

STOCKS: Trade deals and positive economic data send indexes to record highs» **A2**

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

The Daily News.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT | INVESTIGATION

Muddy boots, bloody clothes connect man to Texas City murder

By **JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON**
The Daily News

» **TEXAS CITY**

The night that ended with Pablo Padilla dead began with drinks at a bar between two roommates.

Less than a day after Padilla's body was found on a Texas City sidewalk, the roommate, Juan Carlos Ramirez-Vargas, was arrested and accused of concealing evidence of the murder from police.

Documents released Thursday re-

vealed how the Texas City Police Department connected Ramirez-Vargas to Padilla's death. The documents also left some questions about the killing, including what motive Padilla's killer might have had.

As of Thursday, no one had been

charged in Padilla's death. However, the charging documents filed against Ramirez-Vargas, 26, paint him as possibly the last person to see Padilla alive, and they accuse him of hiding

See **MURDER** » **A8**



JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ-VARGAS

CAMPAIGN | ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING



KELSEY WALLING/The Daily News

Rebecca Cary, founder of Hands of Justice, speaks about the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States at an event in Kemah on Thursday. Hands of Justice is a Christian anti-trafficking organization that brings awareness, outreach and support to communities.

Statewide trafficking campaign launches in Kemah

By **MATT DEGROOD**
The Daily News

» **KEMAH**

State Rep. Mayes Middleton called the thick fog gathered around a who's who of Galveston County and state leaders Thursday symbolic of the work ahead of them.

"We are here to lift the fog around human trafficking," Middleton said.

The group assembled at Kemah City Hall to launch an

awareness campaign against human trafficking called "Can You See Me?" — an effort involving such varied groups as the Texas Governor's Office and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas.

Crews as part of the campaign will install 70 billboards in different Texas cities, including Kemah, to create public awareness and give anyone who might see something suspicious a telephone number to call, said Lee Vela, chair of the



KELSEY WALLING/The Daily News

Signs for the "Can you see me?" anti-human trafficking campaign are displayed in English and Spanish in Kemah on Thursday.

Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas.

All of the signs are donated by the association. Signs already have started to appear in

Galveston. By increasing public awareness, the billboard campaign actually works to

See **CAMPAIGN** » **A5**

GALVESTON | EDUCATION

College approves new policy on interrogation, searches

By **JENNIFER REYNOLDS**
The Daily News

A construction worker carries a piling past the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation Student Residences at Galveston College on Thursday. When completed, the college will be able to house 80 students in the seven new buildings.



By **KATHRYN EASTBURN**
The Daily News

Galveston College's Board of Trustees on Wednesday added a new policy to its manual regarding interrogations and searches of students.

In part, that's because the college is for the first time adding student residences that will house 80 students starting next fall at 4015 Ave. Q. President Myles Shelton said.

"We're looking at our student housing policies to make sure that we are ready to open the new housing

See **COLLEGE** » **A8**

COMING SUNDAY

A Ball High alumna is now her college basketball program's all-time leading scorer.

MARITIME | ACCIDENT

Coast Guard suspends search for two missing mariners

By **KERI HEATH**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday afternoon suspended the search for two men still missing after falling overboard Tuesday in a collision between a fishing vessel and tanker ship, officials said.

There was little chance the fishing boat crewmen still were alive, and dense fog had impeded the search, officials said.

The Coast Guard and other agencies

See **SEARCH** » **A3**

HEALTH | SUMMIT



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News
Jazmyn Carter, left, and Raelynn Parfait, both seniors at Ball High School, look over vaping devices that resemble USB drives, lighters, pepper spray and a watch during a vaping summit in Galveston on Thursday.

School leaders gather to talk, and listen, about vaping

By **JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON**
The Daily News

» **GALVESTON**

For four hours Thursday, school administrators from around Galveston County met to talk about how they could help stop students from vaping inside their schools.

See **VAPING** » **A3**

