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★★★ ELECTIONS 2026 ★★★



Photos by Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise

City Council District 3 candidate Charlie Lewis Jr. jokes with former Port Arthur Mayor Derrick Freeman as he and other campaigners get in their final push for votes Saturday outside the Port Arthur Library polling site.

3 Port Arthur City Council races are headed to runoffs

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

Port Arthur will have at least two new council members and one returning member, along with three runoff elections following the May 2026 municipal election.

All four council district seats were on the ballot. Incumbents in District 1 and District 3 were seeking reelection, while District 2 Council Member Tiffany Hamilton Everfield and District 4 Council Member Harold Doucet were not.



City Council candidate Taylor Getwood greets Mikkey Guillory. Getwood will face Willie Bae Lewis in a runoff.

Here's a look at results for each district and upcoming runoff elections:

District 1

Incumbent Willie Bae Lewis ran against Port Arthur ISD trustee Taylor Getwood and Artrell McCullar Sr.

Getwood and Lewis advanced to a runoff election. Unofficial final results showed Getwood in first place with 44.50%, or 453 votes, Lewis in second with 39.88%, or 406 votes, and McCullar in third with 15.62%, or 157 votes. **Council continues on A3**

GOP's Ligon elected to state Senate

Rematch in traditionally Republican District 4 awaits in November

By Matt Faye
SPORTS EDITOR

Former Montgomery County District Attorney Brett Ligon, a Republican endorsed by major players in the party, has won the Texas Senate District 4 special election.

Ligon received 75 percent of the vote to comfortably defeat Democratic opponent Ron Angeletti, according to unofficial state results Saturday. Those results showed Ligon receiving 26,068 votes compared to Angeletti's 8,662 votes, marking a relatively low voter turnout in the traditionally Republican-held district.

Ligon will take the seat vacated by state Sen. Brandon Creighton, who resigned in October to become Texas Tech University System Chancellor.

The victory allows Ligon to fill the remainder of Creighton's term, which lasts until January. A likely rematch between Ligon and Angeletti will come in November, when voters will decide who should get the seat for the next four-year term.

"The voters of SD4 have delivered a clear message tonight," Ligon said in a statement from his campaign. "Conservative values and Republican dominance in Texas are alive and well. Democrats from Texas and all over the country threw everything they had at us. Democrat politicians were here today in full force, campaigning hard for my opponent. As if we had been flying the **District 4 continues on A3**

City of Beaumont hiring lifeguards for two pools; bonuses offered

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

Beaumont is hiring lifeguards for the summer pool season while offering training reimbursement and hiring incentives.

The city owns and operates two pools at Alice Keith Park

and Magnolia Park. It plans to open them Memorial Day weekend. Stacy Lewis, the city's community liaison and division manager of the Sterling Pruitt Activity Center, said the city is looking to hire 14 to 18 lifeguards.

Starting pay is \$15 an hour. The city will reimburse lifeguard certification costs at the end of

the summer.

Applicants with one to two years of consecutive service are eligible for a \$200 sign-on bonus, those with three to four years are eligible for \$300 and those with four to five years are eligible for \$400. Bonuses are paid at the end of successful summer employment. Applicants must have

completed the 10th grade. Lewis said they have the highest pay in the area.

"Most of the time you see kids, they work this down from 16 years old, and a lot of them we've seen work all the way through college, and come back each year," Lewis said. "It's a good deal. It's another thing to keep

kids out of trouble, and it adds to the quality of life here in Southeast Texas."

The pools will be free to the public and open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The pools will remain open through Labor Day. Lewis encourages residents to visit the pools.

Opa! Mediterranean Festival draws big crowd in Beaumont

By Kim Brent
STAFF WRITER

The annual Mediterranean Festival in Beaumont drew large crowds throughout Saturday at St. Michael's Orthodox Church.

The Rev. Michael Pavez gave church tours, a youth troupe entertained with traditional dances, music filled the air, and those of all backgrounds got a taste of homemade Mediterranean favorites from gyros to falafel to spanakopita to the ever-popular baklava-topped ice cream.

It's a tradition at the church dating back to its first public Syrian Dinner held in 1909 — an event that quickly grew in popularity as early Beaumonters and Mediterranean heritage neighbors.

An outside bazaar offered art, foods, dishware and more items from the Mediterranean region, while inside the church hall, religious items, desserts and sit-down meal plates were available. Musicians set the tone of the region through the dining experience.

In the spirit of community

and family, the children's zone offered a petting zoo featuring all things reptilian from Reptile Rhapsody, crafts and bounce houses, not to mention face painting. What festival is complete without the face painting, though?

The free event offered the annual coveted raffle drawing for a Mediterranean cruise, with all proceeds benefiting a local nonprofit. This year's nonprofit was Inspire, Encourage, Achieve — an organization focused on serving at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.



Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise

Traditional dancers celebrate their final performance during the annual Mediterranean Festival on Saturday at St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Beaumont.

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