

Parents seek answers in son's killing

Shawn Curley sits on his son's bed in Spring on Friday. Johran McCormick, 17, was shot to death Thursday after a man found the teen in his daughter's bedroom.



Cody Duty / Houston Chronicle

Shooting death of teenager in girl's bedroom, lack of arrest, leave grieving couple puzzled

By Brian Rogers

Johran McCormick's mother slowly shook her head Friday as she stared at the floor of her modest Spring home and cried.

She couldn't believe her 17-year-old son was killed while sneaking around with the 16-year-old girl he was apparently dating.

She didn't know why he had secretly returned from New Orleans, where he was supposed to be enjoying spring break with friends for the rest of the week.

And she couldn't understand why the man accused of firing the fatal shot Thursday is not behind bars.

"If you take a life, you give your life," Zakia McCormick said behind tears. "We're suffering. Why isn't he suffering, too?"

The Harris County Sheriff's Office has said the investigation continues and, when complete, will be forwarded to a grand jury to determine if charges should be filed.

Experts said getting an indictment for murder, much less a conviction, is unlikely based on the story that has emerged.

"If it's perceived that **Teenager continues on B5**

CAMPAIGN 2014

Dewhurst berates Patrick as 'showboat'

By Patricia Kilday Hart

Slate Sen. Dan Patrick's tendency to "showboat" sabotaged the Legislature's efforts to rein in a rogue public school curriculum last year and spotlighted why he is not ready to serve as lieutenant governor, incumbent David Dewhurst said Friday.

That is the message Dewhurst said he intends to use to win back Republican voters who gave him a second-place finish to Patrick in the March 4 primary.

Dewhurst also said he will make sure voters know that Patrick lacks the "credibility, integrity and ability to form relationships" crucial to the office of lieutenant governor, and that he will top the \$3.5 million his campaign already has spent on the race, if necessary.

"I'm energized about reminding the people of Texas about the bold ideas we have to make Texas even greater," said Dewhurst, who acknowledged his underdog status. "I was an underdog before in the race against (former Comptroller John) Sharp and we won that one."

While some political observers say Dewhurst was damaged in his losing 2012 race against Ted Cruz for the U.S. Senate, the Houston businessman said he saw no similarities in his current race against Patrick.

Dewhurst continues on B4

HOUSTON ADVOCATE

Cindy George's column will not appear today.

RODEOHOUSTON

Putting cowboys back in saddle



Maria D. De Jesus photos / Houston Chronicle

Shawn Proctor is taken away from the arena on a stretcher after getting hurt by a bull on March 5 at RodeoHouston.

Medical team fixes injuries, and not just the human ones

By Kyrie O'Connor

"Is the vet in here?" the man shouts into the sports medicine room at RodeoHouston.

The doctors and trainers look puzzled.

But then, when a second man rushes in, explaining that a horse has fallen over from a bad reaction to penicillin, they jump into action.

A trainer grabs all the epinephrine on hand, one adult Epipen to administer the drug and one for children, and runs to the horse.

Minutes later, he's back. The 800-pound patient is standing up and doing fine.



Chris Shaddock, an athletic trainer and part of the RodeoHouston sports medicine committee, tapes athlete Trent Creager's knee before competition on Thursday.

The medical team from Houston Methodist Hospital at the rodeo? They're full service.

The sports medicine room is a busy place, and that's a good thing. It's a place where cowboys and their families can come to check out their stiff muscles and aching joints, not to mention injuries during the competition. It's a basic service that looks like a luxury when you're on the rodeo circuit.

Jace Duke, a trainer and a captain of the sports medicine team, has been with the Methodist crew all four years they've been at the rodeo. "Our goal is to have the athletes leave healthier and with more money than they came with," he says. On average, he says,

Team continues on B2

IMMIGRATION

Officials: Border agent who killed self had attacked females

By Alicia A. Caldwell and Juan Carlos Llorca
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSION — An immigrant woman, her daughter and another girl who said they were kidnapped and assaulted by a Border Patrol agent were in the process of surrendering to the

agent when their ordeal began, another Border Patrol agent and a federal law enforcement official said Friday.

Agent Esteban Manzanares, who officials say committed suicide Thursday morning, is accused of driving the three away from the river after they surrendered and assaulting

them. The other agent said Manzanares cut the wrists of the adult woman, assaulted one teenager in the group, and then fled the area with a second teenage girl.

The Honduran Embassy in Washington said the three are a mother, her underage daughter and another girl not related

to them. The FBI has said the three were in the country illegally.

The woman who had escaped the attack and walked further upriver tripped a camera at the border fence shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday, the agent and law enforcement official said.

They said in the camera image a woman can be seen walking toward a gap in the fence. The border agent said there was blood covering her wrists. Within 10 minutes of the camera image being taken, agents responded to the woman and began the search, the

Girl continues on B5

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RODEOHOUSTON: REVIEW

Urban puts on hot show, lest fans judge him too harshly

By Joey Guerra

Keith Urban, to riff on his current TV gig, definitely gets the public vote.

The "American Idol" judge and country superstar drew 74,054 in paid attendance during his fifth appearance, the biggest number so far this year for a country act. (That number is just slightly behind Usher and Maroon 5.)

"We're back playing Houston again at the rodeo. The first time we played was in 2005, and I have the buckle to prove it," Urban said before lifting his shirt to reveal the shiny souvenir. He looked



Round 'em up

Read concert reviews and see photo galleries from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the carnival at chron.com/rodeo.

every bit the urban cowboy in ripped jeans, a V-neck and that impossibly coiffed hair.

He built his set smartly, starting with the subtle energy of "Somewhere In My Car" from "Fuse," his eighth studio album released in September. It was more a polite greeting than a burst-open-

the-doors kickoff. But the fire blazed soon enough. He deftly navigated frenetic highs and introspective lows.

Urban does a good job of stretching his recorded material well past its radio-friendly boundaries in a live setting. "Sweet Thing" was beefed up with a blistering guitar solo. Ballad "Stupid Boy" is still a set highlight, infused with a real sense of vulnerability.

Urban went acoustic during "Come Back to Me," accompanied only by his guitar. But all that was just a warmup. He jumped offstage and serenaded several fans during "Kiss a Girl,"

doling out high-fives as a roadie scurried next to him with a microphone stand.

It sent a jolt of energy through the venue that carried through "Long Hot Summer" and the honky-tonk-flavored "Good Thing."

He slowed things back down with sweet ballad "Without You," picked it back up a bit with current single "Cop Car," and was back at feel-good full throttle during "Somebody Like You." Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick Jr. would likely approve.

joeyguerra@chron.com
twitter.com/joeyguerra



Pin Lim

Keith Urban takes the stage Friday at Reliant Stadium for his fifth appearance at RodeoHouston.

Team treats cowboys' bruises, breaks 'like the NFL'

Team from page B1

the team will see 20 people a night.

Clint Cannon, a Waller native, bareback rider and past RodeoHouston and Calgary Stampede winner (and — true fact! — a movie star in France, based on a documentary and feature film) knows how valuable the medical team is.

'Like a rock star'

"They treat you like a rock star," he says. "At a lot of rodeos, you have yourself and that's it. Here they treat you like the NFL."

He's not disrespecting other competitors. It's just that Houston's care is, he says, unequivocally the best. He's been at rodeos where he has broken an arm and had to drive himself to the hospital. "Here they let you hang out and go for the glory," he says. He has even brought his 9-month-old daughter, Kaitlyn, in with an ear infection.

For Joshua Harris, a newly minted orthopedist and sports medicine specialist who grew up in Ohio, this really is his first rodeo. He started out his day Thursday at an orthopedic convention in New Orleans, and while he's wearing cowboy boots, he left his cowboy hat at



Maria D. De Jesús / Houston Chronicle

Orthopedic surgeon Joshua Harris aids saddle bronc rider Sterling Crawley.

home. "I put my boots on on I-69," he says. (He's gently told that around here, we call that Highway 59.)

His specialty is a type of hamstring tear that, oddly, occurs most frequently in water skiers and bull riders.

Harris is checking out a saddle bronc rider from Stephenville named Sterling Crawley, who has a nagging hand injury. It's just scar tissue, Harris assures him. Just keep clenching and unclenching the fist many times every day, he says, and it should get better. Harris finds signs that Craw-

ley broke his thumb at some point, but Crawley just shrugs. A broken thumb isn't much to these guys.

A rodeo athlete's life is precarious. You have to pay to enter the event, and you make money only if you win. Free medical care is a blessing.

'I'm pretty blessed'

Meanwhile, Krooson Kasden, replete in boots and belt buckle, is crying. But he's 2 and has had a nagging ear infection, so that's OK. A quick examination by Dr. Peter Curka shows his ears are fine — maybe

just a little lingering fluid. His mother, Ashley, is relieved.

Chuck Swisher is one of the bullfighters who lure the bulls away from fallen riders. He's been doing this for eight years, since he was 15. Last year, he did about 100 performances.

In the past he has broken his neck and arm. Today, he just has tight muscles. "I'm pretty blessed," he says.

Maybe the most popular person in the medical area is Lesha Roberts, the chiropractor, whose table is always occupied. She has just finished doing an adjustment on bull rider Beau Schroeder, a Beaumont native. "They keep us going to the next one down the road," he says of the team. Schroeder is living testament to the real dangers of this life. Last March 24 in competition in Arizona, right after the Houston rodeo, a bull stepped on his throat and crushed his trachea. Still, he's back.

Duke says the Methodist team often sees the same faces every year. One athlete brought his wife in for her first pregnancy ultrasound a few years ago, and now the couple comes back to visit with not just their first but their second child.

The team of doctors and trainers, who the hospital says are volunteers, also serves

rodeos in Crosby, Fort Bend, Waller and Austin counties. "We try to take to other events what we do here," says Duke.

Common wisdom

The common wisdom that rodeo athletes want only to get patched up and back into the arena is only partly true, Duke says. These athletes are very much a part of their generation.

"They're in tune with their bodies," he says. "They understand." But if you say to them, "I wouldn't go out there," he admits, some will listen and some won't.

During the competition, the team piles out to the arena to watch — and to be wary of any injuries. Duke finds a black cowboy hat just like his for Harris to wear. The gurney parked nearby is a reminder of how fast bad things can happen.

There are a couple of tense moments, and one scary spill, but overall it's a good night. Crawley finishes in the money and Swisher plays the hero a couple of times, luring bulls away from vulnerable riders. Everyone leaves upright.

"It's gratifying to get them back into what they love to do," says Duke, "because this is what we love to do."

kyrie.oconnor@chron.com

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



Jamaal Ellis Photos

Christian Gipson takes aim Friday at the 5th Annual Shaving Cream Pi(E) Fight.

Cream of the crop celebrates Pi Day



The Children's Museum of Houston shut down Binz Street on Friday for its fifth Annual Shaving Cream Pi(e) Fight, setting off a mess fest to mark Albert Einstein's birthday and "all things pi."



Best of the day

Gallery: See the best local photos at chron.com/localphotos

Jackson Bishop-Jefferies gets a foamy high-five from his father, Kevin, during the creamy celebration.

AROUND THE AREA

Death sentence in teen's shooting

A Harris County jury on Friday sentenced Juan Balderas to death after a monthlong trial.

Balderas, 27, was convicted of capital murder in the fatal shooting of 16-year-old Hastings High School freshman Eduardo Hernandez in 2005.

At the time of the shooting, Balderas was a 19-year-old who went by the name Apache and was believed to be in the gang La Tercera Crips. Investigators said Balderas was involved in a yearlong crime spree involving six others connected to 10 murders in west Houston.

Jurors deliberated more than 10 hours over two days before sending Balderas to death row. They heard 20 days of testimony in the case in state District Judge Kristin Guiney's court.

2 intruders shot, 1 remains at large

A north Harris County man shot two men, including one fatally, after they forced their way into his apartment, authorities said.

The shooting happened about 1 p.m. Friday at the Trails at Dominion Park apartments in the 200 block of Dominion Park Drive, Harris County sheriff's deputies said.

A man who lives at the

apartment was sleeping when he heard loud noises coming from his front door.

"He got up to investigate and saw some people at the door that he didn't recognize. He armed himself," said Sgt. Robert Spurgeon with the sheriff's homicide unit.

The resident began shooting when the two men forced open the front door, authorities said.

One of the intruders was struck by gunfire and died. The other fled. Sheriff's deputies are checking reports that someone showed up at a nearby hospital with gunshot wounds shortly after the shooting.

Suspects sought in shooting

Police have released sketches of two people wanted in a shooting Tuesday in the Galleria area that wounded a 20-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman.

The shooting happened about 11:20 p.m. at 5161 San Felipe near Sage. Police said the two had just finished their shifts and were leaving work when two men approached them outside. The men carried guns. They assaulted the man and robbed both victims. Then the suspects shot both and ran away.

Both suspects are described as being in their early 20s, about 5 feet 6 inches tall and thin. One of them wore orange or



red jeans.

Anyone with information is urged to contact HPD at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Shocked eagle is euthanized

A bald eagle that the Houston SPCA said was shocked by electricity earlier this week has been euthanized.

Angela Clendenin, spokeswoman for the Texas A&M veterinary hospital, said the eagle, which was found severely injured in a Pearland yard, had to be put down Thursday per federal guidelines.

Galveston oysters off limits for now

Oysters from Galveston Bay are off limits until further notice because of high algae levels.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said it was temporarily closing all of the Galveston Bay system to the harvesting of oysters, clams and mussels because of elevated levels of an algae that can produce a toxin in some shellfish.

The notice applies to both commercial and recreational harvesters.

From staff reports