

OUR VIEW: Plan to ensure you don't add to the grim statistics » A4

GALVESTON COUNTY

# The Daily News.

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PUBLIC SAFETY | HOLIDAY WEEKEND

## Isle heads into big weekend with smaller lifeguard crew

By COREY GREINEISEN  
The Daily News  
» GALVESTON

The Beach Patrol is heading in to one of the busiest weekends of the summer

with one of the lowest lifeguard staffs in recent years. It's trend seen nationwide and Beach Patrol is asking visitors to be extra vigilant this weekend. With crystal-clear water and the

Labor Day weekend approaching, Galveston is expecting increased crowds as vacationers bid farewell to summer. More lifeguard towers than usual

See WEEKEND » A7



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/  
The Daily News  
file photo  
A Galveston Island Beach Patrol life-guard keeps an eye on swimmers in the water near 59th Street in Galveston on Thursday.

EVENT | PIRATE FESTIVAL WEEK

"I cannot believe Galveston didn't already have a pirate festival."

Johnny Steverson-Aman, Galveston Pirate Festival organizer

## Ahoy, matey

Galveston declares 'Pirate Festival Week'



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

From left, Bobby Berbel and Lillie Aleman wait Thursday to enter a Galveston City Council meeting while sitting beside Monte Prentice, who was clad in pirate garb to be part of a council proclamation for the upcoming Galveston Pirate Festival.

By SAGE SCOTT  
The Daily News  
» GALVESTON

City Council Thursday proclaimed the third week in September every year "Pirate Festival Week" on an island infamous swash-bucklers once called home. The Galveston Pirate Festival on Sept. 20 will be a chance for people to get don their bandanas, tricorne hats and sally forth to learn more about Galveston's ties to pirate history, organizers say. Its inaugural year, celebrations will have fire dancers, contortionists, belly dancers, ghost

See PIRATES » A9



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Johnny Steverson-Aman, organizer of the Galveston Pirate Festival, adjusts his steampunk pirate costume before a Galveston City Council meeting Thursday.

POLITICS | RECALL PETITION

## Police union vows legal action over recall ruling

By LAUREN FRICK  
The Daily News  
» TEXAS CITY

A police union president said Thursday "multiple parties" would take legal action against the city after it declared a recall petition against Mayor Dedrick Johnson to be insufficient. The city on Wednesday eve-

ning declared a recall effort against Johnson dead, saying the petition had "multiple and significant non-compliances" with both the city charter and state election law. In a statement released late Wednesday night, the Texas City Municipal Police Association

See RECALL » A7

THIS WEEKEND

Epicurious? Coast Monthly explores the dining scene for cultural takes on seafood.



GOVERNMENT | BUDGET

## City OKs budget amid raise in homestead tax exemption

By LAUREN FRICK  
The Daily News  
» LEAGUE CITY

The city's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget needed about \$2 million of maneuvering to account for a loss in revenue largely stemming from a doubling the senior and disabled homestead tax exemption, Chief Financial Officer Angie Steelman said. The city council in May unanimously approved increasing the homestead tax exemption

See BUDGET » A7

GOVERNMENT | TAXES

## Galveston sets budget bigger than no-new-revenue can fund

By SAGE SCOTT  
The Daily News  
» GALVESTON

A spit city council voted Thursday to increase a proposed \$256.6 million budget — signaling a majority rejection of a no-new-revenue tax rate — to allow for employee pay increases and a replenishment of the city's reserve fund balance, a top concern among some members. The change would require setting a tax increase that would

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