

POLICE: Former Prince Andrew arrested, held for hours on suspicion of misconduct over ties to Epstein » A6

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Daily News.

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POLICE | ALLEGED GAMBLING OPERATIONS

Affidavit alleges Hitchcock mayor ran gambling den

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **HITCHCOCK**

Mayor Chris Armacost was arrested Wednesday night at his home and charged with engaging in organized criminal activity, a felony, according to jail records.

The arrest came after a sweeping, multiagency crackdown on alleged illegal gambling operations across the city. Authorities



CHRISTOPHER ARMACOST



BILLY WAYNE BAKER



DOUPLH RAY GRANT



LORETTA ANN LEE



ERNEST ALEXANDER PENA



SAN JUANA SANCHEZ

said the warrants targeted 20 places believed to be operating unlawful gambling establishments.

Armacost, 44, was arrested about 10 p.m. after the Galveston County Organized Crime Task Force executed 21 search war-

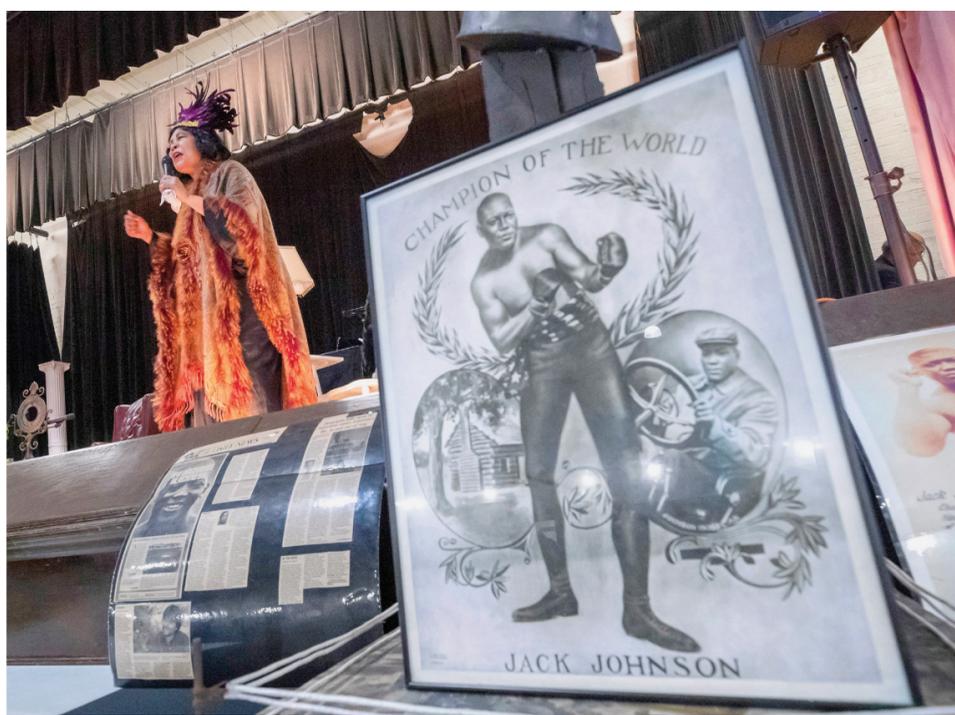
rants beginning Wednesday afternoon. Investigators allege Armacost was involved in the operation of illegal eight-liner gambling machines at Comfort Zone Washateria, 6739 Main St, according to a probable cause affi-

davit filed in Galveston County. The affidavit outlines an undercover investigation conducted by the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Organized Crime Task Force earlier this month.

Investigators working under cover saw numerous eight-liner machines in the business, which they played and received cash payouts after accumulating cred-

See **RAIDS** » A7

EVENT | "THE CHAMPION AND THE EMPRESS"



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

A portrait of Galveston-born heavyweight champion Jack Johnson rests at the foot of the stage as living-history interpreter Rebecca Marks Jimerson portrays blues legend Bessie Smith at a performance of "The Champion and the Empress" at the Old Central Cultural Center in Galveston on Thursday.

STUART VILLANUEVA/
The Daily News

Audience members watch as living-history interpreter Rebecca Marks Jimerson sings while portraying blues legend Bessie Smith at a performance of "The Champion and the Empress" at the Old Central Cultural Center in Galveston on Thursday.

INSIDE:
For more photos » **A8**



LAW ENFORCEMENT | IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

10 men detained on immigration holds along seawall

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

Deputies with the Galveston County Precinct 4 Constable's Office detained 10 men on immigration holds Thursday morning along Seawall Boulevard, according to county jail records.

The arrests occurred between 6:30 a.m. and 9:10 a.m. at several locations, including the 7600 and 8100 blocks of Seawall Boulevard and along 61st Street, records show.

Photos and videos posted to social media showed constables and officers wearing vests

See **HOLDS** » A7

ICE AGE



This is part of a series chronicling the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws under the Trump Administration. The series will explore what undocumented foreign workers cost and contribute to Galveston County and how aggressive enforcement affects the workers, the economy and the larger society.

PUBLIC HEALTH | BLUE ZONES PROJECT

UT Regents OK 'Blue Zone' meant to extend local lives

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

» **GALVESTON**

The University of Texas System Board of Regents this week approved an agreement authorizing a multi-year initiative that healthcare experts think might lead islanders to live much longer, much healthier lives.

The approval allows the University of Texas Medical Branch to move forward with launching the Blue Zones Project in March. The effort will begin with a six-to-nine-month phase focused on hiring local staff, reviewing data,



JOCHEN REISER

building partnerships and developing an implementation plan before a public kickoff later this year.

The project is a population health initiative based on research identifying regions of the world with unusually high concentrations of long-lived residents.

The hope is to incorporate those life-extending habits into

See **BLUE ZONES** » A8

THIS WEEKEND



Coast Monthly celebrates the many heroes on the front lines of conservation.

COURT | 1991 KILLINGS

Judge declares 4 men wrongly accused of 1991 Austin yogurt shop murders innocent

By **JIM VERTUNO**
Associated Press

» **AUSTIN**

For more than three decades, the four men and their families had insisted they were innocent of one of Austin's most gruesome and notori-

ous crimes: the 1991 rape and murder of four teenage girls at a yogurt shop that was set on fire.

No one listened. Not when Robert Springsteen was sent to death row. Not when Michael

See **YOGURT SHOP** » A7

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