

GOVERNMENT: Shutdown putting a renewed spotlight on cracks in the US aviation system » A7

GALVESTON COUNTY

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LAW ENFORCEMENT | POLICE CHIEF

La Marque police chief retires, effective immediately



RANDALL ARAGON

By LAUREN FRICK
The Daily News

» LA MARQUE

Police Chief Randall Aragon resigned Wednesday afternoon after serving four years in his second stint as department leader, saying it was time to retire and “move on.”

In a letter to interim City Manager Barbara Holly, Aragon said now is the right time to move on and enjoy time with his family following a combined nine years as chief in the La Marque Police Department, previously serving from 2009-2014.

“I will miss leading my great officers who serve proudly as our ‘warriors’

and ‘guardians’ for our community,” Aragon said in the resignation letter Wednesday. “I will also miss my impressive and committed civilian staff.

“Nevertheless, it is time to retire and move on with my life and enjoy free time with my family.”

Aragon, 79, will immediately be replaced by Acting Police Chief Gilberto

Rodriguez, Holly said. Rodriguez is listed as a lieutenant in the patrol services division, according to the city’s staff directory.

The city on Wednesday quickly took to social media to wish Aragon well in his retirement.

See CHIEF » A6

HEALTH | GALVESTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS CENTER



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Galveston County officials hosted an open house celebration for the new Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center in La Marque on Wednesday.

County cuts ribbon on milestone in mental health care

By LAUREN FRICK
The Daily News

» LA MARQUE

More than 100 people gathered Wednesday afternoon to tour and celebrate the ribbon cutting of the first county facility dedicated to housing patients needing mental health care.

The Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center, which has been nearly eight years in the making, was lauded as “historic” by county officials who touted the facility as a means to help the county lead the way in efficient and effective mental health care.

The nearly 21,000 square-foot, \$13.8 million facility at 1207 Oak St. is a collaborative effort between the county, its County and Judicial Criminal Justice Coordinating Advisory Council, the Gulf Coast Center and the state Legislature.

The facility offers intensive crisis services and an extended



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

From left, Galveston County Commissioner Hank Dugie, Texas Rep. Greg Bonnen and former Galveston County Commissioner Stephen Holmes listens as Galveston County Judge Mark Henry speaks at an open house celebration for the new Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center in La Marque on Wednesday.

observation unit, which will focus on rapid stabilization of people experiencing a mental health crisis. Among its goals is to keep

people needing mental health care out of jail.

See MENTAL HEALTH » A6

LEGISLATURE | PROPOSITION 14

Texas at pivotal point in Alzheimer’s fight, advocates say

By COREY GREINEISEN
The Daily News

When Catherine Hensel was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, her husband, William, didn’t know that the next 12 years would test every system they thought they could rely on — healthcare, long-term care, hospice and even faith.

“She was only in her 50s when we got the diagnosis,” Hensel said. “We had to navigate a system that wasn’t built for people like her — or for families like ours.”

From the start, he noticed the



WILL HENSEL



MELISSA SANCHEZ

cracks: a lack of coordination between doctors and care providers, inconsistent communication between stages of care,

See ALZHEIMER’S » A5

THIS WEEKEND

Luxury condominium development Tiara on the Beach marks another major milestone on Galveston West End. Read about that and more in Laura Elder’s Biz Buzz.



EDUCATION | RESIGNATION PROTEST

Sea Aggies demand A&M president’s reinstatement

By SAGE SCOTT
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

About 15 Texas A&M University at Galveston students Wednesday morning protested what they called the forced resignation of former university President Mark A Welsh III after he initially refused to fire a professor for teaching a lesson on

gender identity.

They also were protesting Gov. Greg Abbott’s appointment of a new interim president who used to work for Abbott’s administration. Students were concerned that he’d been appointed to do Abbott and President Donald Trump’s bidding.

Protesters worried that both

See PROTEST » A7

INDEX ABBY B4 COMICS B5 LIVING B1 LOTTERY A2 OBITUARIES B8 OPINION A4 PUZZLES B4 SPORTS B8



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