

GOVERNMENT: House votes to slap back Trump's tariffs on Canada in rare bipartisan rebuke of White House agenda » **A5**

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Daily News.

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HELPING OTHERS | MEALS ON WHEELS

Group delivers dignity to homebound seniors

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

On a breezy Tuesday morning, Meals on Wheels driver Stephen Auffarber steered a truck packed with insulated bags and emergency meal boxes to apartments and houses across Texas City and La Marque, where seniors waited at windows and doorways.

They knew Auffarber was coming with their Meals on

Wheels delivery.

For seniors like Bonnie Dorsen and Larry Johnson, the deliveries mean stability and the ability to remain safely in their homes despite rising grocery costs and limited mobility.

"I don't know what we would do without this," Dorsen said. "It's that extra that keeps me from literally not eating for days."

Meals on Wheels Greater Houston & Galveston County delivered about 700 emergency meal kits on Monday and Tuesday in addition to its regular routes, distributing shelf-stable boxes designed to sustain homebound seniors through hurricanes, freezes or extended power outages.

The program, overseen by

See **MEALS** » **A6**



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/
The Daily News

Stephen Auffarber, with Meals on Wheels Greater Houston & Galveston County, delivers a box of emergency meals along with a regular weekly meal delivery to clients in Texas City on Tuesday.

SEALIFE | RESCUE TURNED MASCOT



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Amy Neblett, operations director at Artist Boat, watches as Beaches, a rescued terrapin, prepares to leap into the water in his new habitat at the organization's headquarters in Galveston on Wednesday. Beaches was rescued from a Galveston beach after being discovered with severely battered and bloodied front feet.

Rescued terrapin becomes ambassador for nonprofit

By **MASON H. LERNER**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

Beaches wasn't supposed to be on the beach.

The Texas diamond-back terrapin now serving as an animal ambassador for nonprofit

Artist Boat, was discovered battered and out of place near one of the seawall jetties — his front feet severely injured, his shell coated in algae, malnourished and unlikely to survive.

"Beaches has become a powerful story," Juliane Swan, development coordinator for Artist Boat

said. "It's a tangible connection to the importance of protecting the coastal ecosystems and the species that rely on them."

Today, he has a new home. Artist Boat, which promotes coastal awareness and habitat

See **TERRAPIN** » **A6**

AVIATION | EL PASO AIRSPACE CLOSURE

Pentagon let CBP use anti-drone laser before FAA closed El Paso airspace, AP sources say

By **SEUNG MIN KIM, BEN FINLEY, MARY CLARE JALONICK, MORGAN LEE and JOSH FUNK**
Associated Press

» **EL PASO**

The Pentagon allowed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to use an anti-drone laser earlier this week, leading the Federal Aviation Administration to suddenly close the airspace over El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to



MORGAN LEE/AP
A plane flies over El Paso International Airport, Wednesday, in El Paso.

discuss sensitive details.

The confusing arc of events began as the FAA announced it was shutting down all flight traffic

over the city on the U.S.-Mexico

See **EL PASO** » **A5**

GOVERNMENT | TEXAS ENTERPRISE FUND GRANT

Abbott awards \$21.7M grant to Davie Defense

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

Gov. Greg Abbott has awarded a \$21.8 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant to Davie Defense to support a \$730 million expansion of shipbuilding operations in Galveston and Port Arthur that's expected to create more than 2,400 jobs, state officials said.

The grant will help the com-

Online

Render of what potential facility on pelican island might look like » www.GalvNews.com

pany scale up its Texas facilities to construct Arctic icebreakers and other specialized vessels for U.S. government and commercial customers, part of a broader effort to rebuild domestic ship-

See **GRANT** » **A5**

COMING SOON

Immigration enforcement is causing a chilling effect on migrant job-seekers, putting pressure on several industries already dealing with widespread inflation, business leaders say.



GOVERNMENT | CITY BUDGET

Without a tax hike, city faces up to \$8M in cuts

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

» **LA MARQUE**

City officials will need to cut between \$7 million and \$8 million from next year's budget unless voters approve a tax increase, Finance Director Worth Ferguson said Monday, outlining three potential budget scenarios as the city confronts financial challenges ahead of fiscal year 2027.

A no-new-revenue scenario will require the deepest reductions, at \$7 million to \$8 million, while a 3.5 percent increase in total property tax collected would lower cuts to about \$5 million.

A voter-approved tax increase would limit reductions to \$1 million to \$2 million, Ferguson said.

"No matter what we do, there will be some reduction," Ferguson said.

A September audit found the city overspent by nearly \$3 million during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, largely driven by nearly \$2

million in cost overruns in public safety. The council voted later that month to cut funding by \$900,000 and increase property taxes.

Compared to 2026, next year's fiscal budget will have to be tighter because the city will have fewer windfalls, including property sales, communications coordinator Colleen Chilcoat said Wednesday.

Cuts to the fire department would lengthen response times and could affect the city's Insurance Services Office rating, which influences property insurance premiums, Ferguson said. Reductions to the police department would result in fewer officers, and the no-revenue scenario would require cuts across city operations and services.

Other potential cost-saving measures include consolidating departments, reducing staffing levels for administrative processing and scaling back routine maintenance and repair

See **BUDGET** » **A6**

