because the goal was to donate 24 cases of water and we exceeded our expectations. As professor Sara Vancleef said, "It seems like George was very happy with where we got. You know, with where the project ended up to. I think they only wanted like a hundred cases. And we ended up with almost eight times that much."

Hell's Gate Raises Hell

EDUARDO LOPEZ-NAVARRO
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year where monsters, ghost, and witches come out in the night. When people think of Halloween, they usually associate it with free candy. They can also attend haunted houses. Many people think that running a haunted house is easy, but there is a science to getting the maximum scares in a house. A new haunted house opened up this year entitled Hells Gate. It is produced by the infamous Zombie Army Production. They are the same company that created Statesville Haunted Prison, City of the Dead, Navy Fear and many more. John Laflamboy is the Founder and Director of Zombie Army Productions. The way he creates the houses is mind boggling. It is run like a well-oiled machine. John's dream for Hell's Gate was to open up an old school type of haunt from the stories he heard when he was a little boy. His dream was achieved by partnering with Legacy Events. Legacy Events also runs a new and amazing paintball field called Legacy Paintball in Airsoft Park. From an outsider's perspective, the staff really seems to work as a family. They are always laughing, making sure they are safe when working, and supporting each other. When guests do the walkthrough, they can tell that the team really puts their heart and soul into every detail. After getting off the bus they took to get to the attraction, the guests walk up to Hell's Gate.

The walk up is as much of an adventure as the house itself. The house is surrounded by an iron rod fence and has a very creepy atmosphere. There is a graveyard at the entrance



Image courtesy of hellsgate.com

of the property where actors linger to scare those walking up. When guests get to Hell's Gate, they are greeted with a ticket taker that takes creepy to a new level. He really gets into character. The tone of his voice, how he behaves, and his impeccable acting really add to the experience. While waiting in line, actors come up to scare guests before the event. The outside of the house is also very frightening. When guests walk in the house, they are greeted by a pair of twins that talk about the house and fictional story. Guests then go through a secret entrance in a chimney. The walkthrough itself has a good mixture of distractions and actors jumping out to scare people. Guests also get the chance to look for a key in the house to get a full refund. There is a time limit that makes this activity more difficult. Overall, the experience was spooktacular.

This haunted house was a real treat; 5 out of 5 zombie heads. They had great actors, the walk through was interactive, and the work that was put into building it was phenomenal.

The Pioneer would like to thank Renee for all the help and John for taking the time into his busy day to sit down and talk.

Pumpkins for Science

EDUARDO LOPEZ-NAVARRO

STAFF WRITER

On October 23rd,

members of the STEM Club volunteered and created displays at an event hosted by Homewood Science Center. The event was a fundraiser to raise money to continue services for the community. There were two main attractions, Spooky Science and Autumn Ecology, as well as additional activities. The gathering was free for children 12 years and younger, with all proceeds going toward the Science Center. The Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve played host from 12pm to 3pm.

Some of the activities that the event offered were creating slime, playing with bubbles filled with dry ice smoke, learning about the human brain from an actual dissected specimen and many more. They also offered food, a nature walk, and a raffle with various prizes. There were more than 200 visitors at the event.

The Homewood Science Center will surely offer many more events like this for the years to come.

FARE Weather Friends

NICK ULANOWSKI

STAFF WRITER

1 in 13 children under the age of 18 have a food allergy of some kind. That's approximately two kids in every classroom. As stated on the official *Teal Pumpkin Project* website, "Every child should be able to experience the joy and tradition of trick-or-treating on Halloween. But kids with food allergies are often left out of the fun, since most candy is off limits."

Family Allergy Research and Education is an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals with food allergies. They also provide hope for a future with new treatments for food allergies. And in 2014, FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) launched *The Teal*

Pumpkin Project. The goal is to make trick or treating safer, more fun, and accessible to kids with these allergies. So this Halloween, some houses will have their pumpkins painted teal. This signifies that the house offers trick-or-treat goodies other than food – such as stickers, glow sticks, toys or mini comic books. Mini comic books are kid-friendly and available only for a limited time. For more information on Halloween Comics Fest, visit www.halloweencomicfest.com.

If you are interested in having a teal pumpkin this "All Hallows Eve", visit www.foodallergy.org for information on how to do this and what kinds of trick-or-treat goodies you can give away as an alternative to food.



Image courtesy of allergycookie.com

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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.

From the Editor's Desk:

Greetings Readers!

This new academic semester brings about new changes!

We are currently in the process of rolling out a new look for your Prairie State College newspaper. Formerly known as *The Student Review*, PSC's *The Pioneer* is moving towards being an online news outlet! We are moving away from having the standard hardcopy paper, which makes us both eco-friendly and fitting for the new generation. We will be fully online and operational for the spring 2017 semester. As we transition, there will only be two hardcopy papers before we switch to a completely online news outlet, where we will be able to update our readers frequently with what's happening on our campus and in our community. This is the first issue in the two part change. During this time, if you would like have any special events covered, please email us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu!

Thanks for sticking with us!

Ebony Hampton
Editor in Chief

