

# 2021 Fest Africa

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
THE VILLAGER

(VILLAGER) - Sunday, July 11, 2021, Fest Africa took place in the heart of Pflugerville, Texas. According to the organizers, "the event was held in Pflugerville, which has the highest African Diaspora and African American population, in a key geographic location."

At Fest Africa, the public had the opportunity to learn about African culture, listen to and dance to African musicians. Both the Tina Rix Band and Dj Eli were there playing some great music. The Tina Rix band played a set of six songs in which the public enjoyed. Attendee Bummi



Fest Africa 2021

mentioned, "My kids loved the Tina Rix band; they were amazing!" Secondly, DJ Eli played some classic African songs; the guests wore the dance floor out.

Finally, the organizers were pleased that the attendees enjoyed themselves. "We heard a lot of positive feedback from the crowd. Therefore we plan to another

Fest Africa in 2022," stated the organizers. As the 2021 Fest Africa closed, guests learned from and appreciated the growing African Diaspora culture.

## American Dream Festival Annual Awards Show



American Dream Festival Association and Award Recipients. Photo by (Tsoke Chuch) Adjavon

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(VILLAGER) - From July 2 to July 4, 2021, Meci Biz Production USA Event Planner organized the American Dream Festival powered by a nonprofit organization, Smile Heart Foundation. The event kicked off with a donation to the homeless

population and African migrants in downtown Austin. In the midday, there was a golf tournament which followed with a business conference.

The business conference was an opportunity to showcase some African companies and learn from these owners. Some of the businesses present were BMG Tax Expert,

Hebrew Federal Credit Union, Franck Construction and Services, Solution Real Estate Texas, VIP QG Barber Shop & Spa, and Chiennee Soccer Training. According to the organizer, "the purpose of the business conference was to create a network connection with all the Austin African community entrepreneurs."

After the business conference, there was a basketball and soccer tournament, in which teams came as far as Dallas and Houston, Texas. A fashion show followed. According to Franck Tamuedjong (Maboy Premier), "fashion allowed me to launch the Double Lion brand, which customizes shoes and suits in the State of Texas."

## Texas AG's Office Arrests Hervis Rogers for Alleged Illegal Voting

(HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA) - When Hervis Rogers went viral on social media for being the last person in line at Texas Southern University to cast a vote at 1 a.m. on Super Tuesday, he was applauded as a tenacious, civic-minded man who worked hard to exercise his right to vote.

Now, Rogers is being prosecuted by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office for allegedly voting illegally.

Rogers was arrested and sentenced to 25 years in prison for burglary and intent to commit theft in 1995. He was out on parole May 20, 2004, and his parole was set to end June 13, 2020.

Rogers was one of millions of people in America without the right to vote, due to laws pro-



hibiting people on parole from participating in elections in many states across the country, including Texas.

Rogers was arrested on Wednesday in the South Acres neighborhood in Houston and he voted in Harris County, but the AG's office is prosecuting the case in Montgomery County. Rogers is charged with two counts of illegal voting. His bail is set at \$100,000.

Rogers is repre-

sented by the ACLU of Texas and Nicole DeBorde Hochglaube.

Because Rogers voted before his parole was scheduled to end, he was likely ineligible to cast a ballot on Election Day, despite being registered to vote, said a spokesperson with the Harris County Attorney's Office last year.

The arrest came just one day before the Texas Legislature convened on Thursday to begin a spe-

cial session, where a controversial voting bill is on the agenda.

Under a bill approved in 2007 by both the Texas House and Texas Senate, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice would have been required to notify people released from custody about their eligibility to vote. However, former Gov. Rick Perry vetoed that bill.

A similar bill filed this week by State Rep. John Bucy would require the state to give people convicted of felonies more information about their eligibility to vote.

Nicole D. Porter, director of advocacy with the Sentencing Project, said Hervis Rogers' case illustrates the need for the state to give people proper notification of their rights.

## Texas Special Session

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
THE VILLAGER

(VILLAGER) - Last week, Governor Greg Abbott called for a special session to deal with voting issues. According to political experts, "the special session was organized because Gov. Abbott wants to pass important voting bills that only caters to Texas Republicans. Since Gov. Abbott is facing a primary within the republican party, he needs to push the republican activist agenda through the Texas Legislature."

In less than a day of the session, the Texas Legislature held some

hearing over some voting bills. According to the committee, over two hundred people came and gave their testimony for the voting bill. Some attendees were in favor of the bill; while, some others opposed the bill. The Democrats in Texas Legislature strongly opposed the bills because they believe it is too partisan.

Since the Democrats are in opposition, they decided to block the voting bill. They have blocked the voting bill by walking out of the Texas Legislature. Not only did they walk out, but they also flew to Washington DC to make their case from this partisan voting bill. Democrats are requesting the United States Congress and President Biden to push for a bi-partisan voting bill that will cater to all Americans; instead of a political party.

## FDA Adds Warning About Rare Reaction to J&J COVID-19 Vaccine

by Matthew Perrone and Mike Stobbe  
Associated Press



A vial with the Johnson & Johnson's one-dose COVID-19 vaccine is seen at the Vaxmobile, at the Uniondale Hempstead Senior Center, Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in Uniondale, N.Y. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

(AP) - U.S. regulators on Monday added a new warning to Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine about links to a rare and potentially dangerous neurological reaction, but said it's not entirely clear the shot caused the problem.

The Food and Drug Administration announced the new warning, flagging reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome, an immune system disorder that can cause muscle weakness and occasionally paralysis. Health officials described the side effect as a "small possible risk" for those getting the shot.

The action comes after the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed reports of about 100 people developing the syndrome after receiving the one-dose vaccine. Almost all of were hospitalized and one person died, the FDA said.

Guillain-Barre syndrome occurs when the body's immune system mistakenly attacks some of its nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis that typically is temporary. An estimated 3,000 to 6,000 people develop the syndrome each year, according to the CDC.

The number of cases reported in connection with J&J's vaccine represents a tiny fraction of the nearly 13 million Americans who have received the one-dose shot. Most cases were reported in men — many 50 years old and up — and usually about two weeks after vaccination.

J&J said in a statement it has been discussing the reports with the FDA and other health regulators around the world.

The CDC said it would ask its panel of outside vaccine experts to review the issue at an upcoming meeting.

The government said the vaccines most used in the U.S., made by Pfizer and Moderna, show no risk of the disorder after more than 320 million doses have been administered.

The new warning will be included in pamphlets given to people getting the J&J shot. They should seek medical attention if they experience any symptoms, which include tingling sensations, trouble walking and double vision, the FDA said.

The CDC and the FDA have been monitoring side effect reports submitted by physicians, drugmakers and patients to a federal vaccine safety database.