

## 'Your Values And Beliefs'

# School officials, voters face critical decisions on expansion

Bond proposal would finance construction, renovations

Paul Bryant  
Managing Editor

Campuses must be expanded and others built if the Brownsboro Independent School District is going to accommodate students over the next decade and longer, officials said during a meeting to gauge interest and

gather support for a possible bond proposal next year.

"Our board of trustees has started a process I hope will eventually lead to an improvement of our facilities," Superintendent Elton Caldwell said before about 70 people Nov. 11.

"We've been accused in the past of not being transparent, so we wanted to call this informal meeting to talk to you about where we're headed and to get your suggestions and

ideas. This is not a perfect school system, but it's a good school system."

Community stakeholders told Texas School Planning President Dr. Arnold Oates they'd like to see the construction of a fine arts building, new football stadium, and possibly a middle school in Chandler.

They also suggested eventually moving



Oates

Brownsboro High School to Chandler, and questioned transportation costs, expanded utilities, land availability in Brownsboro, and technological needs.

"We want to try to develop a vision for 20 years and a plan for 10," Oates said. "You're at capacity at nearly all your schools. When the state comes along and adds a program, you have to add another classroom. The life of a building is

about 40 years."

The district's two elementary schools are at least that old, and both have run out of space, despite the fact they have been expanded several times.

Brownsboro Junior High School is in better condition, but its students must attend classes on three properties.

At Brownsboro High School, the main structure is in relatively good condition, but it has run out of space, too, and its student-athletes

and coaches have to tolerate an outdated football stadium, makeshift fieldhouse, and small dressing areas and restrooms.

The school's theatrical program also needs more space.

"We just finished doing an evaluation of your schools," Oates said. "You are the district. Your values and beliefs are what make up the Brownsboro School District."

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## Chandler reduces fees for SilverLeaf project

Paul Bryant  
Managing Editor

CHANDLER — Officials here have waived or reduced building fees for the developer of an \$8 million housing project for fixed-income seniors, City Administrator Jim Moffeit said.

"Because this is a corporate effort, and because we think it's a good thing for our citizens, we asked our engineer to get a good price on the inspections," he said. "That was about \$3,000."

The city waived its 5-percent "park land" fee on SilverLeaf at Chandler. Texas developer Solutions Plus purchased permits for seven buildings, seven water meters, and seven sewer taps, Moffeit said.

"When this project is done, the city is only going to own the water and sewer system. Normally, he would have to pay a fee of 5 percent for inspections. Instead, he's only going to pay about \$5,000 in inspection fees that could

have run about \$10,000.

"The city is not losing anything because we worked with our engineer and building inspector to get the price down."

SilverLeaf at Chandler is a government-subsidized apartment community being built on FM 2010, just west of FM 315 North. City officials expect the development to spur economic growth as Tyler sprawl continues west.

"It's something that's needed," Moffeit said. "We have a lot of older people here, some who end up going to Tyler. This property should bring about 30 percent of people who are already here. The other 70 percent are going to buy groceries here, they're going to use local banks, they're going to spend money here."

SilverLeaf is for tenants 55 and older who are on

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## TOUGH TO BEAR



Loyd Cook Photo

Standing from left, Dillon Croley, Matt Bouchillon, and Alex Martin gather with other members of the Brownsboro Bears football team after their disappointing first-round playoff loss to the Lorena Leopards, 30-14, in Corsicana Saturday night. For game coverage, see Page 8.

## 'An Academic Emergency'

### Brownsboro High reaches capacity with 900 students

Paul Bryant  
Managing Editor

With enrollment near 900, Brownsboro High School has run out of classrooms.

That alone makes it no different than other schools in the district. But unlike those campuses, Brownsboro High is not in critical condition. The building is only 21 years old.

"As far as the building falling down, we don't have that," Principal Kenneth Wooten said. "Structurally, our building is the best in the district. We're not in a horrible state here, but we are at capacity. As we look to the future, we have to decide where we are going to be in 10 years."

The school's most glaring need is in its athletic programs. Dressing rooms for male and female athletes are small and often shared, restrooms and showers are inadequate, the football stadium is outdated and poses public-safety concerns, a makeshift structure serves as the fieldhouse, and parking for football games is nearly nonexistent.

"There's just not enough

room, and it's not a good layout from a safety standpoint," Wooten said. "We don't have a good way to keep teams and fans separated."

At the stadium, during football games, students and fans regularly watch from outside seating areas on grass, in parking lots, and near State Highway 31 behind the north end of the football field.

Cars are parked in front of businesses, around Brownsboro Elementary and Brownsboro Junior High, and in residential areas nearby.

"Space is tight, and the concession stands and restrooms are not sufficient," Wooten said. "But the folks here have done a tremendous job of using what we have."

At the high school, conditions are not much better for student-athletes. Cheerleaders have to leave campus and meet in an old gym behind the district office. Other athletes have to share cramped restrooms.

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Paul Bryant Photos

Above, Brownsboro High School Principal Kenneth Wooten overlooks the football stadium. Below is the theatre building.



## Edom Christmas event to feature children's chorus

Paul Bryant  
Managing Editor

EDOM — About 20 children are expected to perform here Dec. 5 when officials host the town's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, Carolyn Hargrove said.

"It's a traditional welcome to the holiday season, and we'll have the children's Christmas chorus from the community."

For more than 20 years, the event has been a constant in the community. It was originally hosted downtown before being moved to the Edom Community Center after changes in property

ownership, Hargrove said. "But it just wasn't the same. Downtown is the heart of the community, so it was moved back here. This is the fourth year the tree ceremony has been back downtown."

The event is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Edom Historical Society museum.

"Most of the shops will be open during the lighting program," Hargrove said. "Santa Claus will arrive in the firetruck with sirens blaring, and one of the churches will also provide treats for

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## Craft booths still available for Holiday in the Park

Staff Report

Craft booths are still available for Saturday's Holiday in the Park in Chandler, officials said.

It is the first time in three years the event, a fundraiser for Keep Chandler Beautiful, will feature the booths.

About 500 people attended last year at Winches-

ter Park. On Saturday, groups from several churches are scheduled to sing, and children from Chandler Elementary School are expected to perform. Concession stands will offer hot chocolate, coffee, homemade chili, Frito pie,

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### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### KCB

Keep Chandler Beautiful is set to meet tonight, at 7, at the Chandler Community Center.

#### CITY OF EDM

Edom's Community Thanksgiving dinner is

scheduled for Nov. 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 7, at the Edom Community Center.

#### KBB

Keep Brownsboro Beautiful is set to meet Tuesday, at 7 p.m., at the Brownsboro Community Center.

#### BROWNSBORO YFA

The Brownsboro Young Farmer Association's an-

nual ag auction is scheduled for Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

A chili dinner will be followed by silent and live auctions at 7.

#### HOMETOWN HEROES

The deadline to obtain applications for this year's hometown heroes is set for Dec. 4.

Applications may be picked up at the

Brownsboro Police Department and fire departments.

#### REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS

Rediscover Christmas is scheduled for Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Scott's Gym in Murchison.

#### MASONIC LODGE

The Brownsboro Masonic Lodge meets on the second Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

The Chandler Masonic

Lodge No. 993 meets on the third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

#### FBC BROWNSBORO

Faith Baptist Church of Brownsboro hosts a senior citizen luncheon each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

Call 903-852-4129.

#### MUSIC NIGHT

Parkside Shores hosts Music Night with the East Texas Backroads Band,

from 6 to 8:30 p.m., every first and third Monday.

#### CHANDLER LIONS

The Chandler Lions Club regular meeting dates are at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Chandler Community Center on State Highway 31 near City Hall.

For information on becoming a Lion, call 903-849-6355.

