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WEEKEND EDITION

GALVESTON  COUNTY

The Daily News.

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COURT | TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CLASSROOMS

Judge returns Ten Commandments lawsuit to state court

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

A federal judge has ordered a lawsuit filed by the State of Texas against the Galveston Independent School District over the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms to be sent back to state court, ruling the case does not belong in federal court.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown on Friday granted the state's motion to remand the case to the 122nd Judicial District Court in Galveston County and denied as moot the school district's pending motion to dismiss.

The lawsuit, originally filed in November 2025, states Galveston Independent School District and members of its Board of Trustees violated Senate Bill 10, a Texas law requiring public elementary and secondary schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

In its petition, the state argues the district has a legal duty to accept and display a set of framed copies provided by state Sen. Mayes Middleton shortly after the law took effect Sept. 1.

A majority voted to postpone the displays until a federal appeals court rules

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JENNIFER REYNOLDS/
The Daily News

A stone monument bearing the Ten Commandments stands on the Broadway esplanade at 23rd Street in Galveston. A federal judge ruled Friday that a lawsuit by the state of Texas against Galveston ISD over not displaying the commandments in classrooms can't be heard in federal court.

HISTORY | DIGITIZATION



STUART VILLANUEVA/The Daily News

A pedestrian cuts through the Broadway Cemetery Historic District, a historical six-block cemetery complex, in Galveston on Friday.

Galveston launches digital archive of cemetery records

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

The stories of thousands of Galveston residents have long been preserved in aging burial ledgers, handwritten maps and stone markers.

Now, after three years of painstaking work, those stories are only a few clicks away.

The city of Galveston has launched a new online Ceme-

tery Management System that allows families, historians and genealogists to search more than a century of burial records, find graves with interactive maps and view photographs of thousands of headstones across the city's municipal cemeteries.

For Frank Razem, the city's Geographic Information Systems manager, the project was about more than technology.

"We've mapped over 18,000 grave sites," Razem said. "Using old maps from as far back as

1900, paper maps that we converted and digitized into our cemetery management system."

The online database covers the city's six municipal cemeteries — Municipal and Memorial cemeteries on 59th Street, along with Old City, Oleander, Evergreen and New City cemeteries on Broadway.

Working from fragile cemetery ledgers, historic maps and field surveys, city staff

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GOVERNMENT | DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

City sends recovery plan to save South Shore project

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

The city has formally submitted a recovery plan to the Texas General Land Office, outlining a strategy to keep the \$54.3 million South Shore Drainage Improvement Project on track while asking state officials to not revoke a Hurricane Harvey-era flood mitigation grant.

The plan, submitted Friday in response to the land office's

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STUART VILLANUEVA/
The Daily News

A "Road Closed" sign blocks a section of South Shore Drive as work continues on the South Shore Drainage Project in Galveston on Friday.

GOVERNMENT | BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT

New life for Shield Park begins with \$2 million EPA grant

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

For years, Shield Park has represented potential waiting just beneath the surface.

Now, with a \$2 million federal grant in hand, Galveston is one step closer to transforming a once-contaminated property into a neighborhood destination where families can gather, children can play and the commu-

nity can reconnect.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded the City of Galveston an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to fund environmental remediation at Shield Park, 3228 Church St. The project is a partnership between the city, Vision Galveston and the Galveston Industrial Development

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