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RANCH RECORD

News for the Residents of Blackhorse Ranch



Little Leaguers That Become Big Leaguers

Submitted by Bruce Worley, grandfather



This is a short story about my grandson, Elijah MacNamee, and his rise to prominence as a valued member of Mississippi State University's baseball team.

It all started in Cypress, Texas.

Elijah's love of baseball was recognized early on when he began tee ball at around the age of five to six. Even at that young age, he demonstrated unusual skill, natural ability, and a deep love for the sport. But, we in the family recognize that it took a village of friends, family members and mentors through elementary, middle school and high school to give him the boost that would offer him the opportunities and notoriety that he has enjoyed at Mississippi State University.

I hope this story offers up some encouragement and motivation to the youth of Cypress to utilize and embrace the support offered by a dedicated network of family, friends, teachers, and coaches that exist in our community and are willing to see you through to your dream.

Elijah and his family recognized his natural talent early on and took his abilities very seriously. As he grew and developed, he qualified to join Fairfield Little League travel team. The relationships that he developed with his Fairfield teammates formed the inner circle that would support his future dreams of becoming a professional league player.

As he moved into high-school and on to the Cy-Ranch baseball team, along with some of his former Fairfield little leaguers, Elijah

excelled on the field and was named one of the top seven outfielders in the State of Texas. Cy-Ranch won the 6A High School Championship in 2015. Elijah was honored as one of the top 50 athletes in the greater Houston area. These achievements helped him receive an offer to attend Blinn Junior College on a baseball scholarship. While there, he excelled and earned honors after leading the Bucs in batting average, hits, runs scored, stolen bases and RBI's.

Elijah's playing field achievements at Blinn College led to a scholarship offer to play for Mississippi State University. Starting as a sophomore outfielder, he showed continued improvement. Even with the slow start and some administrative team issues, he and his teammates finished with a strong ending in the regular season. They beat the number one team in the nation (Florida State) in a three-game series. Elijah excelled again when needed.

Mississippi State won the regional after losing their first game. The stats indicated a 7% chance to get to Omaha (College World Series). With Elijah winning "most outstanding player in the regionals," the whole team stepped up to win the Super Regionals and the trip to Omaha. Although the stats inform the public of players and teams performances, they did not measure the "hearts" and the "will to win." They were on to Omaha. MSU won their 1st two games, but unfortunately lost their 2nd two and was eliminated. But, they could still hold their heads high!

As a loving grandfather and avid supporter of Elijah, I must say, all this began in right here in Cypress. A community made up of parents, teachers, families and community leaders that want to offer the best chances for our youth to participate and grow to the best of their abilities in sports and academics. Elijah's immediate family, Jennifer, Phil and his two sisters Emma and Ellie deserve all the credit in the world for their enduring support and love for my Grandson Elijah MacNamee.

RANCH RECORD

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North Cypress Medical Center	281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist	281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD	281-897-4000
Warner Elementary School	281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School	281-897-4600
Cypress Ranch High School	281-373-2300

PUBLIC SERVICES

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Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

UTILITIES

En-Touch (Customer Service)	281-225-1000
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Homecoming Mums in Fairfield

Submitted by Stacie Guidry

Homecoming Mums and garters are a tradition as big as Texas and just as important as the Homecoming game itself. If the local high school's hallways are any indication, mums are here to stay and are bigger, bolder and shinier than ever!

As a native Cajun girl from Louisiana, I had no idea what a Homecoming Mum was much less how it would change my life! I am the owner of Twinkie Designs located right here in our Fairfield community.

When I first started Twinkie Designs I was just doing custom wreaths and hats. A friend approached me about 6 years ago to help make a homecoming mum for her daughter. I told her I had no idea what a homecoming mum was, much less how to make one, but she insisted I was crafty, and we could figure it out together." Her friend's daughter was thrilled with the mum, and I realized that I not only had a knack for creating it but really enjoyed putting the mum together.

Several years later, I am creating custom mums and garters for schools in the Cy-Fair and surrounding districts and have even mailed a mum and garter to Alpine, Texas.

Each creation is as individual as the wearer. Mums can have anything on them related to the sports they play to their clubs or organization. The mums are adorned with bears dressed in band uniforms, cheer uniforms or cute outfits in school colors. Each bear takes an hour or so to create, and Twinkie Designs does its best to match the uniforms down to the trim. I created unique mums such as a Storm Trooper garter and a Unicorn Mum.

"My goal is always to get that gasp of delight or jumping up and down in excitement when the girl or guy receives their custom creation by Twinkie Designs. I spend many sleepless nights during homecoming season, but it is all worth it to have satisfied customers."

Mums range in sizes from a Single mum, Double mum, Triple mum, Mega Single mum, Quad mums, Mum sashes or 6-8 flower mums. The sky is the limit only dictated by the client's budget.

Twinkie Designs is pleased to announce that we have a website to make ordering faster and easier than ever: <https://twinkiedesigns.ecwid.com/>. I can be reached also at sguidry2@yahoo.com or 832-978-8355. Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/TwinkieDesigns>





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Second Baptist Church

VBS AT SECOND!

Last month, Second Baptist Church hosted an amazing Vacation Bible School program for the entire community! Over 2,300 children and leaders participated in this exciting event at the Cypress Campus, located right here in Fairfield. Each year, Second Baptist produces their own VBS music, curriculum, and production for thousands of children to enjoy across the Greater-Houston area. This year's original show was titled, "The Legend of Longbeard." Children in attendance learned that God is our true treasure through studying the life of David.

Additionally, children were encouraged to "share their treasure" by contributing to a special love offering through Second's Loving Kids Ministry. The children in attendance donated over \$5,000 that week, and 100% of those donations were used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for children in need in the Acres Homes area.

GARY THOMAS MARRIAGE CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 28-29

As many witnessed at VBS, Second Baptist is committed to ministering to families in our Fairfield community! With that in mind, Second Baptist would like to invite adults to come participate

in the "Cherish Marriage Conference," presented by bestselling author and speaker, Gary Thomas. This marriage conference on September 28th-29th will provide great teaching, food, music, and fun for all in attendance! Participants will gain practical wisdom on how they can learn to cherish their spouse for a long-lasting and healthy marriage. The cost is only \$20 a person. A copy of Gary's book is included, along with food and free childcare for children 5 and under. Find more information and register online at www.second.org/cypress.



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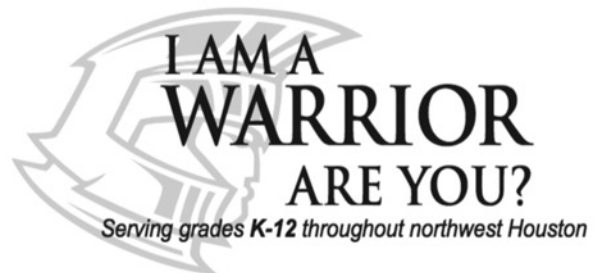
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- 2 ATTEND A TRAINING**
- 3 MENTOR A STUDENT**
30 minutes each week

Questions? Contact Leslie Francis at leslie.francis@cfisd.net or 281-894-3950

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 **PARK CREEK**
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A Restaurant's Plea to the Community to Help Save "The Cheese Bar"

by: Metta Archilla



Without the help of the Cypress community, The Cheese Bar, currently located in The Boardwalk at Towne Lake, could become a thread in memory without the backing of the very community they opened to support.

As Melissa and Troy Boyce revealed their fears of losing everything, I recognized them as true modern-day entrepreneurial risk takers and felt compelled to share their story.

"When you have spent most of your waking hours and have poured personal finances into a dream that feels to be slipping through your hands, it's scary," whispered Melissa. "As of this month, the hard reality facing us has become glaringly apparent. Struggling from lack of cash flow, wrestling with the day to day demands of running the business and dealing with and the worry of being behind on bills are taking its toll."

Troy commented, "We have a great reputation, quality food, an award-winning Mac-n-Cheese and loyal following, but what most people don't realize is that despite these measurements of "success," it is excruciatingly difficult to manage costs without sufficient cash flow.

"The upside," Troy added, "is we are blessed with loyal employees who have stood by our side through thick and thin and embraced the very meaning of family. But the fact is, even though it's a hidden gem in plain sight, the complex is new, and people still don't know about The Boardwalk area. With customers so few and far between during the week, we can't even afford to pay ourselves a salary.

Melissa added, "We need people to come to visit us! I can't encourage people enough to support the little guys."

Melissa and Troy spoke about their once spirited ambition of opening a unique Mom and Pop shop here in Cypress. They realized their dream and with it came long hours, most days from sun up to sunset. "It's something you have to love doing, and we love it," Melissa explained.

"Troy and I live in the heart of Fairfield, so we know the Cypress area, and feel that there are residents who really crave something besides the usual chains. Realizing that Cypress is still a suburb,

our concept is deliberately casual and kid-friendly, but offers a great date-night or experience for the "grown-ups" without having to get dressed up."

Fairfield has a strong sense of supporting its community, so being a tiny Mom and Pop shop appealed to them. I hope that folks will rally behind The Cheese Bar and give Melissa and Troy a chance to turn things around.

The success of the Cheese Bar is much more than personal, it benefits the communities of Cypress, Fairfield and the surrounding areas, in other ways. For their contribution during Hurricane Harvey, the Cy-Fair Fire Department awarded them with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping to raise funds that provided them with generators to keep their rescue operations up and running. They took meals to the Berry Center and provided food for the nearby neighborhoods that had flooded.

Aside from helping with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, Melissa and Troy are promoting a "Pay it Forward" program to feed the hungry locally in Cypress.

"Cypress has a growing population of homeless and displaced families, children, teens, and elderly. Not everyone is out on the street, but many are no longer welcome, or able, to stay at or in a home. After having seen similar "Pay it Forward" programs on Facebook, we decided to do something comparable. Customers can now "buy" a meal for \$7, and it will be used to feed someone less fortunate."

"We aren't just a restaurant! Although we are known for our food, we also sell cheeses and meats by the pound and cheese trays as well. Some unusual items can only be found in our shop.

"I encourage people to come to grab some cheeses, meats, nuts and a bottle of wine, and take it home for a quick dinner. We also have a small catering menu (our famous MAC is on it!)" Troy offered.

Melissa and Troy are working on a few weekday specials and keep their Facebook and Web Page up to date with offerings such as Mimosa Monday (all day happy hour), Wine Wednesday (all night happy hour on Wines and Cheese Boards) and Pint Night Thursday.

"We are planning on offering future cheese classes, and now that our space is larger, we can host small parties like showers, birthdays, etc."

On a high note, she wants you to know they are more than just a comfy-casual place to get great food and relax with friends and family. They are also a unique combination of a European-style cheese shop and an intimate American bistro.

I encourage you to share this story and support this hard-working family and The Cheese Bar.



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