

OBITUARY: Brigitte Bardot, 1960s French sex symbol turned militant animal rights activist, dies at 91 » A9

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Daily News.

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AVIATION | MEDICAL FLIGHT CRASH

Mother, nurse reported stable after plane crash

By DAVID MERCADO
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Julia Aracelis Cruz Vera, a mother from Mexico who was aboard a medical flight with her son when it crashed in West Galveston Bay, was reported in

stable condition Saturday by the Michou y Mau Foundation.

Vera no longer needed a breathing tube and continued to improve as she recovers at UTMB Health's John Sealy Hospital, alongside nurse Miriam de Jesús Rosas Mancilla, the wreck's only other survivor, the founda-

tion said.

The Michou y Mau Foundation is a Mexican nonprofit that provides medical care, rehabilitation and support for children who suffer severe burns.

The foundation helped coordinate the flight to transport Federico Efraín Ramírez Cruz, Vera's

son, to Shriners Children's Texas Hospital for burn treatment.

Dr. Yannick Nordin, the foundation's medical director, Edward Ramírez Franco, her husband, and yacht captain Sky Decker, who helped free her while she trapped inside the partially submerged plane, and Sky Von

Decker, visited her at the hospital, officials said.

A Mexican Navy Beechcraft King Air 350i carrying Vera, her son, two pilots, four Navy crew members and a physician crashed Dec. 22 just west of the

See CRASH » A7

HOLIDAY | KWANZAA CELEBRATION



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Nia Cultural Center board member Gina Zenor-Hagan sets Kwanzaa candles for the Nia Cultural Center's annual Kwanzaa Celebration at the Old Central Cultural Center in Galveston on Saturday.

Galveston's
Nia Cultural Center
celebrates Kwanzaa

Community members joined hosts from the Nia Cultural Center on Saturday at the historic Old Central Cultural Center to observe Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, a seven-day celebration of African heritage, runs from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

Each day Kwanzaa celebrants observe one of seven core principles, Umoja, or unity, Kujichagulia, or self-determination, Ujima, or collective work and responsibility, Ujamaa, or cooperative economics, Nia, or purpose, Kuumba, or creativity and Imani, or faith.

Each night a ceremonial candle representing the corresponding principle is lighted. Together the seven principles are known as the Nguzo Saba.

The principle of Kujichagulia, or self-determination, was the focus of Saturday's observance.



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Kevan Shelton, 5, hands out programs at the Nia Cultural Center's annual Kwanzaa Celebration at the Old Central Cultural Center in Galveston on Saturday. MORE PHOTOS » A3

In addition to the festivities, the event featured food and vendors. Village Keeper Awards also went to community leaders Patricia Como Pervis, Teresa Boulet, De'Andre

Dermon, Harold Cash and La'Kesha Golliday. Diane Henderson Moore was named the Distinguished Elder.

— Stuart Villanueva

COURT | 2021 PIPE BOMB PLOTS

Pipe bomb suspect told FBI he targeted US political parties because they were 'in charge,' memo says

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

» WASHINGTON

The man accused of placing two pipe bombs in Washington on the eve of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol told investigators after his arrest that he believed someone needed to "speak up" for people who believed the 2020 election was stolen and that he wanted to tar-

get the country's political parties because they were "in charge," prosecutors said Sunday.

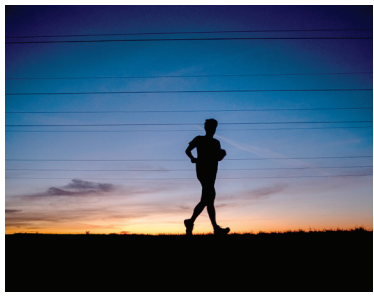
The allegations were laid out in a Justice Department memo arguing that Brian J. Cole Jr., who was arrested earlier this month on charges of placing pipe bombs outside the headquarters of the Democratic and Republican national committees, should remain locked up while the case moves forward.

The memo provides the most detailed government account of statements Cole is alleged to have made to investigators and points to evidence, including bomb-making components found at his home after his arrest, that officials say connects him to the act. The homemade bombs did not detonate and were discovered Jan. 6, the

See PIPE BOMB » A7

COMING THURSDAY

Gym owners, fitness-center operators and health officials discuss effective strategies for keeping with new year resolutions



LAW ENFORCEMENT | CERTIFICATION EXAM

Shaquille O'Neal
backs cadet's
second shot at badge

By COREY GREINEISEN
The Daily News

» KEMAH

When Cadet Jordan Wilmore came up short on his first attempt at the state peace officer certification exam, the call he didn't expect came from Shaquille O'Neal — followed by a visit that reframed the setback as part of the process, not the end of it.

The global sports icon and working peace officer reached out, then showed up Sunday in person — not to scold or sympathize, but to reinforce a simple message: setbacks don't define careers, response does.

That message now frames Wilmore's path forward.

Wilmore completed the police academy but didn't pass the state licensing exam on his first

See CADET » A6



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/
The Daily News

Jordan Wilmore, left, a 7-foot-3 Kemah Police recruit, laughs as he FaceTimes with NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal and his friend Sunday at Kemah City Hall. O'Neal announced he will support Wilmore as he pursues his dream of becoming a police officer in Kemah.

DIPLOMACY | MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS

During Netanyahu visit, Trump
warns Iran of further US strikes if
it reconstitutes nuclear program

By WILL WEISSERT,
SAM MEDNICK, SAMY MAGDY
and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

» PALM BEACH, Fla.

President Donald Trump warned Iran on Monday that the U.S. could carry out further military strikes if the country attempts to reconstitute its nuclear program as he held wide-ranging talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his home in Florida.

Trump had previously insisted that Tehran's nuclear capabilities were "completely and fully obliterated" by U.S. strikes on key nuclear enrichment sites in June. But with Netanyahu by his side, Trump raised the possibility that



BENJAMIN
NETANYAHU



DONALD
TRUMP

suspected activity could be taking place outside those sites. Israeli officials, meanwhile, have been quoted in local media expressing concern about Iran rebuilding its supply of long-range missiles capable of striking Israel.

"Now I hear that Iran is trying to build up again," Trump told reporters gathered at his

See MIDDLE EAST » A7

