

## 3 Dems are pushing for tariff refunds

Effort to require customs agency to return \$175 billion follows Supreme Court ruling

By Josh Boak  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A trio of Senate Democrats is calling for the federal government to start refunding roughly \$175 billion in tariff revenues that the Supreme Court ruled were collected because of an

illegal set of orders by President Donald Trump.

Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon, Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire were to unveil a bill on Monday that would require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to issue refunds over the course of 180

### INSIDE

Europe seeks clarification on how new tariff declaration would affect trade deal. **B8**

days and pay interest on the refunded amount.

The measure would prioritize refunds to small businesses and encourages importers, wholesalers and large companies to pass the re-  
*Tariffs continues on A6*



A bill from senators that aims to return tariff revenues would prioritize refunds to small businesses.

J. Scott Applewhite/  
Associated Press

## Suburban students getting a taste of agriculture



Storm Scroggins of Morton Ranch High School sits with her pig Lightning before she competes in Katy ISD's Livestock Show. Photos by Melissa Phillip/Houston Chronicle

## Meta weighs in on GOP contests in Texas

Super PAC's ads focus on candidates who are friendly to AI

By James Osborne  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

A Super PAC backed by a \$45 million investment from the California tech giant Meta launched an ad campaign in Texas this week to boost state Republicans viewed by the company as friendly to the development of artificial intelligence.

On Friday, the Forge the Future Super PAC launched its first round of digital ads that support Kelly Hancock, who is locked in heated GOP primary battle for Texas Comptroller; two candidates for state Senate and one North Texas state representative.

The ads don't make mention of AI or the data centers that drive the technology, and instead focus on the candidates' efforts to keep taxes low and improve education.

Brian Baker, a GOP strategist leading the effort, said in a statement the Super PAC will support "a select group of pro-innovation Republican candidates" for the state Legislature and state offices like governor and attorney general.

"Our focus is on elevating Republican leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to championing America's tech future and maintaining our global competitive edge," he said.

Hancock and the other candidates, who include state Rep. Trent Ashby, a Lufkin Republican running for an East Texas state Senate seat, and Brett Ligon, who is vying to replace Galveston state Sen. Mayes Middleton, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The campaign, which is also active in California and Illinois, comes amid a flurry of efforts in Texas to put guardrails around AI technology and the affiliated data centers that require huge amounts of water and energy to operate.

*Meta continues on A6*

## Houston-area school districts aim to keep a heritage alive

By Ashley Soebroto  
STAFF WRITER

Over the past few decades, subdivisions have replaced prairies and rice farms across Katy and other parts of greater Houston, as a population boom has pushed development farther and farther out. As housing and businesses grew, so did concerns that the area's agricultural history could be lost.

In response, several school districts — including Aldine, Humble, Katy, Klein and Spring ISDs — have kept up or expanded their own livestock shows, National FFA Organization chapters and other agricultural programs, giving students hands-on experience raising animals even as they grow up in the suburbs, with cars, concrete and master-planned communities.

"Everybody's in a subdivision, and I  
*Schools continues on A6*



Several Houston-area school districts have kept up or expanded their livestock shows and other agricultural programs.

## Plan for Galveston could add bike lanes, healthier lunches

By Evan MacDonald  
STAFF WRITER

Galveston residents could soon see more bike lanes, healthier school lunches and other lifestyle changes as part of a plan that will use \$9.5 million in university funds to help people live longer, healthier lives.

University of Texas System regents approved an agreement Thursday for the University of Texas Medical Branch to lead a multiyear effort with the Blue Zones Project, a global well-being

initiative, through 2030. Last year, UT regents approved an initial \$500,000 for the partners to perform an assessment of the Galveston area.

The effort is intended to transform Galveston into a so-called blue zone, a term Blue Zones Project founder Dan Buettner coined to describe communities where residents tend to live longer and maintain a high quality of life into old age.

Blue Zones has worked with more than 70 communities across North America to install

bike lanes, add healthier menu options in schools and restaurants and promote other lifestyle changes.

The UTMB partnership is unique — it marks the first time an academic health science center will work with Blue Zones on behalf of a community. Researchers at UTMB will use community health data, surveys and other statistics to measure the effect of the programs over time, said Dr. Jochen Reiser, president of UTMB and CEO

*Galveston continues on A5*



Jill Karnicki/Houston Chronicle file photo

The University of Texas Medical Branch is partnering on a \$9.5 million effort to improve Galveston residents' long-term health.