

COURT: Environmental groups sue Trump administration over approval of new ultra deep-water drilling project » A8

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Daily News.

TEXAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER • PUBLISHING SINCE 1842 • CELEBRATING 184 YEARS

MAY ELECTIONS | DICKINSON

Voters weigh in on growth, spending in two council races

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

» DICKINSON

A crowded race for two Dickinson City Council seats ahead of the May 2 election is shaping up around how the city manages growth, strengthens flood resilience and maintains its financial footing.

Dawn King, Don Zeek and Rodney Strambler II are competing to replace Councilman Johnnie Simpson Jr., who isn't seeking reelection, in Position 1.

Meanwhile, Joe Wilburn is challenging incumbent Bill Schick in Position 5.

Mayor Travis Magliolo and Councilman Mark Townsend are running unopposed. All council

members are elected at-large to staggered three-year terms.

POSITION 1

For King, restoring financial stability and city operations is the top priority.

"We lost our bond rating, we don't have much savings, and we've had to lay off staff," King said. "There are legal and aes-

thetic issues that still have to be addressed."

S&P Global revoked Dickinson's bond rating in April 2023 after delayed audits dating back to 2021, City Manager Chaise Cary said. The city regained an "AA" rating in July 2025.

Improving code enforcement and maintaining consistent long-term planning are key to

strengthening the city's finances and operations, King said. Bringing neglected properties up to standard could increase property values and generate additional tax revenue without placing a significant burden on residents.

Drainage and building standards are also critical, including

See **ELECTIONS** » A7

EVENT | 88TH ANNUAL GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Wearing his cowboy hat and belt buckle, Cohen Donnelly, 6, leans on the top rail of the rodeo arena while waiting his turn at mutton bustin' at the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo at the county fairgrounds at Jack Brooks Park in Hitchcock on Saturday.

INSIDE: More photos from Galveston County Fair & Rodeo » A9

EDUCATION | WELDING PROGRAM

Ball High students sign on for welding career path

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

One by one, Ball High School students signed their names Thursday at Galveston College, stepping into a welding program designed to move them directly from high school into high-demand jobs.

The ceremony, part of National Career and Technical Education Signing Day, brought 120 students to the college's Seibel Wing to formally enter the welding technology pathway, joining a nationwide effort that engages

See **WELDING** » A6



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

Ball High School welding students applaud during a Galveston College Welding Technology Dual Credit Program signing ceremony at the college in Galveston on Thursday.

EDUCATION | GALVESTON COLLEGE

Regents name president finalist to replace longtime leader

By **DAVID MERCADO**
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Galveston College regents on Monday named a finalist for president, marking the beginning of the end of a national search running almost five months to replace President W. Myles Shelton, who is retiring.

Regents chose Tracee Watts, senior vice president of student success and advancement at Brazosport College, after a public forum Tuesday where she outlined a vision centered on intentional growth and student outcomes.

"Dr. Watts has a deep understanding of the vital role

See **COLLEGE** » A7



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/
The Daily News file photo

Tracee Watts, senior vice president of student success and advancement at Brazosport College, speaks April 14 during a presidential forum at Galveston College.

HISTORY | BATTLESHIP TEXAS

Legacy, leadership guide Battleship Texas revival

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Seventy-eight years after Battleship Texas reached the shadow of the San Jacinto Monument on San Jacinto Day, the storied warship is again moving toward a new chapter — and much of that modern journey carries the imprint of Tony Gregory.

For Gregory, the ship's history was never distant. It was family lore, civic duty and unfinished business passed down across three generations.

As the century-old

See **BATTLESHIP** » A7



COREY GREINEISEN/
The Daily News

Tony Gregory stands in front of the deck guns aboard Battleship Texas.

EDUCATION | MARINE LIFE

Stroke of luck reveals unknown Gulf jellyfish species

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» GALVESTON

Eighty miles offshore, a single, pulsing shape drifted through the dark water. It

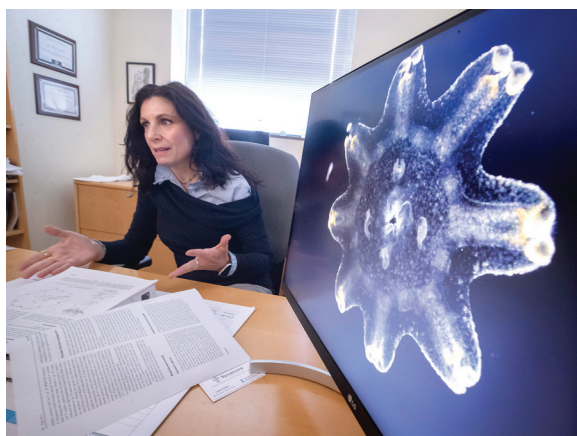
was small — smaller than it should have been — and easy to miss.

But to a trained eye, it was enough to change what scientists thought they knew about one of the most familiar crea-

tures in the ocean.

That moment, when doctoral student Alexandra Ruthenbeck scooped up what would later be identified as a

See **JELLYFISH** » A6



STUART VILLANUEVA/
The Daily News

An image of Aurelia profunda, a new jellyfish species discovered by a team of researchers from Texas A&M University at Galveston, is shown on a screen as team leader, marine biologist Maria Pia Miglietta, speaks Friday about the discovery.

