

# BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

**PET** Kitten named Chai seeks home, A3  
**TRUMP** Order blocks state AI plans, A5  
**BUSINESS** Mortgage rate ticks up, A7  
**SPORTS** Texans QB strives for calm, B1

The most trusted source of news in Southeast Texas

BEAUMONTENTERPRISE.COM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 VOL. 146, NO. 38 \$2

## State takes over Beaumont ISD — again



Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise

Surrounded by board members, Beaumont ISD Superintendent Shannon Allen makes a statement regarding Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath's decision to have the state take over the district.

### Leaders disappointed, shocked over TEA announcement

By Kim Brent  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday afternoon, Beaumont ISD Superintendent Shannon Allen stood before a gathering of media and others in the school board room to say the words she'd been hoping to avoid since August — the Texas Education Agency would be implementing a state takeover of the district for a second time.

Earlier that day, she and the school board received a letter from TEA Commissioner Mike Morath announcing his decision.

It came on the heels of Morath's trip to the district in October, during which he visited three Beaumont campuses with Allen and other administrators to get a firsthand look at the work being done in classrooms, as well as student and teacher performances. The visit was a fact-finding mission of

sorts to inform his decision regarding Beaumont ISD's fate, he said at the time.

Thursday's letter served as the result of that mission.

"After engaging in a comprehensive analysis of district data and a thorough vetting of district systems, leadership, and student results, I am hereby ordering the appointment of both a board of managers to govern the district and a conservator," Morath's letter read.

It was a course of action that left Allen and the board members not only disappointed, but shocked.

"I disagree with this decision," Allen said during Thursday's news conference. "I was very frustrated and disappointed, especially after the visit we just had."

Although she recognized that the law required some measure of action on Morath's part, she felt optimistic that a takeover was the least likely of the actionable options

based on the October visit.

That was a sentiment echoed by board president Thomas Sigee, who said he felt almost blind-sided by Morath's announcement.

"I was disappointed in the decision as much as Dr. Allen, because there were other options," he said. "Right now, the board is clicking. I've got four educators on the board and a guy who volunteers tirelessly in the community, and we had the pieces, or so we thought. When we talked to the commissioner (in October), he gave us a good feeling that he was not going to make a decision to take over the district."

Given the tone and tenor of Morath's letter, though, it's apparent that assumption didn't go both ways.

His letter detailed the reasons for TEA's involvement in the district, citing the fact that in the accountability ratings released mid-August,

*School continues on A4*

## Man dead after chase, shootout with police

By Megan Zapalac  
STAFF WRITER

A 46-year-old man has died after a police chase in Port Arthur led to an officer-involved shooting in Beaumont.

No officers were injured, according to Beaumont police spokesperson Rodrick Williams, who said the man died after exchanging gunfire with police.

Shortly after 9:35 a.m. Friday, Beaumont police responded to 7 Street and Louisiana Avenue to help Port Arthur Police Department chase an armed suspect in a vehicle, according to Williams.

The suspect lost control of his vehicle on the service road of Interstate 10 near 7 Street. He exited his vehicle and fired shots at officers, who fired back and hit the 46-year-old suspect, Williams said.

EMS came and attempted life saving measures, but the suspect was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Williams.

The Texas Rangers were called to assist in the investigation, which remains ongoing.

### WEATHER

## Showers and sharp cold front move in this weekend

By Bianca Thomas  
STAFF WRITER

After sunny skies most of this week, rain and colder temperatures could be making their way back to Beaumont this weekend.

Light and scattered showers are expected between Friday night and early Sunday, according to the National Weather Service Lake Charles.

Residents should also brace for low temperatures as the weekend progresses.

On Saturday, patchy fog could come before 9 a.m. and a 20% chance of showers in the afternoon.

Temperatures are expected to reach a high of 74 degrees. Rain chances increase to 40% after midnight.

Skies will become partly cloudy and temperatures will drop to a low of 53 degrees Saturday evening. A sharp cold front is expected Saturday night into Sunday morning.

"Strong north winds can be anticipated Sunday. Areas of rain will be possible early Sunday with decreasing rain chances through the day," the NWS Lake Charles forecast discussion said.

There is a 20% chance of rain Sunday before noon, with temperatures reaching a high of 62 degrees and wind gusts up to 25 mph.

Skies are expected to clear in the evening, with temperatures dropping to around 29 degrees.

Monday will still be cold, with a high near 51 degrees and evening temperatures dropping to 38 degrees.

## TCEQ to assess penalties of unauthorized emissions at Groves facility

Settlement includes payment to SETX Regional Planning Commission

By Mbu Maungo  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will soon assess administrative penalties to the TotalEnergies refinery in Port Arthur on Dec. 17 after a number of emis-

sion violations.

According to the commission, the results from investigations dating back to March 30, 2022 are the agency's reason for charging TotalEnergies with eight compliance violations for exceeding the maximum

*TCEQ continues on A4*



Photo Courtesy of Fotodesign D.W. Schmalow

BASF TotalEnergies' Petrochemicals Facility.

### INSIDE

Business.....	A7	Crossword.....	B7
Classified.....	B6	Obituaries.....	A4
Comics.....	B8	Sports.....	B1
		Weather.....	A2



**First Security Bank**  
 The Holidays are Here  
**Deck the Halls with Savings**

409-269-2220 | [thefirstsecuritybank.com](http://thefirstsecuritybank.com)  
 8350 Phelan Blvd. Suite A-Beaumont, Texas 77706  
 185 Hwy 105 East-Sour Lake, Texas 77659

**4.50% APY** **6-MONTH CD\* SPECIAL**

For a limited time only, so secure your rates today!

\*Offer starts December 3, 2025. This special rate applies to new 6-month Certificates of Deposit (CDs) with an Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 4.50%. Minimum deposit of \$1,000 required to open. Minimum balance of \$1,000 must be maintained to earn the stated APY. Fees may reduce earnings. Early withdrawal penalties may apply. This CD special may end at any time without notice. See an employee at your nearest branch for further details.

FDIC FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government