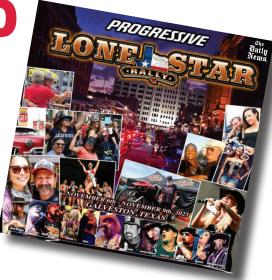
G A L V E S T O N C O U N T Y

INSIDE: Gear up for the Lone Star Rally with our ultimate event guide loaded with roaring bikes, live bands, vendors and nonstop entertainment!



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ECONOMY | FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Galveston hotels face fallout from shutdown

The Daily News

With the federal government shutdown entering its fourth week, leaders from more than 30 hotel and lodging associations are warning of mounting economic fallout across the United States tourism and hospitality sectors.

In a joint letter sent this week to House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, nation-



MILES

al hotel associations urged Congress to "come to a speedy agreement that reopens the government, restores services, and provides the funding that supports the traveling public and the millions who work in travel-related professions."

In Texas, the shutdown's effects are also being felt along the Gulf

See HOTELS » A6



GALVEZ/

Courtesy The 219room Grand Galvez has stood along the Galveston **Gulf Coast** shoreline for more than 100 years.

EDUCATION | MARCHING BAND

"It's surreal. We've gone from thinking we're good enough to realizing there's always more work to do. My goal this year is to make state finals. That would mean everything."

Brady Korenek, Dickinson High School Band senior head drum major

'The most fun'

Dickinson band's tradition takes flight as they head to state



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

Alyssa Ramirez rehearses with the Dickinson High School Gator Band's color guard Thursday as the band prepares for the UIL State Marching Contest in San Antonio.

By COREY GREINEISEN

The Daily News » DICKINSON

¶ he Dickinson High School Band is no stranger to the spotlight. For decades, its name has been synonymous with precision, artistry, and an unrelenting pur-

sweeping state championships

See GATORS » A3



JENNIFER

REYNOLDS/ The Daily News The Dickinson High School **Gator Band** practices their routine Thursday as they prepare for the UIL State Marching Contest in San Antonio.

HELPING OTHERS | FOOD INSECURITY

Veteran leads push to feed seniors amid funding crisis

By DAVID MERCADO

The Daily News

For Army veteran Liz Vallete, serving others did not end when she hung up her uniform. Now the administration director of Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston and Galveston County, she is leading efforts to ensure thousands of seniors — including fellow veterans — do not go hungry as funding shortfalls deepen amid the federal government shutdown.

Vallete, a former Army officer who served in Operation Iraqi



VALLETE

Freedom, joined Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston two years ago following her military service. She said she was inspired to work in the nonprofit sector

because of the kindred spirit of community and collaboration she saw in both fields.

"You don't usually think of

See FOOD » A6

LEGISLATURE | BUSINESS

Texas freezes program to help minority-owned businesses compete for state contracts

By PAUL COBLER

The Texas Tribune

The state program intended to give additional exposure to busi-

Inside

■ Texas ACA insurers hike monthly premiums by 35% on

average » A7

nesses owned by women, minorities and disabled veterans seeking state contracts was frozen by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' office this week, the

latest instance of Republican state officials targeting a program perceived as promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.



ABBOTT



HANCOCK

Information regarding Historically Underutilized Business program was removed from the comptroller's website and the office said it was pausing the issuance of all new and renewed certifications for procurement, according to a statement by the comptroller's

See DEI » A7

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