

## Sheryl Cole Authors Texas HB 1206

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Sheryl Cole was recently elected to the Texas House of Representative District 46, which covers the majority of East Austin. Although Cole is a freshman she has been actively taking and shaping legislation. Cole has authored Texas House Bill 1206, calling for the legalization of marijuana. She believes that numerous Texas House members will get behind this bill.

According to Representative Cole, "A vast majority of Texans agree that our marijuana laws are too harsh and believe [marijuana] should



Sheryl Cole addresses audience. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

be legalized. In addition, she mentioned, "taxpayers' are paying out too much money on arrests and prosecution of low-level marijuana offenders. We could use those resources for counseling, drug treatment, or supporting victims of serious crimes."

Now that the bill has been authored, it must go through a lengthy Legislative process. A committee will receive HB 1206, if it's voted out, it will go before the Texas House of Representatives floor vote. Upon approval, the bill will return back to the committee and back to the House Floor. Then it goes to the TX Senate and back to the TX House.

## Leah Simmons for Eanes ISD

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Candidate Leah Simmons

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Leah Simmons has decided to run for Eanes Independent School District, in order, to be a part of the solution. According to Simmons, "Eanes ISD will face challenging times in the coming years, from budget variability to technology implementation to social-emotional learning. We need leaders that know how to manage all of the inevitable complexity and focus on what's important."

Furthermore, Simmons isn't a newcomer to politics. She has been a Precinct

Chair for the Travis County Democratic Party, representing her Eanes neighborhood on the county level. In addition, Simmons is a mom, community leader/activists, and entrepreneur.

Finally, Leah Simmons is running on several issues. One concern includes setting a STEAM ( Science, Tech, Art, and Engineering) program. Leah wants to improve school financial matter, shepherd and embrace innovative programs, such as SPED, SEL, Spanish Immersion, and many other matters.

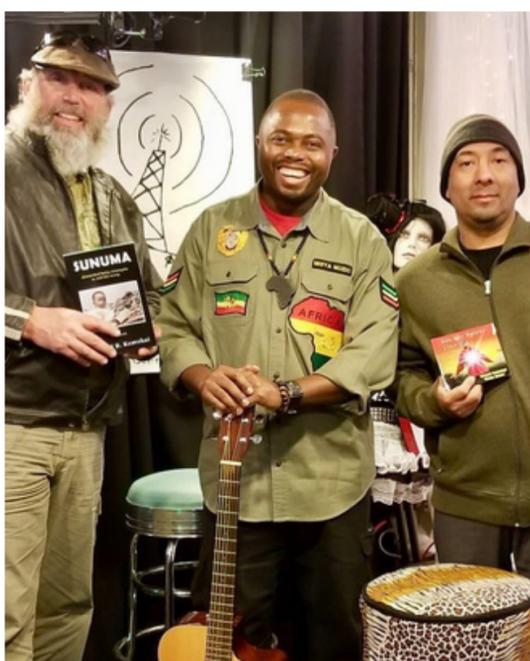
## Using Music To Further Humanitarianism

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Six years ago, after attending a Music Festival in the Capital City, Roland decided to relocate to Austin, Texas. While in Austin, he started a band called Roland & The Roots Riddim, which, can be considered as a dynamic root rock Reggae band.

Moreover, Roland the front-man and leader of the band was born into a musical family in Liberia. "Music was everywhere around me while I was growing up," stated Roland. Therefore, he learned to sing and play various musical instruments. In addition to singing, he also gives vocal lessons to future singers. According to Jon, "Roland is a very experience vocal teacher."

Roland is also an activist, and writer. According to Roland, "I use my music to share a belief in the power of forgiveness, positive thinking, and the potential for greatness within us all." Finally, he is planning to take a humanitarian trip to Liberia, in which, he will seek to be a part of those who rebuild his nation.



Pictured left to right are: Rob, Roland, and Lauren. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

## Hoyer Says He Doesn't expect to See a GOP Health Care Plan

By JAY CANNON, Capital News Service

WASHINGTON — House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer expressed his doubts Tuesday that a new Republican healthcare bill will come any time before the 2020 election cycle, despite Trump administration claims that a plan is coming.

The House is scheduled to vote Wednesday on a Democratic resolution condemning White House efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act in full. A repeal would greatly shake up the landscape of American health care, but temporarily leave roughly 20 million citizens without coverage.

"I hope some Republicans vote with us on that tomorrow," Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, said of the resolution. "The president said in his tweet yesterday — of course yesterday his



House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., joined at right by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks at an event to announce legislation to lower health care costs and protect people with pre-existing medical conditions, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 2019. The Democratic action comes after the Trump administration told a federal appeals court that the entire Affordable Care Act, known as "Obamacare," should be struck down as unconstitutional. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

tweet fell on April Fools Day, just to make that observation — he said that he's going to have a really good bill...It will not come."

Trump's tweets on Monday represent a backtracking on his administration's initial involvement in a Texas court case last week seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act in its entirety.

"The Republicans are developing a really great HealthCare Plan with far lower premiums (cost) & deductibles

than ObamaCare," Trump tweeted. "Vote will be taken right after the Election when Republicans hold the Senate & win back the House. It will be truly great HealthCare that will work for America."

The president's resurrection of the health care issue has caused consternation among many congressional Republicans, who saw little political benefit in ending an increasingly popular program, according to multiple news accounts.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, told reporters Tuesday that he spoke to Trump on Monday and told him that Republicans had attempted unsuccessfully to pass comprehensive health care reform when they were in charge of both houses. Now, with a Democratic House, GOP senators were not going to revisit the matter, McConnell said.

"I made it clear we were not going to be doing that in the Senate," the Kentuckian said.

Indeed, Trump's decision to postpone a formal health care replacement bill until after the 2020 election is likely a result of Obamacare's increased popularity among Americans in recent years. According to polls conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation last month, approximately 50% of Americans have a favorable view of the health reform bill, an increase of 12 percentage points from March 2014.

As a result, making health care a center-

piece topic for the 2020 election cycle might not be in Trump's best interests.

"The president's view will make the 2020 (election) all about healthcare as well. I would suggest that's good for us," Democratic House leader Hoyer told reporters at his weekly press briefing.

On another matter, Hoyer also expressed his hope that the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which the House is scheduled to vote on Wednesday, garners bipartisan support.

If passed, the bill would keep those convicted of domestic and sexual assault related crimes from purchasing firearms as well as improve services for victims.

"There's some talk that the (National Rifle Association) is uptight about this, but we made a provision for domestic abusers not to be able to purchase firearms," Hoyer said. "I certainly hope the Republicans not only will support the bill, but also will oppose a (bill) that will negatively affect the women of our country."

Other iterations of the bill cast in 1994, 2000 and 2013 each passed with bipartisan support in the House.