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G A L V E S T O N  C O U N T Y

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GOVERNMENT | IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

County seeks share of \$3 billion federal ICE grant

By **DAVID MERCADO**
[The Daily News](#)

» **LEAGUE CITY**

Galveston County on Monday approved spending nearly \$9,000 on a consulting firm to help county agencies apply for part of a \$3 billion U.S. Department of Justice grant program that supports local law enforcement agencies with immigration enforcement.

Commissioners approved a task order with GrantWorks Inc. to help the sheriff's office, facilities department and district attorney's office prepare an application for the Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide program as part of a consent agenda.

No discussion was held on the

item. County staff recommended GrantWorks because of its experience with complex grant applications and the grant's late-September deadline.

The 2025 Big Beautiful Bill Act authorized funding for the program, which the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs administers.

The program helps agencies pay for law enforcement personnel and support staff but excludes co-responders, interpreters and translators.

Agencies also can use the money to buy equipment, including drones, body cameras and body armor, and pay for training and software.

The program also can fund temporary detention facilities for people accused of crimes while

in the country illegally. That includes building new facilities for people awaiting prosecution, immigration proceedings or transfer to federal custody, or expanding existing facilities to add beds and capacity.

The county jail currently holds most people awaiting transfer to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody. ICE operates several detention facilities near the county, including the Houston Processing Center and Joe Corley Processing Center in Conroe.

Agencies applying for the grant must have an existing agreement with ICE under the federal 287(g) program or seek to obtain one, according to the grant

See **GRANT » A7**



REUTERS/file photo

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers carry out a raid as part of Operation Cross Check in Sherman, Texas, U.S., on June 20, 2019. Galveston County is seeking federal funding that could help local law enforcement agencies pay for personnel, equipment, training and detention capacity related to immigration enforcement.

COURT | MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL



STUART VILLANUEVA/[The Daily News](#)

Tim Miller, father of Laura Lynn Miller, embraces Galveston County Chief Assistant District Attorney Kate Willis, as James Dolphs Elmore Jr., far left, walks in handcuffs from the courtroom in Galveston on Wednesday. Elmore was convicted of manslaughter in the 1984 death of Laura Lynn Miller.

Jury finds man guilty of manslaughter in 1984 Killing Fields death

By **COREY GREINEISEN**
[The Daily News](#)

» **GALVESTON**

A Galveston County jury found James Dolphs Elmore Jr. guilty of manslaughter Wednesday in the 1984 death of 16-year-old Laura Miller, bringing a verdict in one of the decades-old Texas Killing Fields cases. The punishment phase of the trial is set to begin Thursday.

Jurors in the Elmore manslaughter trial spent much of Wednesday hearing Elmore in his own words before his defense sought to undermine those same statements with an unusual argument: Elmore's own sisters testified that their brother was a habitual liar who fabricated his involvement in the Texas Killing Fields cases for money.

The second day of trial began with jurors watching about 90



STUART VILLANUEVA/[The Daily News](#)

James Dolphs Elmore Jr., stands in court Wednesday, after being found guilty of manslaughter in the 1984 death of Laura Lynn Miller.

minutes of a recorded interview between Elmore and Tim Miller, the father of 16-year-old Laura Miller, whose 1984 death is at

the center of the case.

In the video, Elmore discussed

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GOVERNMENT | HEALTH AUTHORITY

Health District CEO Philip Keiser

announces retirement

By **DAVID MERCADO**
[The Daily News](#)

» **TEXAS CITY**

Galveston County Health Authority Dr. Philip Keiser will retire Oct. 1 after a decade of service that included leading the county's response to the

Covid-19 pandemic and fentanyl crisis and managing the Health District as CEO.

Keiser told [The Daily News](#) Wednesday that although he's extremely proud of the Health District's work to reduce deaths

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JENNIFER REYNOLDS/[The Daily News](#) file photo

Leonard Woolsey, president of Southern Newspapers Inc. and former publisher of [The Daily News](#), presents Dr. Philip Keiser with [The Daily News'](#) Citizen of the Year award on May 27, 2021. Keiser said he is most proud of the Galveston County Health District's response to the Covid-19 pandemic during his tenure.

AVIATION | ELECTRIC PLANE

Electric plane touches down at Scholes

By **RUSHTON SKINNER**
[The Daily News](#)

» **GALVESTON**

An electric plane landed Wednesday at Scholes International Airport to recharge its batteries before heading back to Sugar Land Regional Airport in Houston.

On board BETA Technologies' CX300 was 720 pounds of rescue equipment meant to sim-

See **PLANE » A8**



RUSHTON SKINNER/[The Daily News](#)
BETA Technologies' CX300 flies out of Scholes International Airport on its way back to Sugar Land Regional Airport, Wednesday.