

MUSIC: After 800 years of silence, oldest pipe organ in Christian world sounds once more » A3

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Daily News.

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GOVERNMENT | FINANCIAL HEALTH

City earns, worries about keeping, AA+ bond rating



DAVID FINKLEA



CSILLA LUDANYI



BRIAN MAXWELL



ALEX PORRETTO

By SAGE SCOTT
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

The city's bond rating, a measure of financial health that helps determine how much interest investors charge when they loan money for big projects, reached a milestone this

week, officials said.

But erosion of the city's general reserve fund, an issue at the heart of ongoing tax rate deliberations, could undermine the new rating if it drops by 68 percent, according to the bond rating firm.

It's a standard the firm hold most cities to, but the threshold for a coast-

al city such as Galveston is probably much lower, City Finance Director Csilla Ludanyi said.

"I'm guessing that they start paying attention as soon as it starts dropping," she said.

The new AA+ rating comes from

See BOND » A6

GOVERNMENT | FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

"It's unusual to have a new city manager and finance director that come in and find this. That is unique."

Barbara Holly, La Marque interim city manager

La Marque OKs plan to fix 'sobering' fiscal problem



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

La Marque interim City Manager Barbara Holly, left, and Finance Director Worth Ferguson discuss the city's financial situation Tuesday. The city in a statement Monday said its cash reservers could only cover about two weeks of operations.

By LAUREN FRICK
The Daily News

» LA MARQUE

The city is facing a financial problem several city officials described as "sobering" and interim City Manager Barbara Holly said was unprece-

dented in her 40 years of municipal government experience.

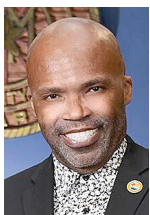
"I've never seen this in a community," Holly said Tuesday.

"I know in hearing that other communities are facing some shortfalls because of decisions

See FINANCES » A6



JOSEPH LOWRY



KEITH BELL

MARITIME | CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY

Two new Carnival ships will call Galveston home in 2027

By COREY GREINEISEN
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Carnival Cruise Line will homeport four ships at the Port of Galveston and expand both the passenger capacity and number of sailings from the island port in 2027, the company said Tuesday.

Carnival Horizon and Carnival Spirit will homeport in Galveston for the first time, joining Carni-

val Breeze and Carnival Jubilee, the company said Tuesday. Carnival Dream is returning to New Orleans in the spring of 2027.

Carnival Miracle will rotate to Galveston from Tampa in October 2026; and the Carnival Legend will embark on both Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries starting next month.

Horizon and Spirit will replace

See CARNIVAL » A5

COMING FRIDAY

Three-time Paralympic medalist Amy Purdy, who lost both of her legs at age 19 after contracting Meningitis, will speak at the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce Friday.



HISTORY | THE 1900 STORM

Daily News launches project to commemorate 1900 Storm

From Staff Reports

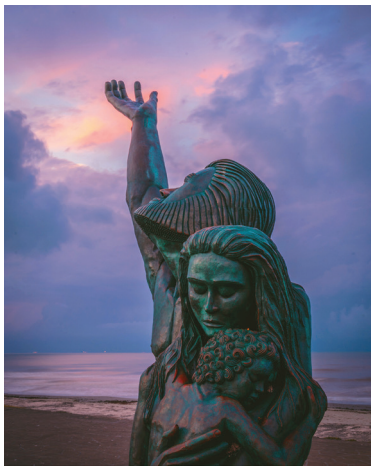
» GALVESTON

The Daily News today is launching a special digital and print project to commemorate The 1900 Storm, the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

The project begins today with the first in a series of video chronicles showcasing the resilience and innovation Galveston displayed during the after the Sept. 8, 1900 storm that destroyed the island city.

The Daily News special project

See 1900 STORM » A6



COURTESY

1900 Storm memorial on the Galveston Seawall is seen during a sunrise.

GOVERNMENT | RELIEF

Takeaways from an AP analysis about longer delays in approving US disaster aid

By DAVID A. LIEB, SOPHIE BATES and M.K. WILDEMAN
Associated Press

» TYLERTOWN, Miss.

Survivors of major natural disasters in the United States are having to wait longer to get aid from the federal government, according to a new Associated Press analysis of decades of data.

See RELIEF » A5

SEA LIFE | HOPING FOR A CATCH



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

A great egret perches on a railing as anglers watch their lines on the rocks off of Boddeker Road in Galveston's East End on Tuesday.

INSIDE

LIVING:
Annual PAWS gala for the Galveston Island Humane Society channels glitz, glamour of the Golden Age of Hollywood » B1

