Prairie View Magazine
January 2023

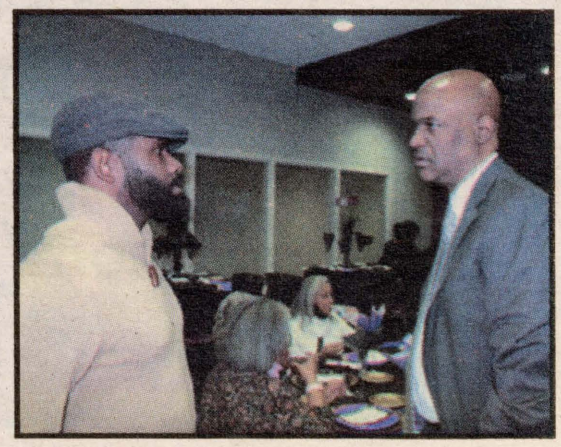


It's no Surprise Darden-Caldwell is the new Alumni Affairs Director

Prairie View Magazine, The Prairie View Foundation, and the PVAMU National Alumni Association hosted a surprise reception for the recently appointed Vice-President of Alumni Affairs, Phyllis Darden-Caldwell. ABOVE: Caldwell-Darden is presented flowers by Foundation president, John Osby. Above left: the honoree is shown with her mentor Dr. E. Johanna Thomas-Smith, and her "heart", professor Jimmie Poindexter. BELOW: Darden-Caldwell is pictured (left) with PVAMU NAA board president and treasurer Mark Falls and Tramyra Waites-Simmons, (middle) pictured with Sisters, Myra Caldwell, Lisa Caldwell Nellums, and Dana Caldwell Jones. (right) cousin Andre Evans pictured with PVAMU Office of the President, Chief of Staff, Kevin Hoffman







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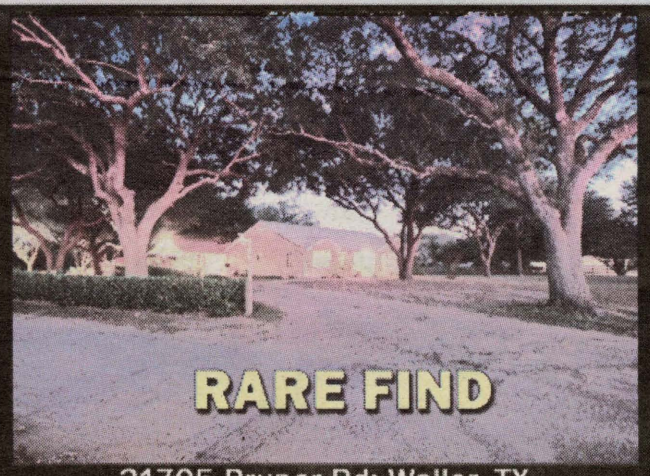




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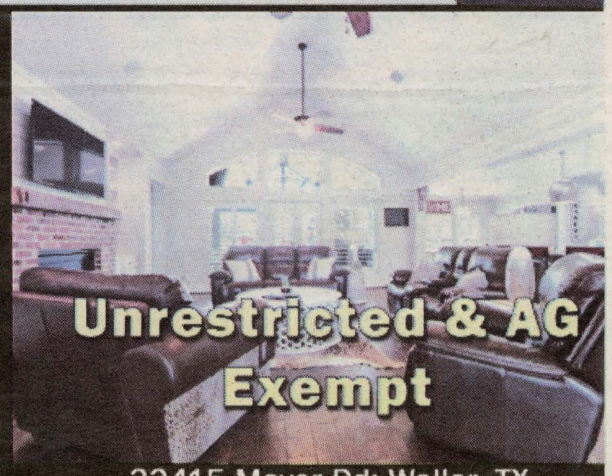
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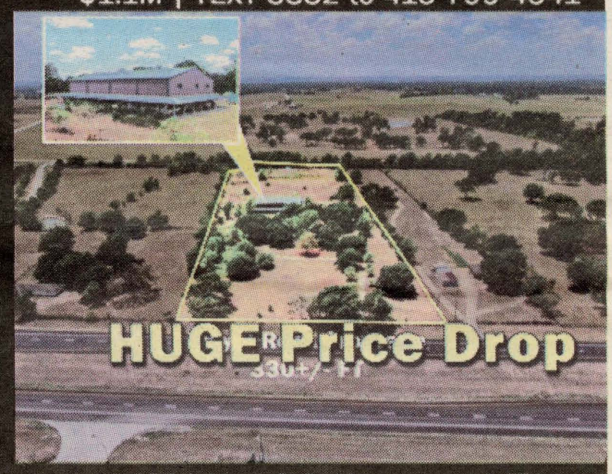
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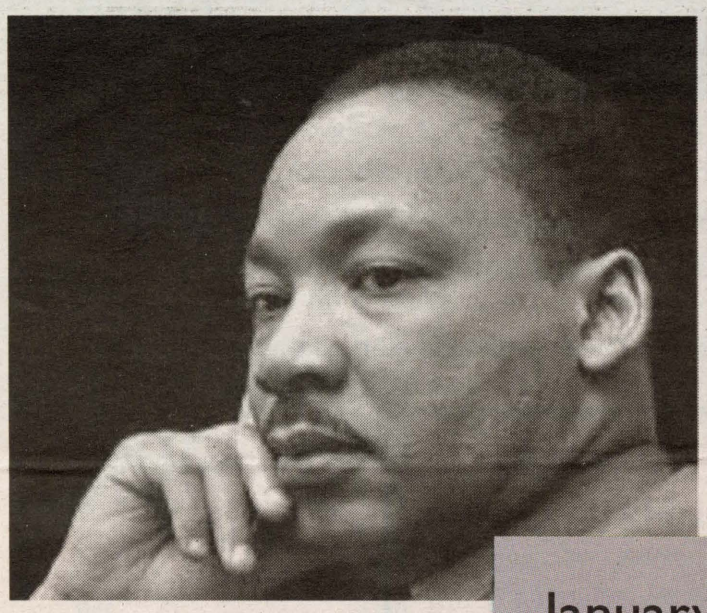
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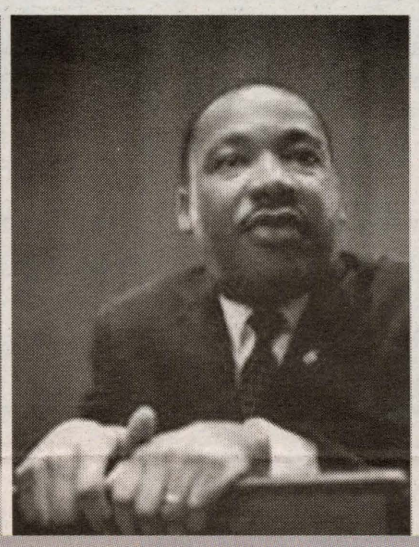
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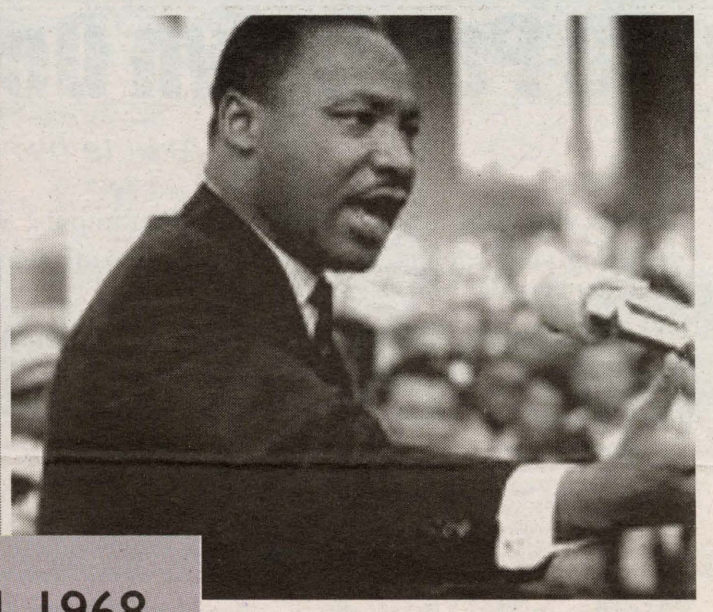
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January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

As We Celebrate Dr. King This Month

Make it a priority to read King's writings. Three of his best are:

1. Letter from a Birmingham Jail:

Also known as the "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" is an open letter written on April 16, 1963. Dr. King was arrested for violating Alabama's law against mass demonstrations. King wrote his letter in response to a public statement by eight white clergymen appealing to the local black population to use courts and not the street tos secure civil rights. Dr. King's letter points out that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws and to take direct action rather than waiting forever for justice to come through the courts. Responding to being called an "outsider", King writes " injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," This letter has been described as one of the most important historical documents penned by a political prisoner.



Pamela Morgan
Guest Editorial

2. Why We Can't Wait: By Martin Luther King, Jr.

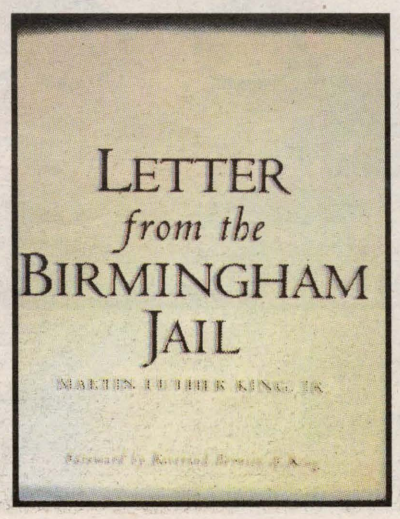
"There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair." - Dr. Martin Luther King.

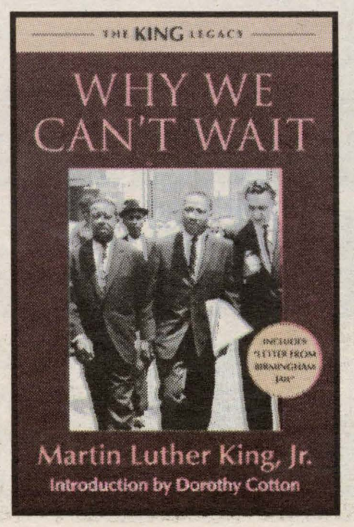
Why We Can't Wait is a book about the nonviolent movement against racial segregation in the United States, and specifically the 1963 Birmingham campaign. Dr. King recounts and offers an analysis of the events and pressures that propelled the civil rights movement from lunch counter sit-ins to marches. This book describes 1963 as a landmark year and as the beginning in the civil rights movement, and the beginning of America's "Negro Revolution. "

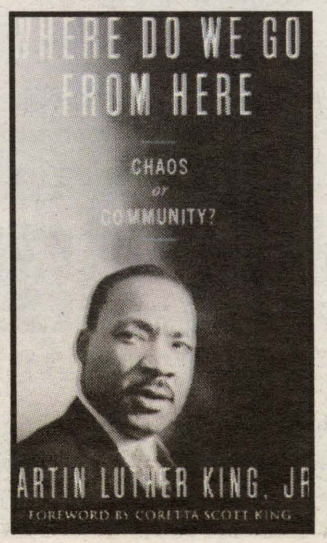
3. Where Do We Go From Here: Martin Luther King, Jr

"Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness
" - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

King Reflects upon the civil rights movements. He discusses the question of what African Americans should do with new freedoms found in laws such as the Voting Rights Acts of 1965. He concludes that all Americans must unite in order to fight poverty and create an equality of opportunity.





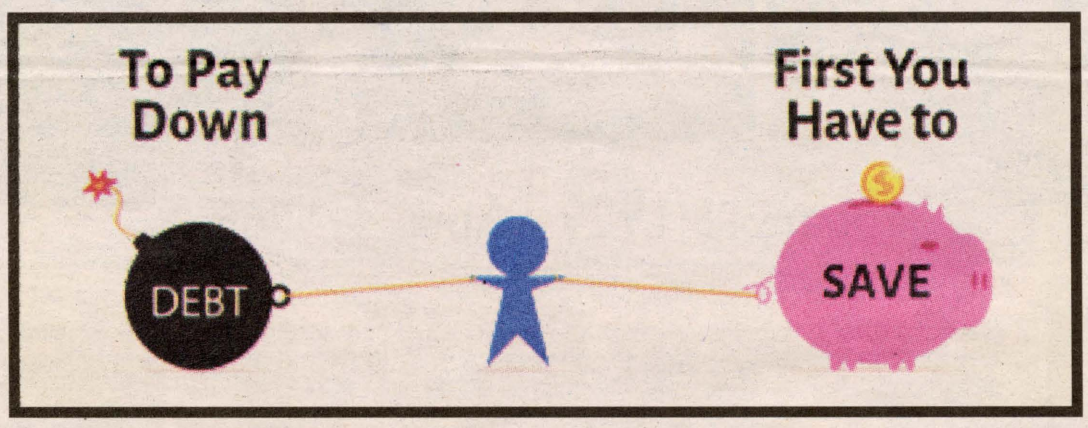


To Pay Down Debt, First You Have to Save

Article by: **Prairie View FCU | Cy-Fair FCU**

When you want to pay off debt fast, that impulse often means depleting your savings. So how do you pay off debt AND save money?

Mathematically, based on the interest rates of your loans versus your savings account (or other savings products), your debt is likely costing you more money every month than your savings is earning you. Thus, looking simply at the highest net impact of your dollar, it would make sense to use extra income to pay off debt rather than save the money.



But this strategy usually results in more debt. Crazy, right? But think about it. If you're taking all your spare dollars and diverting them to your credit card or other loans, completely neglecting your savings account, what will you do when an emergency comes along, things like car repairs, vet bills, etc.?

Life happens, and since you don't have a savings account, you'll probably have to slap these expenses onto your credit card. You know, the one you've been working so hard to pay off?



Here are some steps that can help you pay down debt while ensuring you don't deplete your savings.

1. Put away the credit cards and stop adding to your debt for a while.

2. Consider consolidating your debts into a single, more manageable payment.

3. Set a goal for your savings account that you're comfortable would cover an unexpected emergency cost, for instance: $500.

4. Pay at least the minimum payments on your loans while you build your savings account until you reach that $500, or whatever you set your minimum emergency savings goal at.

5. When you reach that minimum savings goal, start dedicating more of your income to aggressively paying down debt.

6. If an emergency comes along that takes your savings below $500, switch back to paying the minimum on debt and put extra money into savings to build that back up.

7. Once savings is steady at $500 and you feel you've gotten your debt under control, start increasing your savings. Most personal finance experts say your emergency savings should be able to cover three to six months of living expenses.

And don't stop contributing to your retirement savings or dip into your retirement savings unless it's truly an emergency—your future self will thank you.

With patience and some baby steps, you'll soon have your finances under control and find yourself resting on a comfortable nest egg.

PV Magazine Community Leader of the Month Yolanda Gross

This January issue is full of influential Prairie View women. Our community leader of the month is among the most influential members of our community. Affectionately known as YG, Yolanda Gross is a graduate PVAMU, and in the words of Tom Joyner "the haaaardest working woman at PV".



Whether she is serving on the Mom of Bulldogs (MOB), or serving on the PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame, PVAMU NAA, or Phyllis Darden-Caldwell's leadership Academy, committees, YG is giving her time and best effort.

She is quick to welcome visitors, prospective students, alumni, and community members to the campus. Her volunteer efforts extend to late nights and weekends. She is a mother and grandmother not only to her own, but to the thousands of students she has nurtured and mentored.

She is a local resident who continues to pay it forward.

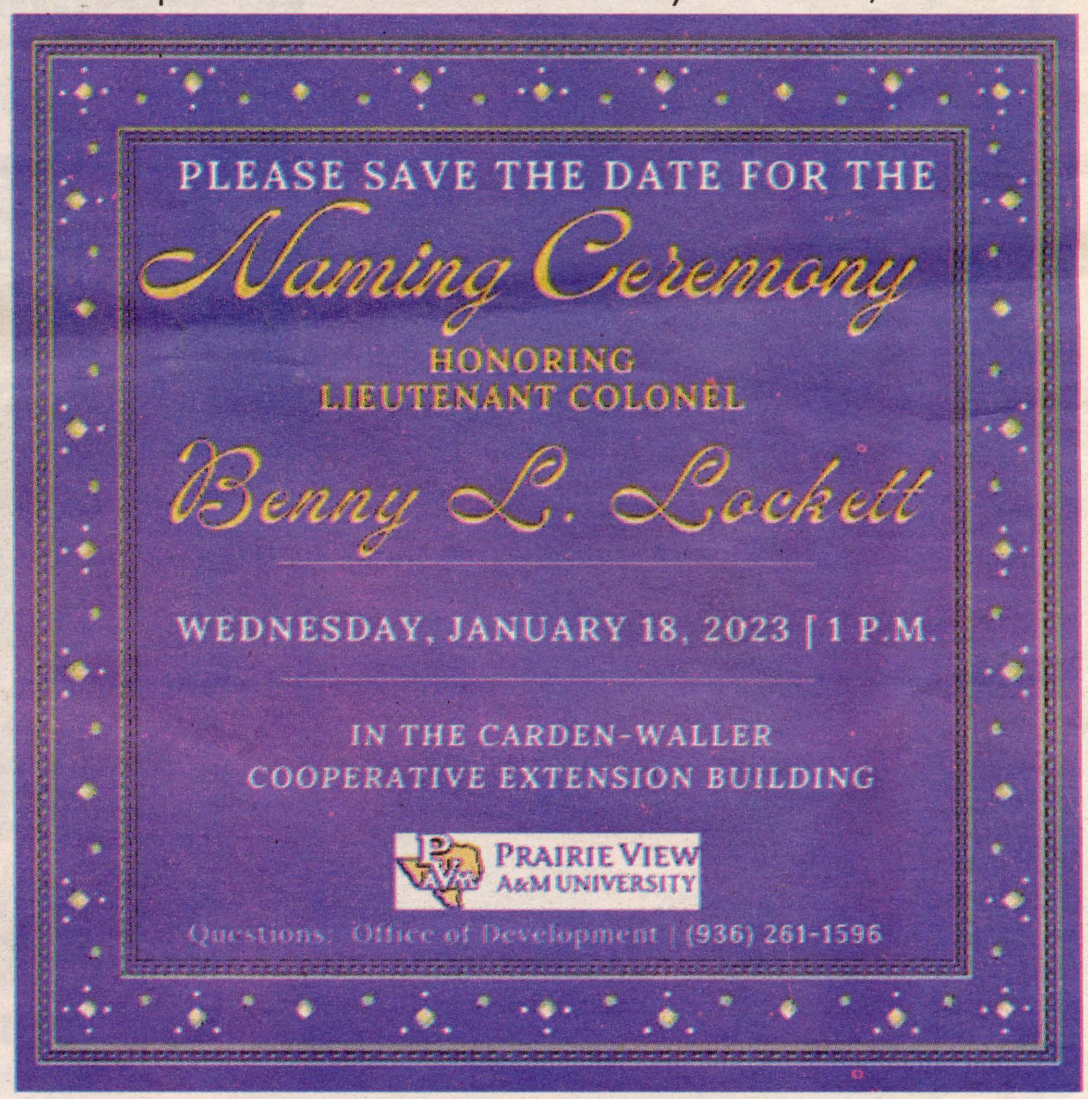
YG is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



YG shares stories of her working relationship with incoming PVAMU Director of Alumni Affairs Phyllis Darden-Caldwell



Gross is pictured above with her beautiful family and husband, Roscoe



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The Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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10:00a.m.



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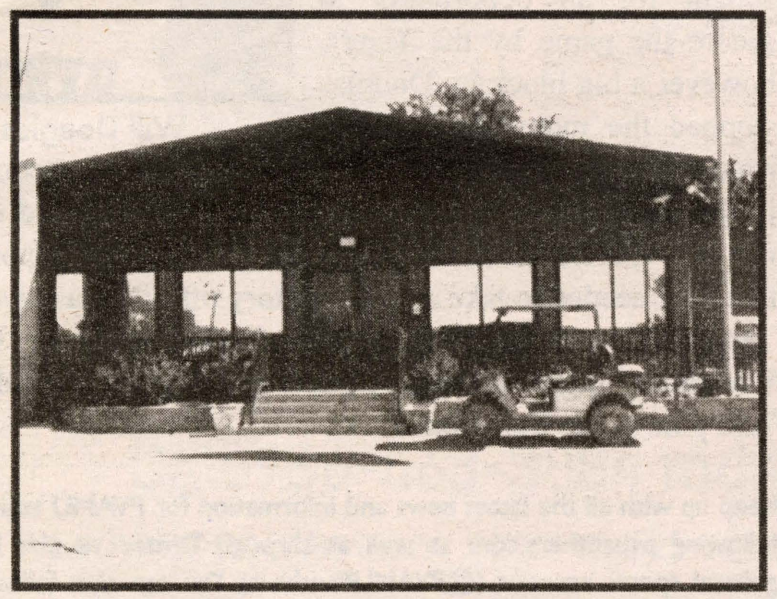
The parade will end at Greater St. Peters Baptist Church with a program to follow



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Panther Women Come Up Short in Valiant Effort

PRAIRIE VIEW - A game fought to the end as the Prairie View A&M women's basketball team was so close, but just could not seal the win over Grambling State in their Southwestern Athletic Conference opener on Monday night in the William J. Nicks Building.

Although the Panthers outscored the Tigers 20-14 in the final 10 minutes of play PVAMU gave a valiant effort in the last minutes of the game, but came up short falling 66-60.

Diana Rosenthal led the Panthers with 18 points, while Kennedy Paul chipped in 16 and Kennedi Heard added 12. Heard flirted with double-digit rebounds pulling down a team-high of nine caroms.

As a team, the Panthers shot 31.1 percent from the floor, including a 2-for-14 clip in the second quarter that contributed to PV's woes.

Grambling used a strong attack from their leading scorer Colbi Maples, who scored 25 points to lead all scorers. She was 10-for-16 from the field, including 2-for-3 from the 3-point range. Miracle Saxton was a nip away from a double-double with 12 points and nine boards, while Phylicia Allen had 15 points.

The Panthers took a 21-14 lead through the first quarter, then went cold in the second only scoring five points, while GSU scored 22 points to take a 36-26 lead at the intermission. Both teams scored 14 points in the third.

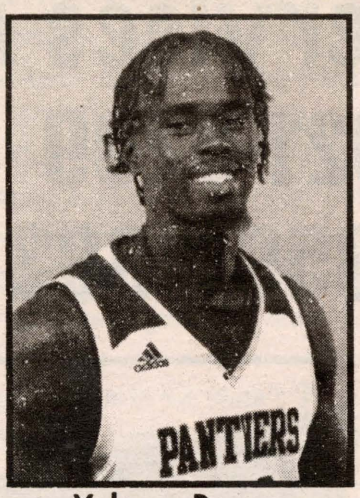
The Tigers shot 42.1 percent for the game, including 53 percent in the second quarter. However they were held to a 4-for-10 effort in the final period of play.

The Panthers will continue conference play on Wednesday night, as PVAMU host Southern at 5:30 p.m. in the William J. Nicks Building.

Keep up with all the latest news and information for PVAMU athletics by following pvpanthers.com as well as through Twitter via the PVAMU general sports account (@PVAMUPanthers). You can also follow along on Instagram.com/pvamupanthers.

Douglas and Rasas Lead PV Men to SWAC Opening Win

PRAIRIE VIEW – Led by the efforts of Jeremiah Gambrell, Will Douglas, and Yahuza Rasas lifted the Prairie View A&M men's basketball team to an impressive, 61-60 come from behind victory over Grambling, Monday night in their Southwestern Athletic Conference opener.



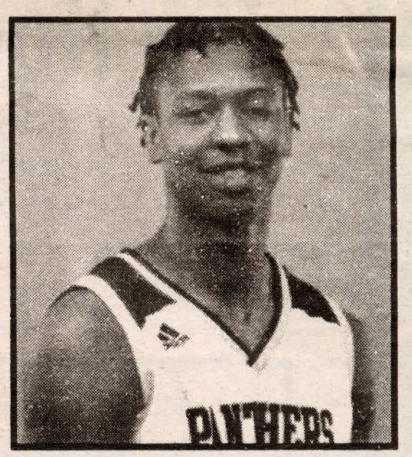
Yahuza Rasas

A dogfight to the end, the Panthers were able to find fire with less than two minutes left on the clock taking a 59-58 lead.

Gambrell and Douglas paced the offense scoring 15 points apiece. Rasas joined them in double-figures, collecting 13 points and grabbing 11 rebounds for his first double-double of the season.

The first half was a complete slugfest as the two sides bullied their way for position while taking long possessions to try and wear down each respective defense. The score reflected the defensive struggle as the teams went into the half, tied at 26-26.

The two teams went back-and-forth until the Tigers took control of things going on an 17-4 run (44-30) in the first six minutes of the second half. Grambling kept their distance a much as they could, before the Panthers responded nipping at the Tigers lead. A final tie at 59-59 saw PVAMU regaining the lead since the first half. A free throw by GSU's Shawndarius Cowart gave them the lead for the last minute of the game.



Will Douglas

A turnover by the Panther's sought for an opportunity to secure the game by the Tigers, however a big block by Douglas stopped the momentum, and a team rebound was offered to Grambling with :46 seconds left in the game. A formidable jumper by GSU bounced off the rim into Gambrell's hands giving the Panthers the opportunity that they needed to take a 61-60 victory off of Rasas layup.

Prairie View A&M will continued play at home with a Wednesday night tilt against Southern. Tip is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Babydome.

Keep up with all the latest news and information for PVAMU athletics by following pvpanthers.com as well as through Twitter via the PVAMU general sports account (@PVAMUPanthers). You can also follow along on Instagram.com/pvamupanthers. #pvamumhoops

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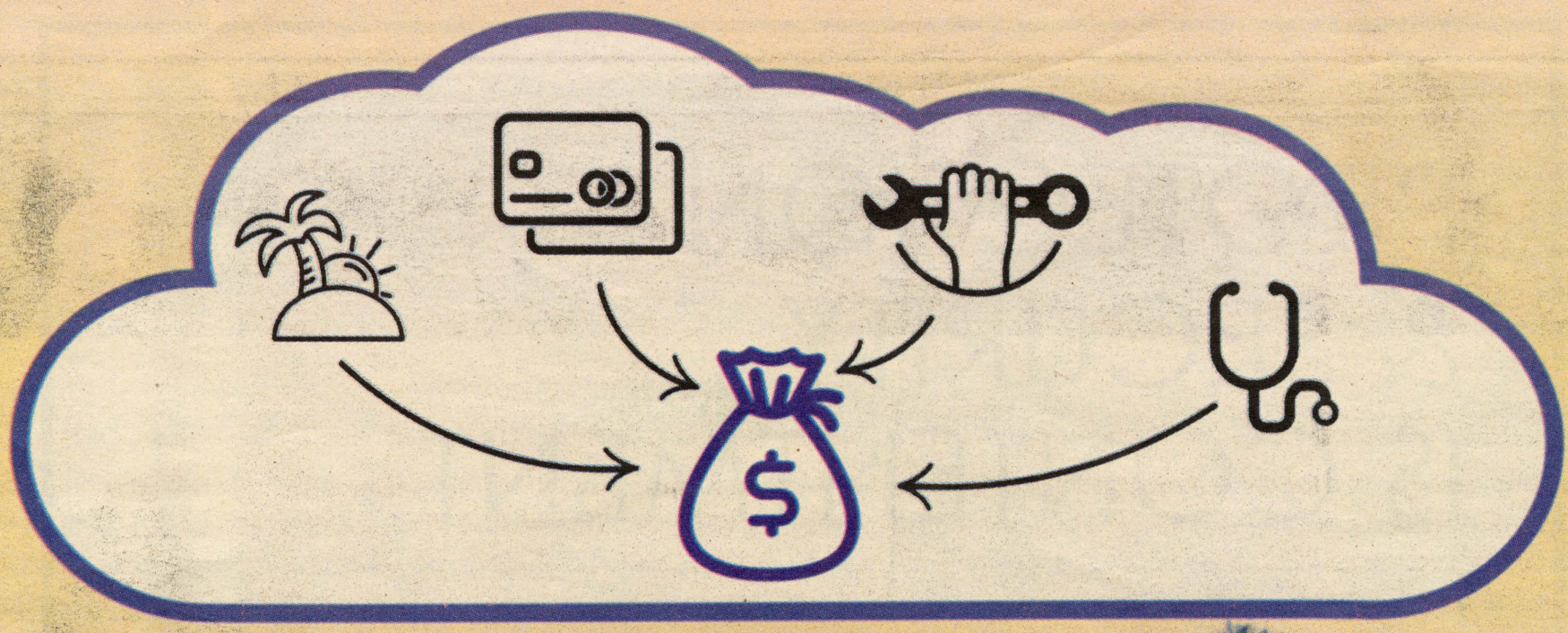
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For Teens in Deep East Texas, Accessing Sex Education and Contraception is Next to Impossible



Brittany Henson, 33, right, became pregnant with her daughter Bremyiah, left, when she was a student at Hemphill High School in Sabine County. The county's teen birth rate in 2020 was three times the statewide average. Credit: Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune--

By Pooja Salhotra and Sneha Dey, The Texas Tribune
Jan. 4, 2023

"For teens in Deep East Texas, accessing sex education and contraception is next to impossible" was first published by The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.
This reporting was supported by the International Women's Media Foundation's Reproductive Rights Reporting Fund.

SABINE COUNTY — When condoms were distributed at a career fair five years ago, West Sabine High School's seventh and eighth graders took handfuls and tucked them inside their jackets and pants pockets. It set field trip chaperone Carnelius Gilder into a panic.
Gilder had driven the students to a church in the area to attend the career fair. Students had attended it in previous years with no problems; Gilder was taken aback to see a vendor giving away contraception for the first time.
"No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. We cannot bring these home," Gilder, now West Sabine school district's superintendent, recalled thinking. "These are junior high kids. And we're in a church."
In rural Sabine County, a part of Deep East Texas near Louisiana's western border, Gilder knew many parents who would light up his phone if students came home with condoms from a school-sanctioned field trip. So before the students got back on the bus, Gilder told all of them to empty their pockets.

Continued next page

Sex Education continued from previous page

West Sabine High School students haven't been back to the career fair since. The school district now organizes its own health fair, which parents attend, and school officials can decide whether contraception will be offered to the students.

"East Texans believe in and have a great deal of morality," said Gilder, who graduated from West Sabine High School in 2002. "And, well, you have to include the parents."

In Sabine County, pine trees outnumber the people. To commute between Pineland and Hemphill, the two towns that anchor the county, residents drive down a road that winds through a national forest. The towns are dotted with churches that loom large in daily community life. Bible scriptures are printed on plaques in local stores and even in Gilder's office.

Research has shown access to contraception and comprehensive sex education prevents unplanned pregnancies. But for sexually active teens trying not to get pregnant in Sabine County, it's hard to access either.

Sex education in Texas is taught amid tight parameters and bureaucratic strings. Texas schools have to offer health class at the middle school level, but parents must opt their children in to any lessons about sexual health. And when teachers do touch on sex education, state law requires them to stress abstinence as the preferred choice before marriage.

Even if teens in this region want contraception, it's nearly impossible to get without parental consent. In small towns like Hemphill and Pineland, parents have eyes and ears everywhere, making teens reluctant to go to the local Brookshire Brothers or dollar store to purchase condoms. They could go to a family planning clinic, which provides contraception at little to no cost, but only clinics funded through the federal Title X program do not require parental permission — and a federal judge in Texas ruled last month that the program violates parents' rights and state and federal law.

As Every Body Texas, the nonprofit group that is the state's Title X administrator, awaits guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on how to proceed, it informed Texas providers this week to require parental consent out of precaution.

Today, family planning programs are few and far between, thanks to funding cuts by the Texas Legislature in 2011. No family planning clinic exists in Sabine County. To get to the nearest one, teens in the region must travel to an adjacent county.

Meanwhile, Texas has one of the highest teen birth rates in the country. And in 2020, Sabine County's teen birth rate was three times the statewide average. Nearly 7% of Sabine County teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth that year, compared with about 2% statewide.

Evolving health education standards

In Texas, abstinence became the cornerstone of sex education in the mid-1990s when conservatives demanded sweeping changes to health textbooks, insisting sex education was an inappropriate topic for teens. Then-Gov. George W. Bush signed a law forcing school districts that offer sexual education to emphasize abstinence until marriage. The law allowed health educators to discuss contraception with students only if they spent more time emphasizing abstinence.

In 2009, the state removed health class as a high school graduation requirement, further minimizing the importance of health education. As a result, less than a third of Texas high school students took a health class between 2016 and 2020, according to an analysis of state course enrollment data by Healthy Futures of Texas, a nonprofit that works to reduce teen pregnancies.

In 2021, state lawmakers made it even harder for students to learn about safe sex. Now, parents must give written permission before their children can learn about "human sexuality," family violence, child abuse or sex trafficking. Texas is one of only five states in the nation, along with Nevada, Utah, Mississippi and North Carolina, to have such a requirement for sex education and the only state requiring parental permission to teach about child abuse.

Students whose parents allow them to attend sex education classes are still taught that abstinence is the "preferred choice of behavior." But, for the first time in more than 20 years, the Texas State Board of Education in November 2020 voted to overhaul the middle school health curriculum standards. These students should now learn about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, conversations previously reserved for high school health classes.

Keven Ellis, the Lufkin-based chair of the State Board of Education, called the new requirements a "good middle ground" between comprehensive sex education — which prioritizes accurate and exhaustive information about contraception, sexual health and sexually transmitted infections — and an abstinence-only class.

Schools were scheduled to adopt these new standards by August of this year. But in Sabine County, as well as many others in East Texas, schools are sticking with an abstinence-based curriculum for middle school students.

Every few years, the Texas State Board of Education sets standards about what is to be included in teachers' lesson plans, whether it's social studies, math or health. These standards are known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, or TEKS. But no state agency tracks whether districts employ these standards. Students eventually take annual standardized tests on core subjects like math and science, but there is no such test for health.

"There's no guarantee that every single TEK is taught to every single student," Ellis said. "In the state of Texas, I'm sure some TEKS get skipped over, hopefully inadvertently, but probably in this case a little less inadvertently."

Continued next page

Inconsistent sex education

Because sex education is voluntary, it's not clear what Texas students know about sex and contraception. According to a 2016 survey, 58% of Texas school districts teach abstinence-only sex education while 17% teach an abstinence-plus curriculum that includes information about contraception. The remaining 25% teach no sex education at all.

In 2011, in an effort to stop state dollars from flowing to Planned Parenthood's health care clinics, Texas legislators cut funding for family planning services by two-thirds — from $111 million to $37.9 million for the 2012-13 budget. Within three years, more than 80 clinics across the state shuttered, including those that were never affiliated with Planned Parenthood.

Some of the clinics that closed were also Title X providers. Every Body Texas, which has administered the state's Title X funds since 2013, has tried to rebuild the network of family planning services. But restarting services brings up a host of challenges.

"It's a lot easier to close. It's a lot harder to reopen a clinic," said Stephanie LeBleu, the group's acting deputy Title X project director. "We still see the legacy of that choice to cut family planning funding throughout the state."

The Title X program has faced its own politically motivated attacks in recent years. Under the Trump administration, clinics that provided abortions or made abortion referrals were disqualified from the program.

Adding to the barriers to contraception access, the teens Polk wants to serve don't even seem to know that Title X exists. Some teens who want birth control don't know where to go for it. Few have formally been taught about sex. Those who have were instructed to abstain.

"The Bible Belt says, 'No, we're not going to talk to our kids about birth control,'" Polk said. "'We're not going to talk about premarital sex.'"

English, the Hemphill school superintendent, said contraception was not covered in the district's sex education curriculum and he doubted students could access it if they wanted to.

Polk and her team have tried to get into the public schools to educate students about their options for contraception. But that's been nearly impossible, she said.

"It may not be the superintendent, it could be the school board. It could be some parents that are going, 'Oh, no, you're going to tell my child about sex,'" Polk said.

What students do learn, Polk said, is often inaccurate information that comes from social media platforms like Snapchat or TikTok.

Another thing that keeps teens from accessing birth control is that Texas is one of just two states that do not cover contraception through the Children's Health Insurance Program, the insurance plan for low-income families. Also, state-funded family planning clinics require parental consent before minors can get contraception. Even a teenager who has had a baby cannot obtain birth control without parental consent.

Teen pregnancy

When Henson was a junior in high school, she bought an at-home pregnancy test from the local dollar store and took the test in her parents' bathroom.

But after the two pink faint lines emerged, signaling she was pregnant, she didn't call her mother. She didn't call her older siblings who had already left home.

Instead, she initially kept quiet about her pregnancy. She took herself to and from doctors' appointments. She continued to make straight A's and work her job as a cashier at Brookshire Brothers. She said she even competed in the state track meet while five months pregnant.

"I just didn't want to deal with the disappointment. ... I wasn't ready for that," said Henson, who was an all-star athlete and a straight-A student. "I felt like I had the weight of not only my family, but the weight of my community."

Hemphill and West Sabine school districts work with pregnant students to provide accommodations to get them to graduation, including homebound services late in the pregnancy. But teen moms are less likely to finish high school. Just over half of 20- to 29-year-old women who were teen moms have high school diplomas, according to a 2018 report from Child Trends.

But after Henson gave birth to her daughter, she kept a firm grip on her dreams. She drove straight from the Jasper Memorial Hospital delivery room to the school athletics office to rejoin the school basketball team. She would go on to graduate high school on time and attend Sam Houston State University on a track scholarship.

Henson now lives in Hemphill. She's worked as a nurse at the Sabine County Hospital. Her daughter, Bremyiah, now 16, attends the same high school she did.

Bremyiah is dating now, but Henson says she feels OK about it. She fiddles with a silver ring on her finger, emblazoned with the word "Mom" in cursive. She hopes she's given her daughter the information to make the right decisions.

The mother and daughter talk about safe sex and contraception. Bremyiah doesn't want to get on birth control, but Henson hopes her daughter can come to her if she changes her mind.

Last year, Henson drove Bremyiah to the gynecologist for the first time, an appointment where her daughter could get basic reproductive information from a doctor.

"What am I going here for?" Bremyiah asked as they were getting ready. "I'm not having a baby."

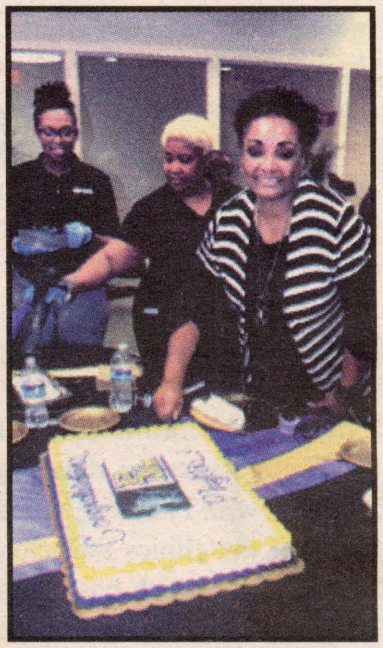
"That's the point. It's to keep you from having a baby," Henson said. "We gotta learn, we gotta learn."

Reporter Eleanor Klibanoff, video journalist Jinitzail Hernández and data visualization fellow Caroline Covington contributed to this story.

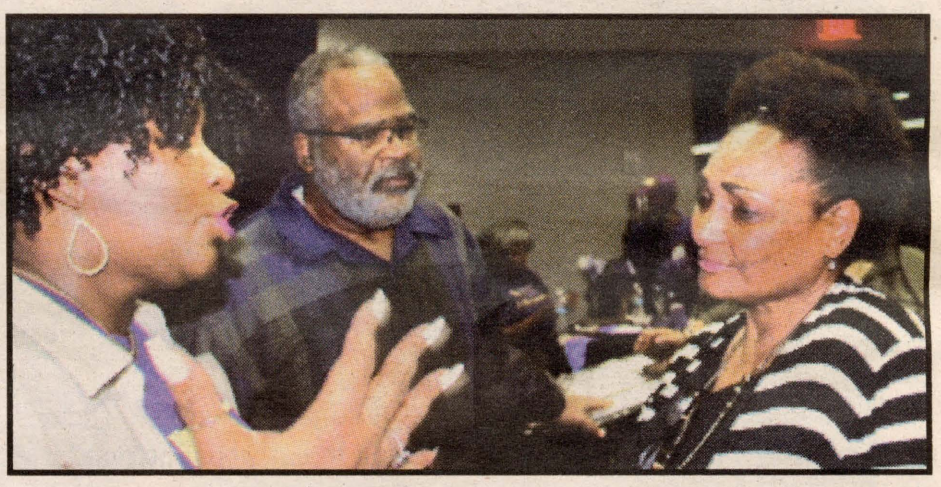
This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org/2023/01/04/east-texas-teen-pregnancy-sex-education/







ABOVE AND LEFT: PVAMU Head Football Coach Bubba McDowell ushered new Director of Alumni Affairs Phyllis Darden-Caldwell into a roomful of friends and family gathered for a surprise reception on her first day of 'paid' worlk at Prairie View. BELOW: Darden Caldwell is greeted by (event co-sponsor) PVAMU NAA Director and Treasurer, Mark Falls and Tramyra Waites-Simmons.





Left and Below: The Director is flanked by her sister Myra Caldwell, her former professor, Jimmie Poindexter and mentor, Dr. E.Johanna Thomas-Smith. Phyllis was pleasantly surprised seeing her sisters Myra, Lisa, and Dana, who drove in from Fort Worth.



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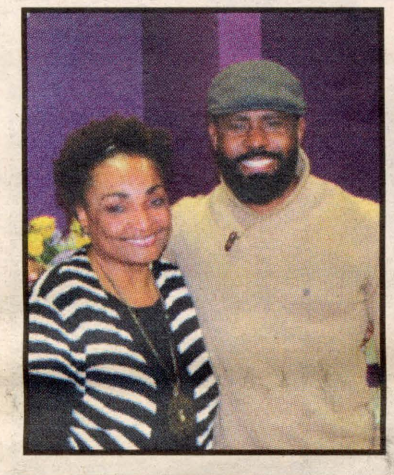
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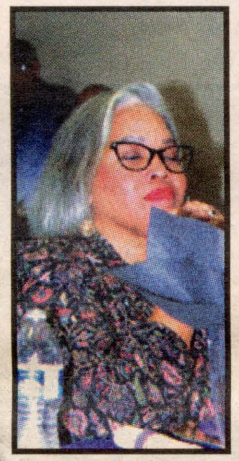


ABOVE: PVAMU NAA President Mark Falls, enjoys a moment with his fraternity brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Frat. Inc. The PVAMU students served as host and waiters for the event.



LEFT: Darden-Caldwell is pictured with former PVAMU SGA President and cousin Andre Evans. Sister Myra Caldwell is praying that the sisters will behave on the next page. Asst. Athletic Director, Alicia Peete enjoys the activities after assisting the sponsors for olmost of month of planning.







ABOVE AND BELOW: Phyllis is pictured with classmates and roomates, Juan Hill, Rosliand White, Naomi Barrett, Sandra Martin along with colleague and close friend, Carol Kellum. Phyllis is joyed by the remarks and visit of her sisters.

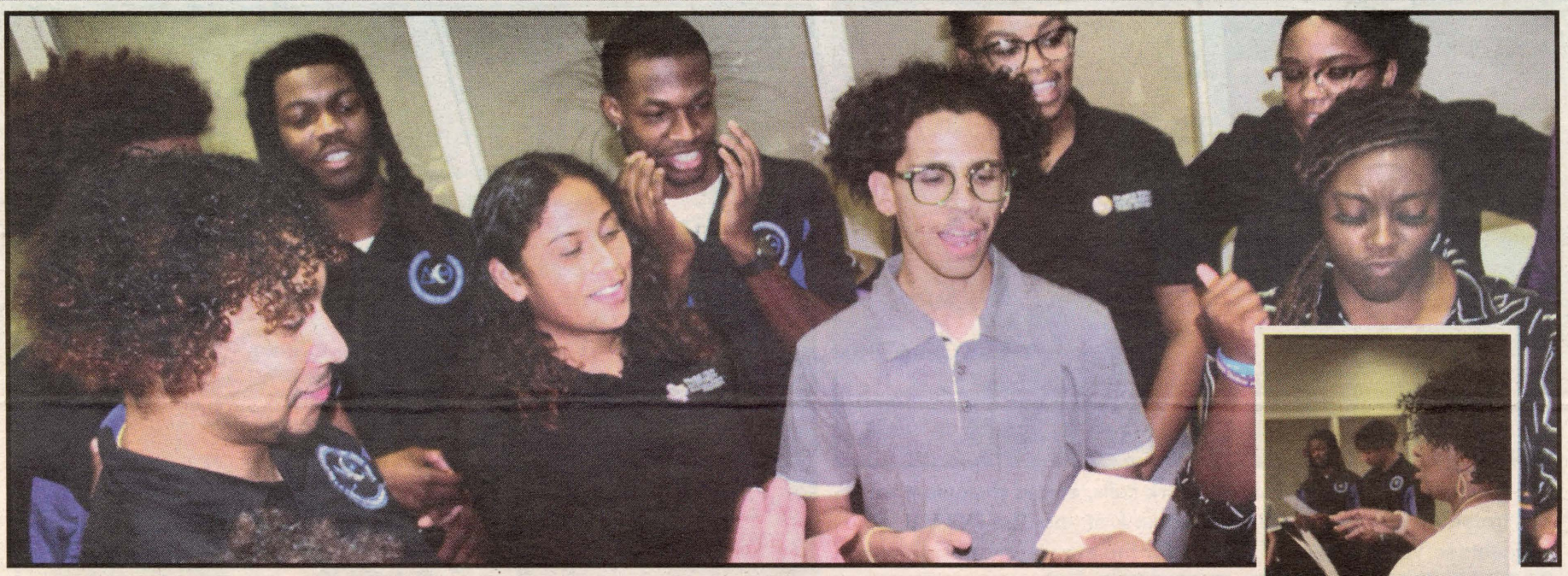




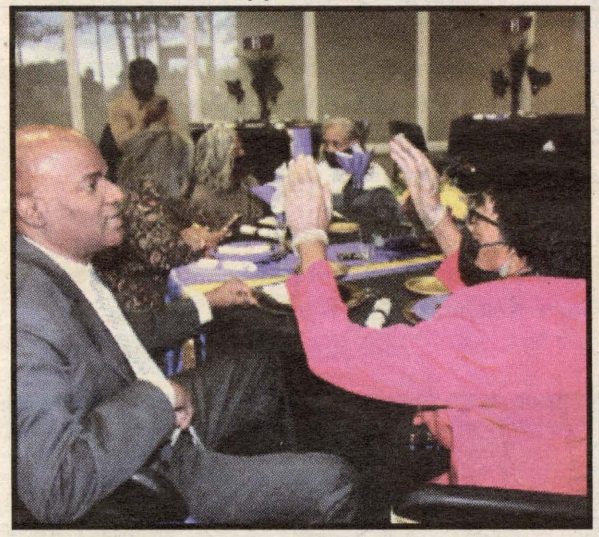


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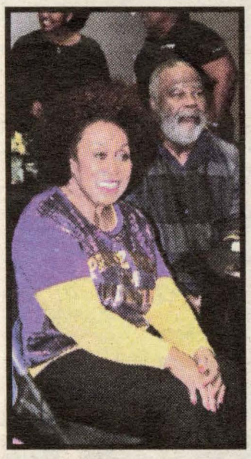
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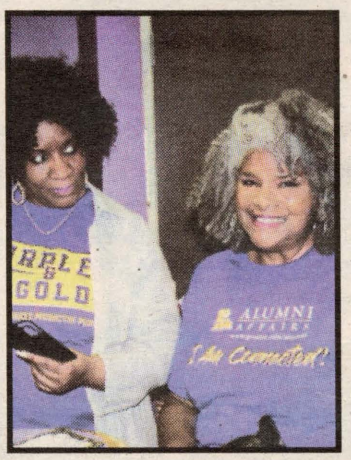
ABOVE AND BELOW: Members of Phi Beta Sigma Frat. Inc. and the Pantherettes are given gift cards from Tramyra as a show of her appreciation of their volunter efforts. Professor Poindexter shares a moment with Dr. Kevin Hoffman











ABOVE: E.JTS and Mark Falls enjoy the activities of the suprise reception. Above center: Classmates Juan Hill and Rosiland White

ABOVE: Myra said they can't go anywhere. I didn't say that. lol Also Above: Tramyra Waites-Simmons arrives early to help organize volunteers (Phi Beta Sigma Frat. Inc. and The Pantherettes) BELOW: Phyllis takes a pic with PVAMU students who served as host, servers, and waiters for her suprise event.



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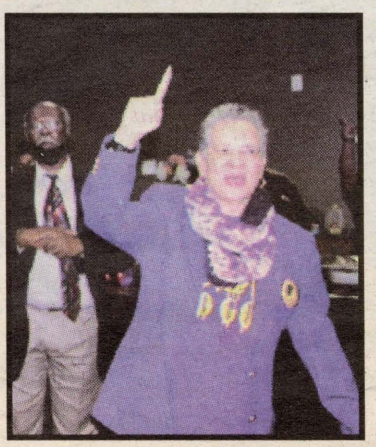
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ABOVE AND LEFT: Event organizers Tramyra Waites-Simmons and Pamela Morgan strike a pose. Phyllis leads Alumni in singing "Dear Prairie View





Below: Phyllis is introduced to Kim and Crystal Dillard by PV Magazine Publisher DeWayne Charleston



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3.02 Athletics GPA

PVAMU **26** STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A 4.0 GPA

9 TEAMS 3.0+

87 STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A 3.0+ TERM

127 STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A 3.5+ GPA

PRAIRIE VIEW – Prairie View A&M Athletics celebrates the Fall 2022 student-athletes, by recognizing them for their achievements in the classroom. In all, 214 student-athletes achieved a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better, with 26 of them posting 4.0 GPAs.

As a whole, the PVAMU student-athlete population achieved a GPA of 3.02, with nine teams – track and field encompasses indoor/outdoor as well as cross country – achieved a team GPA of 3.0 or above:

Team Rankings:

#1 Women's Tennis (3.76)
#2 Women's Golf (3.47)
#3 Women's Bowling (3.40)
#4 Women's Soccer (3.37)
#5 Women's Track & Field (3.33)
#6 Baseball (3.28)
#7 Softball (3.10)
#8 Women's Basketball (3.07)
#9 Men's Tennis (3.03)

Keep up with all the latest news and information for PVAMU athletics by following pvpanthers.com as well as through Twitter via the PVAMU general sports account (@PVAMUPanthers). You can also follow along on Instagram.com/pvamupanthers.