GALVESTON COUNTY
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WEEKEND EDITION

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

ECONOMY | FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Galveston hotels face fallout from shutdown

By COREY GREINEISEN
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, national 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."

MARTY MILES

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

See HOTELS » A6

GRAND GALVEZ/ Courtesy
The 219-room 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

The Dickinson High School Band is no stranger to the spotlight. For decades, its name has been synonymous with precision, artistry, and an unrelenting pursuit of musical excellence. From 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 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.

LIZ VALLETE

"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 businesses 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.

Inside

■ Texas ACA insurers hike monthly premiums by 35% on average » **A7**

GREG ABBOTT

KELLY HANCOCK

Information regarding the 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 state procurement, according to a statement by the comptroller's

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