PV Magazine Business of the Month Amigo's Tires 979.826.6496 Hempstead, Texas

Serving the Waller County African-American Community

# Prairie View

November 2021
Magazine

## PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System



Greetings City of Prairie View,

As I reflect and prepare for Prairie View A&M University's Homecoming, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to connect with each of you.

This time last year, we were in a very different place as a university, city, community, and nation. We were reeling in the wake of the stark consequences of COVID-19 on all facets of life.

Although we canceled Homecoming last year, we have re-imagined Homecoming 2021, as we still battle the global pandemic. With all that our county, city, and communities have been through, nothing could be more nurturing than the opportunity to gather once again. This year, PVAMU's Homecoming will take place next week, November 1 – November 6, as a hybrid experience with a mix of virtual and in-person activities. Our hope is to provide a safe yet festive gathering for the PVAMU family near and far, bringing a familiar comfort to those who consider Prairie View A&M University an essential component of who they are. We hope that you will consider joining us for our events listed below, and we look forward to seeing you on the campus.

**The Alumni Music Festival**
***Featuring Jonathan Butler and Norman Brown***
Friday, November 5, 2021
6:30 p.m.

**Homecoming Parade w/KPVU Live Broadcast**
Saturday, November 6, 2021
9:00 a.m.

**Homecoming Football Game**
***Prairie View A&M University vs. Alabama State University***
Saturday, November 6, 2021
2:00 p.m.

*For more details, please visit our Homecoming website at PVAMUHC.COM.*

Regards,

Ruth J. Simmons
President

Office of the President
P.O. Box 519; Mail Stop 1001 Prairie View, TX 77446-0519
Phone (936) 261-2111 Fax (936) 261-2115

www.pvamu.edu

**Linda Brown**
Consuting LLC



Providing Training in
Leadership Development,
Educational Consulting,
Executive Coaching, and
Human Capital
Management
for Business Organizations,
Government Agencies and
Educational Institutions

**For More Information Call Today:**
678.458.4992



Come see us at our new location:

262 Cottonwood,
Hempstead, Tx

FARMERS INSURANCE

LA TONIA CHAPEL AGENCY
979-826-3026

AUTO INSURANCE
HOME INSURANCE
UMBRELLA INSURANCE
LIFE INSURANCE
FLOOD INSURANCE
SPECIALTY
RV/BOAT/MOTORCYCLI
CLASSIC CAR INSURAN
PET INSURANCE
APARTMENT BUILDINGS
RENTAL PROPERTIES
LANDLORD AND RENTERS INSURANCE
BUSINESS INSURANCE
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
WORKERS COMP
TRUCKERS -18 WHEELER, DUMP TRUCKS, TRACTORS
CARGO LIABILITY
BUILDERS RISK
COMMUNITY HEALTH

*PROFESSIONAL DISCOUNTS*
*MULTI-CAR DISCOUNTS*
*MULTI- POLICY DISCOUNTS*

WE INSURE UBER & LYFT DRIVERS

HABLO ESPANOL

# De Mano Chapel Hill, Texas

979.551.0229



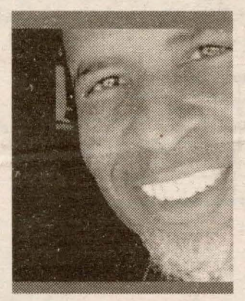

11265 Hwy 290 E.

www.demanogallery.com



Nobody brings you better furniture at better prices since we make it, we ship it, and we sell it.
Please contact us for prices and more information.

# Programs, Programs, Programs $1 by DeWayne Charleston, Publisher



Homecoming at Prairie View conjures up many memories for me. Long before the sea of tailgating RV's and a nice football stadium, was the parade. Yep, the Prairie View Homecoming parade for all intents and purposes may as well have been the Rose Bowl Parade. Seriously, big beautiful creative floats…made over several days on the campus farm! Lol

It may have been the city's most unifying experience of the year. It would start at Business 290 and end at the Baby Dome. Yeah that was nice, but still it wasn't the most significant memory for me.

For me it was being a Cub Scout. And even better than that, it was being a Cub Scout with my two brothers Craig and Carlen, in Cub Scout Pack 141 led by my father Cubmaster, Cube Charleston.

We'd practice to be in the parade every year. And we didn't just walk in the parade, we tried to be every bit as sharp as the ROTC units. Never came close, but not for lack of trying.

My dad took it very serious too. If you missed too many practices you didn't march. Everybody came to practice... even Rod! Practice was at the Cub Scout house. That facility was a 2000 square foot home, which was given to the Cub Scout pack by the university.

When the parade was over, we cub scouts were in charge of selling the game's souvenir programs. We knew if we worked hard enough, we'd make anywhere from $10-$20 each. Of course that meant everybody BUTMichael Sowell. Mike would be finishing his sales, just as we got started. AND MIKE ALWAYS MADE MORE THAN $50!

For the rest of the day, we had free rain of the campus. Ironically, my son and daughter often reminisce of how they too, spent homecomings at PV roaming the campus with great freedman and delight.

Of course this homecoming will be a bit scaled back, but the memories shared should never be limited. Hope you guys have a wonderful and safe Homecoming 2021!

# PVAMU Center for Race and Justice Brings First Activist-in-Residence, Dr. Melina Abdullah

**By Ashley Lisenby**
**Christian Science Monitor Staff writer**

After George Floyd's murder, Ruth J. Simmons, president of Prairie View A&M University in Texas, made a commitment to students to advance their understanding of discrimination in the United States. That pledge included the creation of a Center for Race and Justice – which opened in March – and a new post for an activist-in-residence, modeled after the more familiar artist-in-residence.

Students at Prairie View are not strangers to activism. They have long been involved in voting rights work, for example. Yet Melanye Price, director of the Center for Race and Justice, notes that students are seeking support on these issues. She writes in an email interview, "We wanted to honor the work of the student activists and formalize the university's role as an intellectual space where activism and political protest can be studied and discussed as a part of the scholarly work we do."

She also writes of the need to offer students hope in the face of ongoing injustice and a role model for a lifetime of activism.

The center announced this month that Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles organizer Melina Abdullah would be its inaugural activist-in-residence. A professor of Pan-African studies at California State University, Los Angeles, Dr. Abdullah will work with students virtually at first.

In addition to emailing with Dr. Price, the Monitor spoke with Dr. Abdullah. Both exchanges have been edited lightly for length and clarity.

Why is it important to have an activist-in-residence at Prairie View right now?



Dr. Price: Our campus has been involved in a now 50-year fight against voter suppression that led to a Supreme Court decision, Symm v. US (1979), that established the rights of college students across the nation to vote where they go to school even if they live in dormitories. ... In 2018, we filed yet another suit against the county for voter suppression and are still waiting for a decision. ... That case is being handled by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

'Why did we fight?' Challenge of governing is wearing down Taliban.

So we know activism around voting rights, but we also need to stem the tide of growing despair among young people about the current state of racial politics and their future once they leave our campus. Having someone to spend time with them and discuss their own experiences as an activist, and to talk to them about what it means to dedicate one's life to the service of others, seemed like a natural step.

How does this new role align with a younger generation demanding social justice reform?

Dr. Price: We chose Melina Abdullah because she has been a leader in the most important social movement of our students' lives – Black Lives Matter. The movement is now a decade old, and that means that people have been marching in the streets demanding an end to police and vigilante violence against Black bodies since our students were in elementary school. So, Dr. Abdullah's work speaks directly to the political moment that our students are in.

How have the experiences you've had so far, Dr. Abdullah, prepared you for this moment?

Dr. Abdullah: Well, I've been an organizer, really, all of my life. I was raised in Oakland, California – of Texas roots, but raised in Oakland – born in the 1970s, at a time when activism and organizing were really at their peak, and in a location where you saw Black radical organizing really take shape. So all of my life has been preparing me for this role. And then, of course, as one of the original members of Black Lives Matter, which is the primary organizing space, that also prepares me.

What knowledge do you think students need to have going into the world? What is it that you want to provide them?

**Continued on Page 13**

# Grand Opening Extended

# Cricket Wireless







**Waller/PVAMU community - Come make the switch today in the latest and greatest Smart Phones, Hot Spot Devices at our One-Stop Shop. We've got all your phone accesories and speaker needs.**

## Call us today at 936.372.8108

31303 Farm to Market 2920 Waller, TX 77484

# First Class BBQ

**Professional BBQ Catering. Catering all size events, from the back ... Where Competition and Traditional BBQ Collide, to give you a First Class experience.**




**(979)826-9300**

**Dine-In - Takeout**




845 12th Street
Hempstead, Texas 77445

# FDA Approves Vaccine for Kids 5-11

"FDA panel recommends approval of the Pfizer vaccine for kids ages 5-11. Here's what that means for Texans." 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.

Sign up for The Brief, our daily newsletter that keeps readers up to speed on the most essential Texas news.

An advisory panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommended Tuesday that the agency authorize the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use on children ages 5 to 11.

There are about 2.9 million Texas children who are in this age group — which is more than 10% of the national population of children who are ages 5 to 11.

The panel's 17-0 vote, with one member abstaining, in favor of emergency use authorization for that age group opens the door for formal approval by the FDA, which could come as early as Wednesday.

Rules for administering the vaccine to children from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could follow as early as next week. Once the CDC's guidance is released, shots could be going into the arms of younger kids in Texas by the first weekend in November, state health officials say.

Here's what all of this means and what happens next.

The 18-member Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, a panel of experts connected to the FDA, was asked to vote yes or no on whether members believed the vaccine was safe and effective for children ages 5-11 based on the data presented to them by Pfizer, as well as the FDA and the CDC, during the nearly nine-hour meeting.

Several members expressed concern that they couldn't give a more nuanced answer to the yes-or-no question they were being asked to vote on: Whether the vaccine is safe and effective for all kids ages 5 to 11. Some wanted the option to vote that it should just be used in high-risk children.

Officials with the FDA and the CDC told panel members that as long as they determine that it's safe for use in the 5-11 age group, it's up to the CDC next week to determine who it should be given to — be it high-risk children or any other subset.

Some members also pointed out that the emergency authorization was temporary and could change or end depending on how the pandemic goes on in the future.

Dr. Cody Meissner, a professor of pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine, said he worried some states would respond with mandates, which he doesn't support.

"I agree with what everyone else is saying here. We're in a very difficult decision-making process," Meissner said.




Committee member Dr. James E.K. Hildreth said he was "having some challenges with this one," although he believes children who are high risk need to be vaccinated.

But there were too few children of color involved in the trials, given that they were disproportionately affected by the virus, said Hildreth, president and chief executive officer of Meharry Medical College, the nation's largest private, independent historically black academic health sciences center.

And he pointed to remarks from an FDA health official during the hearing that suggested some 40% of children had already been exposed to the disease, questioning why they would need it if they had natural immunity.

"It seems to me that in some ways, we're inoculating children to protect the adults, and it should be the other way around," Hildreth said. "If 30 million children already have some form of immunity, they've made their contributions to herd immunity, and we should get the adults vaccinated to protect the children."

But other members, including the panel chair, said that voting down the vaccine for kids would remove the choice for parents who are afraid to send their healthy children to school because they worry about them contracting the virus.

"To me, the question is pretty clear," said Dr. Amanda Cohn, a panel member and health officer at the CDC. "We don't want children to be dying of COVID, even if it is far fewer children than adults, and we don't want them in the ICU."

Only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been recommended for use in minors, including the 5-11 age group. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are still authorized for use only in adults.

The child-sized version of the Pfizer vaccine is one-third of the amount given to people ages 12 and up. But Pfizer officials say it still offers the same level of antibody response that is found in 18-to 24-year-olds. The Pfizer data is based on a test sample of about 2,200 children.

Pfizer told panel members both in remarks Tuesday and in briefing documents that its vaccine is 91% effective in preventing symptomatic transmission in kids.

The test group showed no new side effects — nothing worse than had been seen in older groups — and no incidents of myocarditis, a rare heart inflammation that occurred in some male adolescents and young adults after taking one of the mRNA vaccines.

Any side effects were described by Pfizer as "mild to moderate" and typical of those experienced by children after common childhood vaccines. If symptoms appeared, they arose in the first two days and went away quickly. Most common among them was pain at the injection site, while other reactions sometimes included fatigue, headache, muscle pain and chills.

The shot is free and requires two doses to be fully effective. Providers will be strictly prohibited against administering diluted adult-sized doses to children. The kid doses are being packaged differently, with smaller needles, orange packaging and the smaller dosage. Providers who violate these instructions could have their COVID-19 vaccine provider authorization pulled.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org/2021/10/26/texas-covid-vaccine-kids-fda/.

# Brookshire Brothers PHARMACY

Get Your Shingles Shots Here!

**Dr. J. Keith Powell**
Pharmacy Manager
31303 FM 2920
Waller, Texas 77484
**936.372.1000**

FLU SHOT TODAY

STAY WELL TOMORROW

PVAMU HOMECOMING

Celebrate 1876 at

# LOCATION SIX

★

BREWING COMPANY

CRAFT BEER
WINE
RETRO SODAS
LIVE MUSIC

2316 Main Street Waller, Texas
(936)419-1739

EDMONDS INSURANCE



Germania INSURANCE

TRAVELERS

Hochheim PRAIRIE INSURANCE

*Offering a Full Line of Insurance to Fit Your Unique Needs*

845 12th Street Hempstead, Texas 77445

**979-826-9300**

Killian's

Taxidermy & Meat Market

Guided Hunts · Taxidermy · Deer Processing · Fresh & Smoked Meats

Meat Market and Processing

**979-921-0301**

www.Killiansonline.net

460 Hwy 290 N. Hempstead, Tx

**COUPON**

10% Off on Meat Market and BBQ orders only

# thedocbookshop.com

## Pam's

Hello my name is **Pam Morgan** and I've been blessed to fly all over the world in my career, but my roots are in Hempstead and Prairie View, Texas. That's where I'm grounded.



Flying on a plane takes me places in real time, but when I really want to get away and be mentally and even spiritually "grounded" I pick up a book.

I'd like sharing with you "books and authors" that not only take me away, but also keep me grounded!

**My Pick Phive for November:**

**1. 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama.**

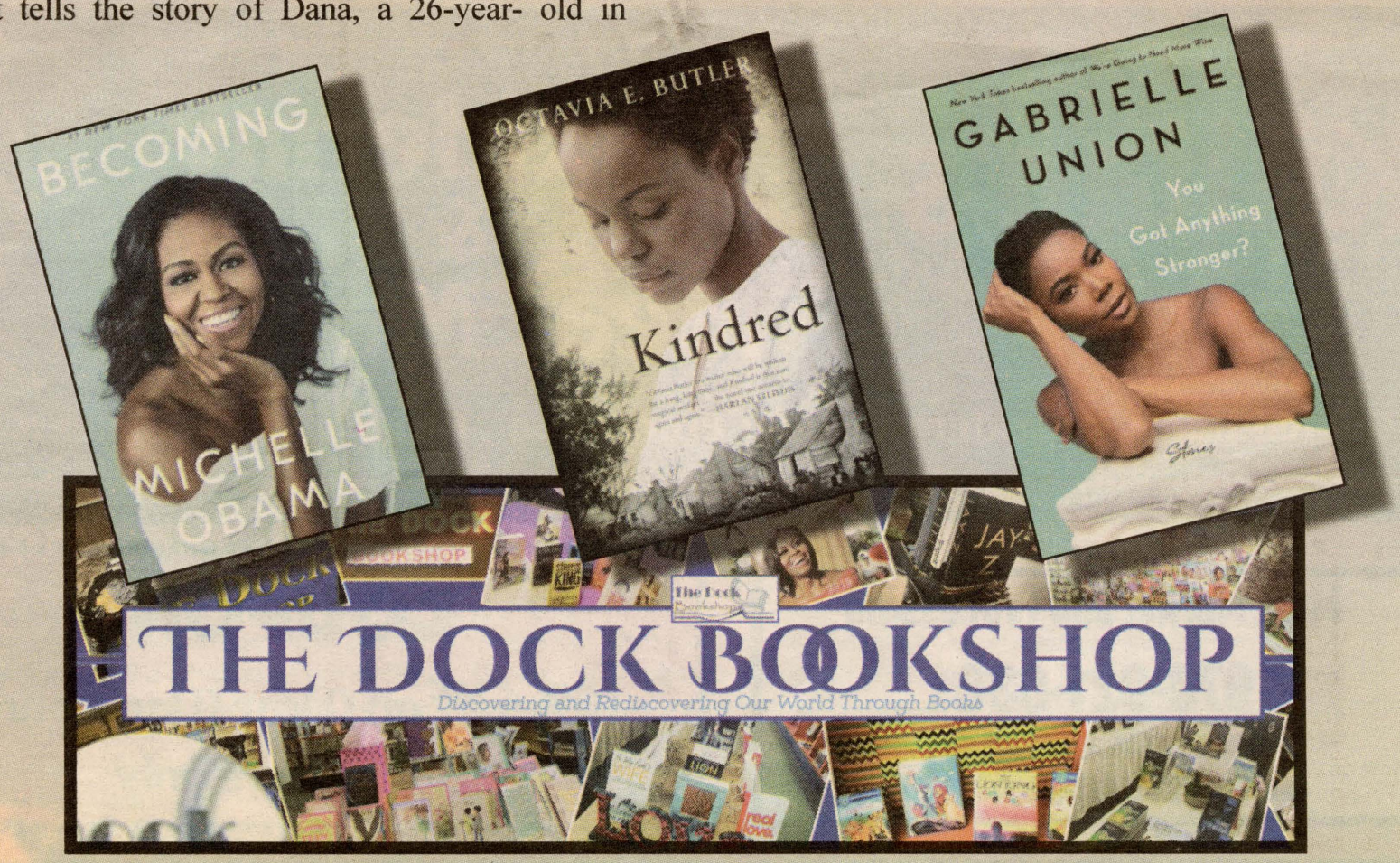
Michelle Obama's memoir covers stories of being The First Lady for 8 years, along with political stories that we've all wondered about. But most importantly it's an inspiring look at her journey from the south side of Chicago to the White House.

**2. 'Kindred' a Novel by Octavia E.Butler**

This book is part historical fiction, part memoir, and part fantasy. It tells the story of Dana, a 26-year- old in 1970's. She finds herself abruptly taken back in time to a plantation in the pre-civil war south where she's been summoned to save the drowning son of a white plantation owner. Somehow she keeps getting pulled back in time to the plantation, and with her stays getting longer and longer each time. Dana gets intimately involved in the community there. It's an important look at the experience of slavery from the perspective of a modern woman.

**3. 'You Got Anything Stronger?' by Gabrielle Union**

In a series of essays, Gabrielle Union opens up with complete vulnerability on her experiences with Motherhood, her struggle with infertility, racism in the entertainment industry. Gabrielle bravely shares devastating personal events as well. This book will make you laugh and cry, only to feel empowered in the end.



# thedocbookshop.com

## Pick Phive

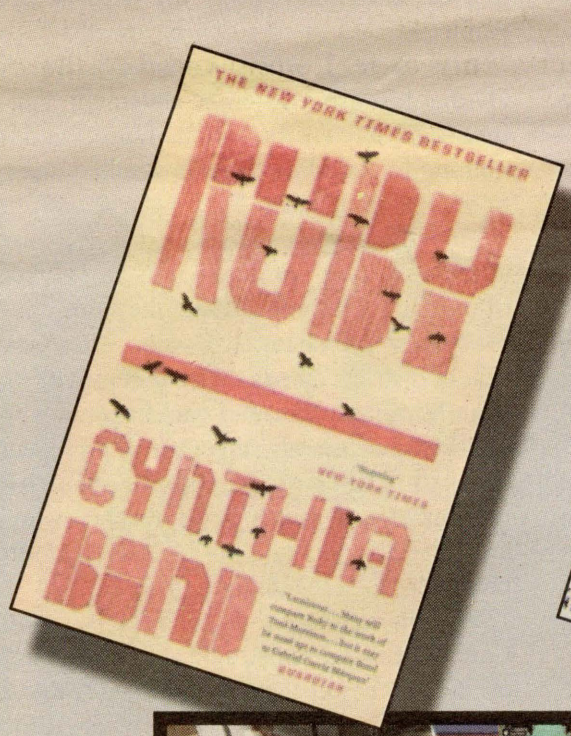
**4. 'Ruby' A novel by (Hempstead, Texas born) Cynthia Bond**

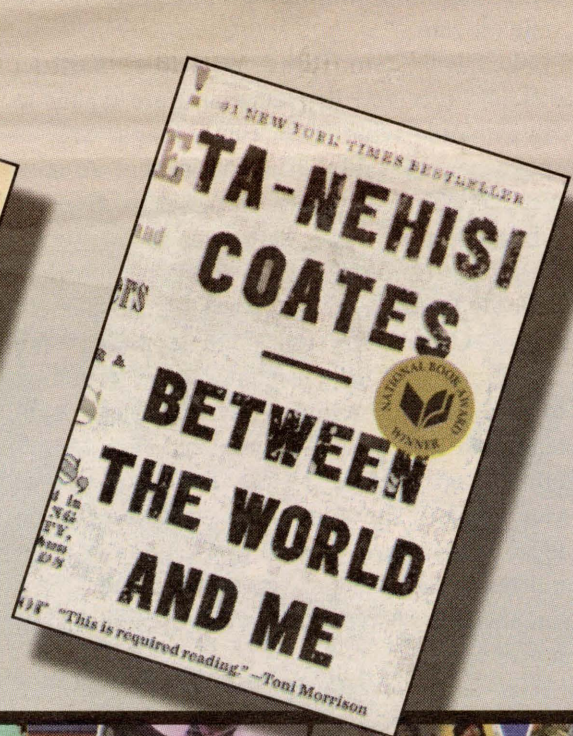
A New York Times bestseller. The book takes place in Liberty, Texas, it offers its residents anything but liberty. Ruby attempts to escape the darkness of Liberty only she is forced to return, With the realization that she might not be strong enough to fight her way back out again, Ruby struggles to survive her memories of the town's dark past. it's also the story of Ephram Jennings, a man determined to protect the woman he loves from the town desperate to destroy her,

**5. 'Between The World And Me' by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

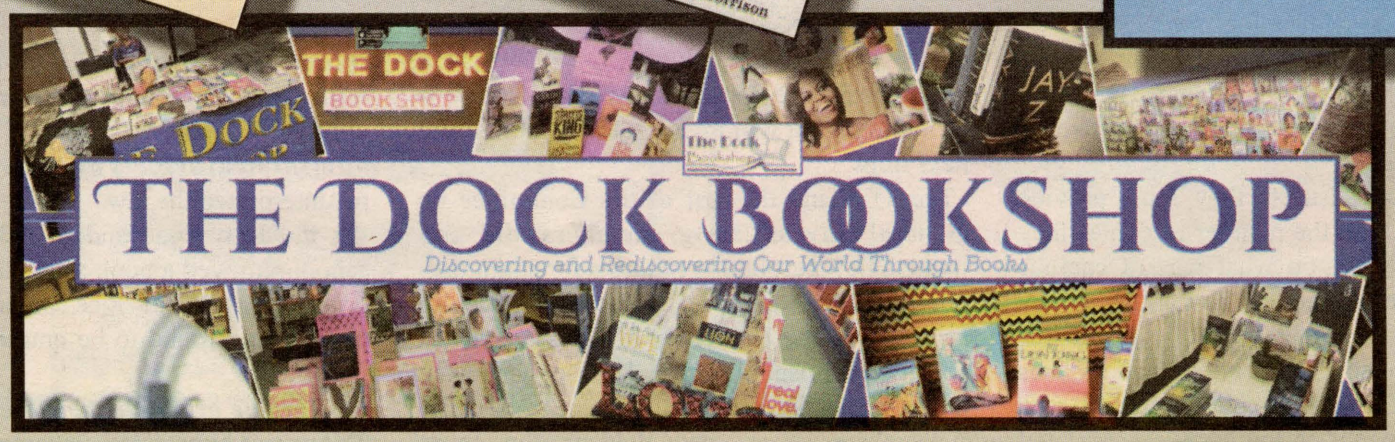
Ta-Nehisi Coates writes an intimate book addressed as a letter to his teenage son. Ta-Nehisi speaks to his son on race issues in America and life-changing personal experiences that revolutionized his own life. He doesn't candy-coat his concerns for his son growing up black in America, he addresses the reality and issues that he.faced growing up in the inner city of Baltimore. I would sum it up as a raw love letter from a black father to his black son.

Ta-Nehisi says to his son "you are growing into consciousness, and my wish for you is that you feel no need to constrict yourself to make other people comfortable."




**What's your favorite book? Go to thedocbookshop.com**



# Texas House to investigate School Districts' Books on Race and Sexuality

A Republican state lawmaker has launched an investigation into Texas school districts over the type of books they have, particularly if they pertain to race or sexuality or "make students feel discomfort."

State Rep. Matt Krause, in his role as chair of the House Committee on General Investigating, notified the Texas Education Agency that he is "initiating an inquiry into Texas school district content," according to an Oct. 25 letter obtained by The Texas Tribune.

Krause's letter provides a 16-page list of about 850 book titles and asks the districts if they have these books, how many copies they have and how much money they spent on the books.

His list of titles includes bestsellers and award winners alike, from the 1967 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Confessions of Nat Turner" by William Styron and "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates to last year's book club favorites: "Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women that a Movement Forgot" by Mikki Kendall and Isabel Wilkerson's "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents."

But race is not the only thing on the committee chair's list. Other listed books Krause wants school districts to account for are about teen pregnancy, abortion and homosexuality, including "LGBT Families" by Leanne K. Currie-McGhee, "The Letter Q: Queer Writers' Notes to their Younger Selves" edited by Sarah Moon, and Michael J. Basso's "The Underground Guide to Teenage Sexuality: An Essential Handbook for Today's Teens and Parents."

Krause, a Fort Worth lawmaker and founding member of the House Freedom Caucus, is running for state attorney general against Ken Paxton. Krause declined to comment and no explanation was given as to how these books were chosen.

Krause sent notice of the investigation to Lily Laux, the Texas Education Agency deputy commissioner of school programs, as well as some Texas school superintendents. His letter did not specify which school districts Krause was investigating.

Krause informs districts they must provide the committee with the number of copies they have of each book, on what part of campus those books are located and how much money schools spent on the books, as well as information on any other book that violates House Bill 3979, the so-called "critical race theory law"designed to limit how race-related subjects are taught in public schools. Critical race theory, the idea that racism is embedded in legal systems and not limited to individuals is an academic discipline taught at the university level. But it has become a common phrase used by conservatives to include anything about race taught or discussed in public secondary schools.

The law states a teacher cannot "require or make part of a course" a series of race-related concepts, including the ideas that "one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex" or that someone is "inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive" based on their race or sex.

School officials have until Nov. 12 to respond. It is unclear what will happen to the districts that have such books.

The letter did not give a specific reason that Krause was launching the investigation, only that "the committee may initiate inquiries concerning any 'matter the committee considers necessary for the information of the legislature or for the welfare and protection of state citizens.'"

Lake Travis Independent School District officials received the letter and are trying to figure out what the next steps are, a spokesperson said. Officials in that Austin-area school district are speaking with other school districts to figure out what this means for them. In nearby Round Rock Independent School District, the district spokesperson, Jenny Caputo, texted that it will "take significant staff time to gather the information to reply to this request." The district's legal team is still reviewing the request.

State Rep. Victoria Neave, D-Dallas, who is vice chair of the committee, said she had no idea Krause was launching the investigation but believes it's a campaign tactic. She found out about the letter after a school in her district notified her.

"His letter is reflective of the Republican Party's attempt to dilute the voice of people of color," she said.

Neave said she doesn't know what Krause is trying to do but will investigate the motive and next steps.

The TEA and the rest of the Committee on General Investigating members did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston, said it doesn't surprise him that Krause has taken initiative on a conservative item, especially since there is crowded field in the Texas attorney general race.

"He's not well known statewide, and so he needs to put down a pretty tall conservative flag to get notice," Rottinghaus said. "As a political statement, it certainly conveys the clear message that the Republicans are watching."

Rottinghaus said he doesn't recall a time in recent memory when legislatures have taken the role of investigating school districts.

"The monitoring of this definitely is a political statement and so the fact that the legislature is attentive to it definitely implies that they're not going to drop the issue," he said.

Jim Walsh, an attorney who often represents school districts, pointed out there is nothing in the law that says books must be removed and Krause's investigation also doesn't call for books to be removed. For now, it's up to school districts to decide how they will respond, but what's certain is that it will add more workload to Texas schools that are already struggling from the effects of the pandemic.

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina said in a statement that the investigation is a "witch hunt" and that nothing in state law gives lawmakers the right to go after educators.

"This is an obvious attack on diversity and an attempt to score political points at the expense of our children's education," she said.

Krause's investigation comes after several school districts across the state removed books from libraries because of parental outcry.

Earlier this month, the Carroll Independent School District board in Southlake reprimanded a fourth grade teacher who had an anti-racist book in her classroom after a parent complained about it last year.

Then, in a separate incident this month, a Carroll ISD administrator asked teachers to provide materials that presented an "opposing" perspective of the Holocaust in an effort to comply with HB 3979. The law, which comes with little to no guidance, has caused confusion and fear among teachers and administrators, who have seemingly misinterpreted the law.

In the Katy Independent School District, a school removed a book after parents claimed it promoted "critical race theory," which the district later found to be untrue and reinstated the book.

***This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org***

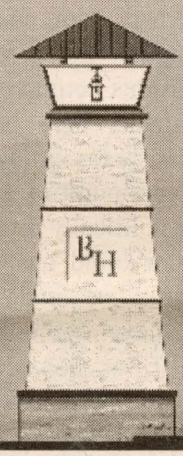
# BEACON HILL




Off 290 between FM 362 and James Muse Parkway



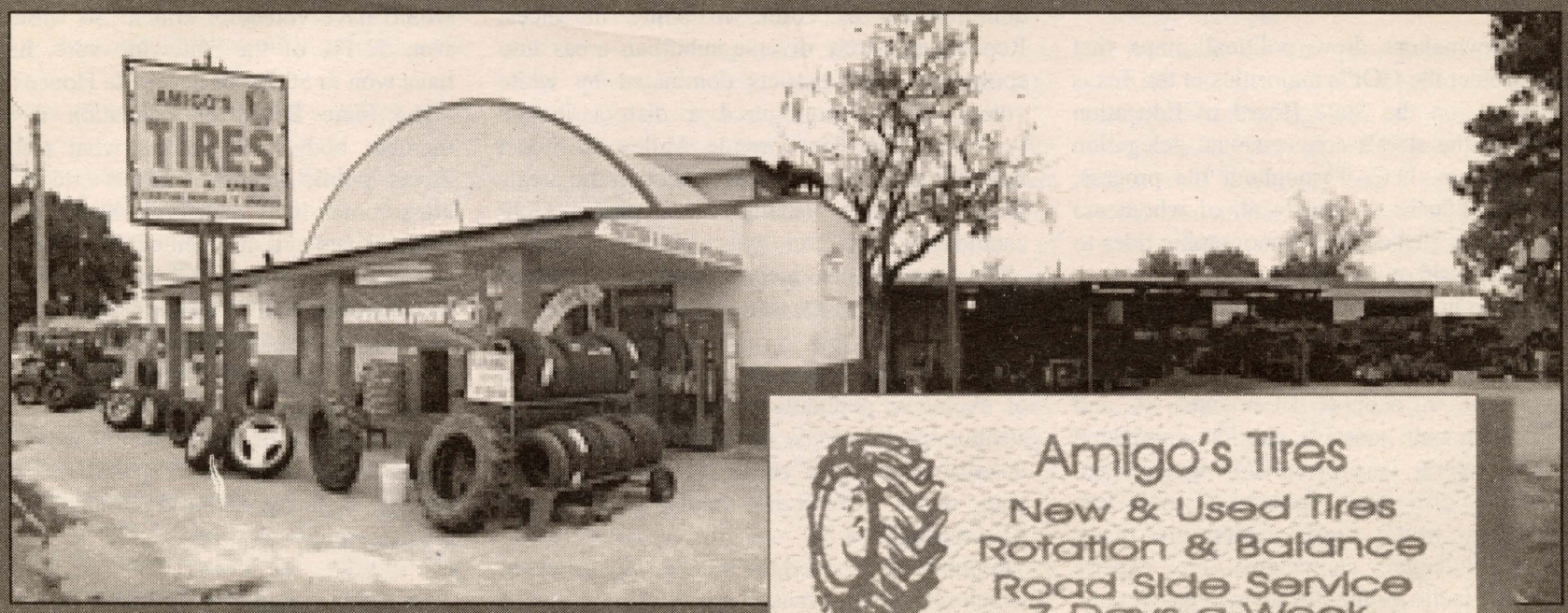

Homes from the low $200's




## Long Lake's
Newest Master Planned Residential Community!

BEACON HILL

## A Proud Supporter of Prairie View A&M University




**PVAMU Students**
**10% Discount with ID**

Amigo's Tires
New & Used Tires
Rotation & Balance
Road Side Service
7 Days a Week
Open 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

440 Austin Street
Hempstead, TX 77445

Bill Roman
(979) 826-6496
(281) 628-3772

# Gov. Abbott Signs Off On Outrageous Partisan Maps

By Elvia Limón, The Texas Tribune

"Gov. Greg Abbott signs off on Texas' new political maps, which protect GOP majorities while diluting voices of voters of color" 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.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday approved Texas' new political maps for the state's congressional, legislative and State Board of Education districts, according to Texas Legislature Online.

The maps were drawn to keep Texas Republicans in power for the next decade. They simultaneously diminish the power of voters of color — despite new census numbers pointing to Texans of color as the main force behind the state's population growth.

The new districts will be used for the first time in next year's primary and general elections, barring any court interventions.

The redistricting process, which happens every 10 years after new census data is released, is complicated and contentious. Legal battles have already begun, with one early lawsuit raising various claims that the new districts unfairly and illegally discriminate against voters of color. More legal challenges are expected to pop up in the near future.

Here's what Texans should know about the 2021 redistricting outcomes.

The Texas GOP fortified its power with all four maps

Texas lawmakers drew political maps that would protect the GOP's majorities in the Texas Legislature, on the State Board of Education and within the state's congressional delegation to Washington, D.C. Throughout the process, Texas Republicans — nearly all of whom are white — struggled against demographic tides to protect their grip on power.

In a bid to hold the political turf, Republicans zeroed in on some communities with high shares of potential voters of color — who are more likely to support Democrats — and grafted them onto massive districts dominated by white voters. To protect GOP incumbents, Republicans also made political districts less competitive, which could undermine many potential challengers' campaigns. Some experts believe this tactic might hurt civic engagement.

Census data shows that Texans of color accounted for 95% of the state's population growth, but the state's new political maps don't reflect this growth. With partisan fervor, Republicans drew new maps for Congress and the Texas Legislature that dilute the power of voters of color. That came despite Democratic efforts — and pleas from members of the public — to create additional opportunities for voters of color to meaningfully influence elections.

Since Congress passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, Texas has been barred by law from discriminating against voters of color. Yet in every decade since then, federal judges have ruled at least once that the state violated federal protections for voters in redistricting.

State Sen. Joan Huffman, the Houston Republican who led the redistricting process in the Senate, said in a public meeting that lawmakers had drawn the maps "race blind" and they had "not looked at any racial data" throughout the process. But to the legion of civil rights activists, lawyers, local leaders and organizers who have labored for decades against Texas political structures that exclude their communities, Huffman's words translate as being politically invisible.

"Color blind has two meanings — one that decisions are made without racial bias. These maps have obviously been made with racial bias," Elisa Gonzalez, a retired educator from Corpus Christi, told lawmakers at one public hearing. "However, this committee is also color blind in terms of being deliberately blind to citizens of color by making maps that silence their impact."

By fortifying GOP districts, the congressional map often manipulates district lines around communities of color. In some instances, Republicans drew diverse suburban areas into sprawling rural districts dominated by white voters. They reconfigured a district in the typically blue Rio Grande Valley to boost Republican performance even though the area's Hispanic voters usually don't prefer GOP candidates.

The new map also incorporates two additional U.S. House seats the state gained, the most of any state in this year's reapportionment. Though Texas received those districts because of explosive population growth — 95% of it attributable to people of color — Republicans opted to give white voters effective control of both, which were drawn in the Houston and Austin areas.

Republicans reduced the number of districts in which Hispanics make up the majority of eligible voters from eight to seven. The number of districts with Black residents as the majority of eligible voters drops from one to zero. Meanwhile, the state would have 23 districts with a white majority among eligible voters — up from 22 in the current configuration.

The new 37th Congressional District in the Austin area captures Democratic-leaning voters that were endangering the prospects of Republican incumbents in nearby districts. The new 38th Congressional District offers Republicans safe territory in the Houston area.

Texas' new Senate map draws safe seats for Republican incumbents who were facing competitive races as their districts diversified over the last 10 years. As of October 2021, the chamber's 31 seats were divided among 18 Republicans and 13 Democrats.

The state's new House map pulls back on Hispanic and Black voters' potential influence in electing their representatives.

The map brings the number of districts in which Hispanics make up the majority of eligible voters down from 33 to 30. The number of districts with Black residents as the majority of eligible voters would drop from seven to six. Meanwhile, the number of districts with a white majority among eligible voters would increase from 83 to 89.

The redraw will ultimately aid Republicans' ability to control the chamber for years to come.

As of October 2021, the partisan breakdown of the House was 83 Republicans and 66 Democrats. During the 2020 election, 76 districts voted for Trump while 74 voted for Biden.

The new House map creates 85 districts that would have favored Trump in 2020 and 65 that would have voted for Biden. So while Trump won 52.1% of the statewide vote, he would have won in 56.7% of new state House districts.

The State Board of Education is the 15-member body that dictates what millions of Texas public school students are taught in classrooms. It is currently made up of nine Republicans and six Democrats. The new map continues to give Republicans control. Seven of the districts went to Biden during the 2020 general election, but under the new maps, Biden would have won only six of the districts.

Under the new maps, there are 10 districts whose majority of eligible voters is white, three where the majority is Hispanic and two that have no majority. This did not change from the previous maps.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at https://www.texastribune.org/2021/10/25/2021-texas-redistricting-explained/.

# Abdullah continued from page 3

Dr. Abdullah: Well, it's always been the tradition of historically Black colleges – and I'm an alumna of Howard University, another HBCU – to remember that we are not ivory towers. We don't seek to be ivory towers. We seek to be spaces where we can hone tools that are empowering to all of our people. So that's my goal at Prairie View: to make sure that I help students hone tools that can be used for the liberation of Black people.

It means also debunking and re-educating folks around what activism, what organizing, what transformation is, and how it takes shape. It means rejecting the notion that mainstream education offers: that there's a messianic leader, that movements are asymmetrical in nature, that someone like a Martin Luther King comes along once in a lifetime and directs everybody how to go, rather than walking on arm in arm with the people and having a whole chorus of people who are working towards liberation. I think that's really, really important. And it awakens students to their own role in creating meaningful change.

Think about the Black Power movements and the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale [Black Panther Party founders] were two community college students who conceived of this movement and then went back into their community and said, What does the community need? And then they endeavored to be that.

When we think about SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, these were regular college students who would talk and analyze the world around them and vision what it means to be free and then work towards that freedom, audaciously.

Are there any issues that students on campus care about, Dr. Price, that differ from the social justice struggles of the past?

Dr. Price: Our students are particularly attuned to contemporary political movements because they see the current slate of regressive laws being passed in Texas, and they are worried. They are asking the adults around them what they can do to counter the backlash against civil rights, and it is incumbent upon us to provide historical and scholarly examples of effective social change. They are asking us to tell them more about their history and how it can inform the work of their future, which is to build what Martin Luther King called the "beloved community."

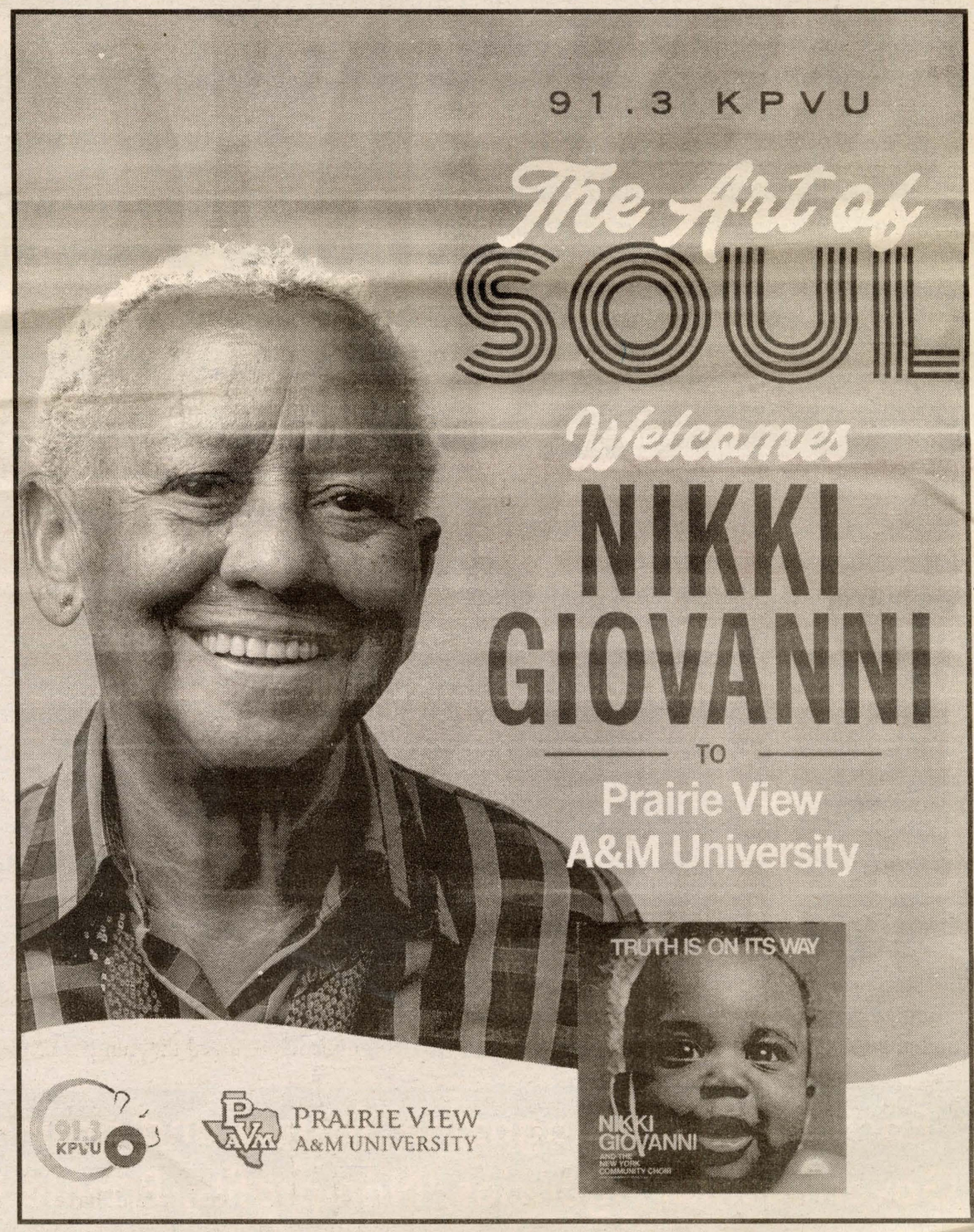
As a journalist, I've talked to different people with different views of what activism looks like and what Black Lives Matter stands for. I'm curious if there is a top issue or group of issues that you think should be the focus.

Dr. Abdullah: I think that Black Lives Matter is recognizing that we have to fight for Black liberation in every space. Black Lives Matter was born out of a struggle to end state-sanctioned violence against Black people – and the way in which it comes through policing in particular. But when we say Black Lives Matter and we say end state-sanctioned violence, we can also think of having an unhoused community which is disproportionately Black as state-sanctioned violence.

We can think of the way in which schools often abuse Black students as being state-sanctioned violence. So while my focus is particularly around re-imagining public safety, and ending state-sanctioned violence in the form of policing, really, in this role, I want to encourage students to deeply analyze the spaces that they're called to. What is their role?

If they're health care majors, what is their role in making Black liberation central to their work as health care providers? If they are teachers, how do they make Black liberation central to their role as teachers? And so I think that there is no single space. There is no single issue because we're not single-issue people. Black liberation has to be the fight in every space.

**This article first appeared in the Christian Science Monitor.**



# PROFILES IN PARTNERSHIPS

## PVAMU Incentivizes Covid-19 Vaccination

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (October 15, 2021) – Prairie View A&M University has launched an incentive program for those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Students, faculty and staff are eligible to receive one of several prizes in a drawing that will be held this December.

"Students and employees should participate in this program because it allows us as the Prairie View A&M campus community to show our commitment to mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus, not only on our campus but in the greater community as well," said Tondra L. Moore, Ph.D., executive director of Health Services.

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for PVAMU students and employees; however, health officials have said vaccination is one of the best defenses in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness for those impacted.

Employees and currently enrolled students who have chosen to take this vital step can follow the directions indicated on this dedicated website to enter the contest before November 20. Winners in the random drawing must be fully vaccinated to receive their prize.

Ten PVAMU students will each receive a $500 tablet.

Ten PVAMU students will each receive a $200 set of earbuds.

Five PVAMU students will each receive a $150 wireless headset.

Five PVAMU full- or part-time employees will each receive a parking account credit valued at up to $250.

**Ten PVAMU students will each receive a $500 tablet.**

**Ten PVAMU students will each receive a $200 set of earbuds.**

**Five PVAMU students will each receive a $150 wireless headset.**

**Five PVAMU full- or part-time employees will each receive a parking account credit valued at up to $250.**

Eligibility for the Vaccine Incentive Program is detailed in the terms and conditions posted for students and employees. Among the requirements to be considered for the random drawing are the following:

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Students must be enrolled at PVAMU as of November 1, 2021.

Students must upload their documentation to MedProctor and fill out the Panther Participation Survey.

Employees must upload their documentation to the Vaccine Reporting Portal.

Must enter the contest by 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2021.

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available to all students and employees. In partnership with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the university will host a vaccine clinic on October 26 and October 27. More information will be available regarding the clinic's location.

"This clinic gives everyone time to get the second dose before the kick-off of the holiday season," said Moore. "It also comes just in time to enter the Vaccine Incentive Program before the November 19 deadline."

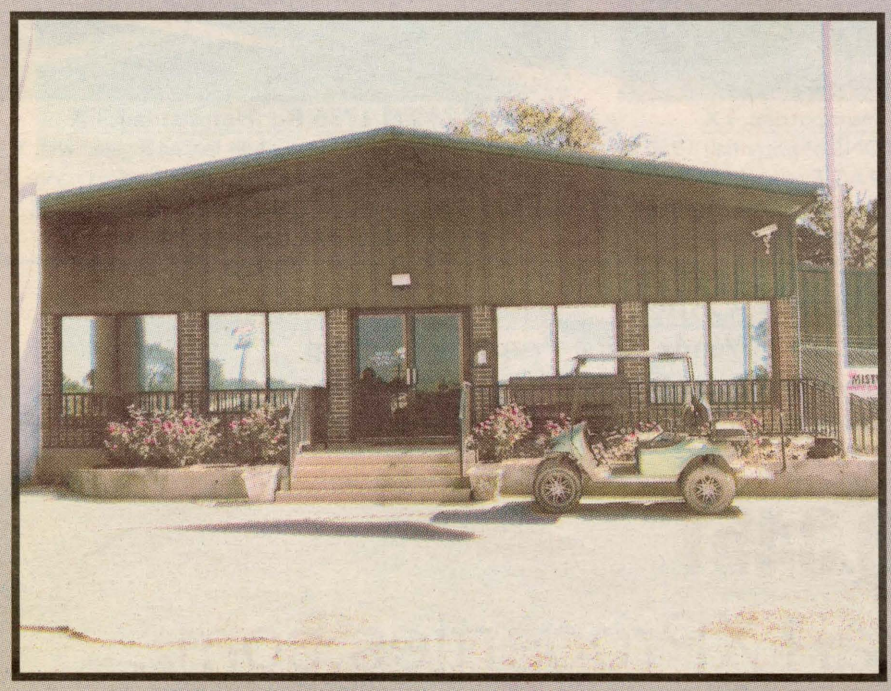
Each month PVMagazine fosters and promotes relationships between Governmental Agencies, Non-profits, Private Business and Entreprenuers




# 24 Hour Towing Services Available

## Day 979-921-0209

## Night 281-850-3883





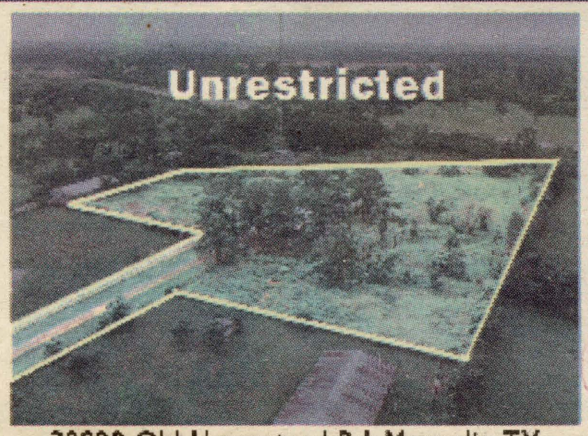
# Go Panthers! PVAMU

## Wendy Cline Properties Group

*Proud Supporter of Waller ISD, FFA & County Fair*

*Call Us if You are looking to Buy &/or Sell!*






**32920 Old Hempstead Rd: Magnolia, TX**

4.7+ acre horse property w/ a 3 bed/2 bath country home. 30x21 workshop, 36x26 horse barn w/ 5 stalls, 12x12 feed room, lighted arena, & improved pastures. Never flooded.

**$400s | Text 3985 to 415-799-4541**




**10623 Rabbit Oak Dr: Houston, TX**

Updated 1710 SF home w/ 3 beds. 2 full baths & a 2 car garage on a cul-de-sac lot! Great location w/ quick access to 260 & Beltway 8. Wheelchair accessible shower!

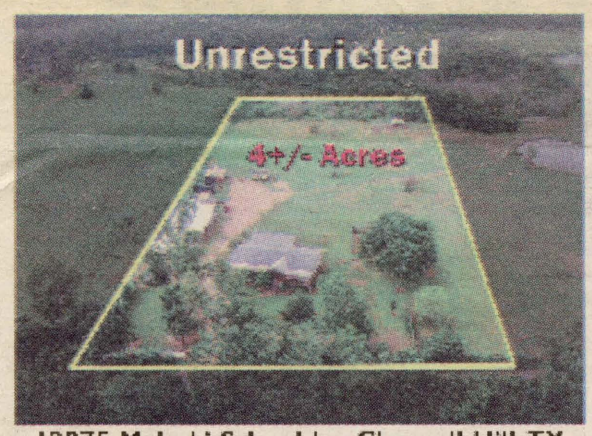
**$200s | Text 3891 to 415-799-4541**




**24872 AJs Way: Hempstead, TX**

20 manicured acres w/ coastal hay pastures, 5 paddocks, 4 horse walker, irrigated round pen, 80x46 6 stall barn, 1600 SF barndo, 1253 SF guest house, 3283 SF main house & pool.

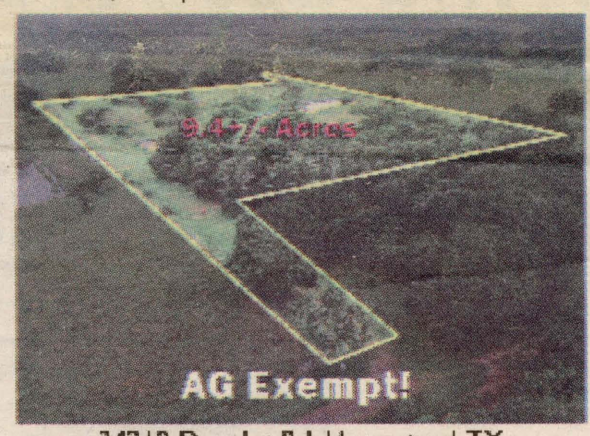
**$2.2M | TEXT 3859 to 415-799-4541**




**12075 Meleski School Ln: Chappell Hill, TX**

4+ lush acres w/ an updated 3 bed/2 bath home, 19x15 garage apt, 15x12 tool room, 2 car garage, 33x15 covered parking & 24x24 barn w/ water. Easy access to 290.

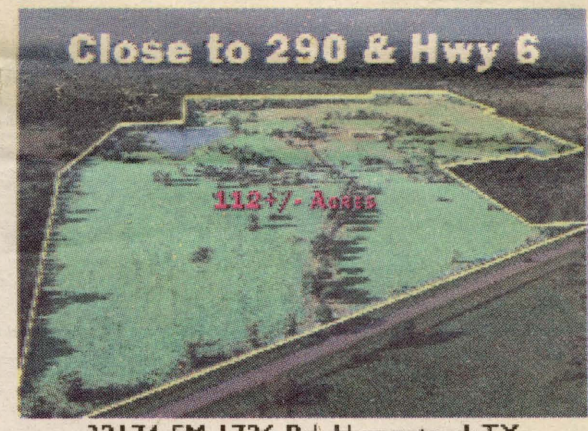
**$400s | Text 3991 to 415-799-4541**




**34219 Douglas Rd: Hempstead, TX**

9.4+ Unrestricted acres with TONS of potential! 1950 SF Ranch home & 24x20 workshop! AG Exempt! 50+ minutes from Downtown Houston, 30+ minutes to Cypress.

**$500s | TEXT 3874 to 415-799-4541**




**33174 FM 1736 Rd: Hempstead, TX**

112+ acre Ranch Estate that is fully fenced & gated with 5 bed/3.5 bath Victorian home, 4 acre lake, 2 stocked ponds, a 10000 SF insulated barn, 5000 SF equip shed & MORE!

**$3.2M | Text 3857 to 415-799-4541**

**Your Local Realtor Specialist Proudly Working with Buyers & Sellers at ALL Price Points in ALL Areas**

**Wendy Cline**
Broker | Wendy Cline Properties Group
www.FindSouthCentralTXProperties.com
properties@WendyClineProperties.com | 281-858-3451

# 281.858.3451

# www.FindSouthCentralTXProperties.com