



# Ranking the top five options of this year’s fantasy elite

SPORTS, 1B

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# TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

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Campers and mentors stop for a photo at the TOGETHER summer camp at its new location on Fairground Avenue in Taunton on Aug. 4. PHOTOS BY EMMA RINDLISBACHER

# TOGETHER summer camp adapts to new location

Emma Rindlisbacher  
The Taunton Daily Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

TAUNTON — Despite concerns about where True Collective’s TOGETHER summer camp program would be hosted this year, True Collective Founder and Executive Director Tanya Lobo said that the camp, which is in its fifth year of running, has adapted to a new location on Fairground Avenue in Taunton.

“It’s actually worked out pretty well,” Lobo told the Gazette regarding the camp’s new location. The summer camp previously was hosted at Martin Middle School in Taunton.

“Sometimes it’s a little loud in the big room, but other than that ... the neighbors have been welcoming. We’ve gotten new kids from the neighborhood,” Lobo said.

Lobo said that this year, the summer camp runs for five weeks, Monday to

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Tanya Lobo, left, speaks to campers at the TOGETHER summer camp at its new location.

# Mayoral candidate pivots on food biz

Emma Rindlisbacher  
The Taunton Daily Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After having his Brockton food truck shut down by a judge, Taunton mayoral candidate Rudy “Rudy” Alves told the Gazette that he has pivoted to delivering his food directly to his customers.

“I was shut down in Taunton, shut down in Brockton, but that doesn’t mean I stopped. I went back to the roots. This is how I started, I used to do late nights, deliver food to customers, and that’s what I’m doing ... everybody is treated like a VIP. I bring it right to their doorstep.”

Alves has courted controversy while campaigning for mayor, and has been the subject of multiple restraining orders. He also was charged with assault, assault and battery, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace in relation to a June 8 incident involving his brothers, a Taunton police report alleged. Alves pleaded not guilty and told the Gazette that he “dispute[s] any criminal wrongdoing.”

Alves told the Gazette there were things he wishes he had done differently. “I shouldn’t have acted out of emotion,” he said. He also discussed his presence on social media. Here’s what he said.

‘I should have acted a lot more professional’

Alves told the Gazette that he had recently taken a vacation, which he said provided him with “mental clarity.”

“It was definitely needed. I went there to get mental clarity and that’s exactly what I got. I came back with the vision. The vision to start back up from the bottom, from where I started: catering, late night eats, private events, private chef, and then work my way back up to potentially to open another restaurant.”

Asked if there was anything he wished he had done differently, Alves listed several things.

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# Texas redistricting sparks wider fight

Phillip M. Bailey  
USA TODAY

Texas has ripped open a nasty fight in its legislative halls of power that could determine who controls the U.S. Congress and President Donald Trump’s final two years in office.

Republican legislators in Austin redrew the Lone Star State’s congressional maps after pressure from the president’s political operatives, who are nervous that Democrats might win control of the House — as is typical for the party out of power — in 2026. Republicans fear that if that happened, Trump would be impeached for a third time.

The new maps create five new GOP-leaning districts and target Democratic incumbents.

Voting rights advocates argue these

changes will suppress Black and Hispanic voters. Progressives have fretted that the president and his allies are looking to lock them out of power for the foreseeable future as the administration continues to bulldoze its agenda through.

Republicans hold 88 out of 150 seats in Texas’ state house, leaving the 62-member Democratic caucus with very few options to stop the new congressional districts from taking effect. So they took drastic measures, leaving the state to deprive the chamber of the necessary 100-member quorum to proceed with a vote.

The move also jeopardizes other issues on the special session’s menu, such as addressing funding for flood prevention in the wake of the deadly July 4 disaster that killed more than 130 people

along the Guadalupe River.

The plan has a 30-day time limit in the special session Gov. Greg Abbott convened on July 25. Abbott said the mid-cycle redistricting was necessary after receiving a July 7 letter from the Justice Department that cited “constitutional concerns” about the existing congressional boundaries.

President Donald Trump defended the new GOP maps Aug. 5 on CNBC’s Squawk Box. “I won Texas,” he said, “and we are entitled to five more seats.”

Trump also said the places to which Texas Democrats fled used the same tactics when crafting their congressional districts.

“Do you notice they go to Illinois for safety, but that’s all gerrymandered,” he

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Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued civil arrest warrants for Democratic lawmakers who left the state. “There are consequences for dereliction of duty,” he said. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

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