

CRITICAL

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Football stadium

"We have one toilet that serves over 200 athletes and limited showers and urinals," Wooten said.

The school also has problems in other areas. The theatre arts building south of the football stadium is too small to host large events and competitions.

"It seats close to 400. The theatre itself is really nice and compact, but it's really dated. We are in need of an

auditorium." And during football games, about 20 people pack into the west side of that building to serve food.

"In the next few years, we're going to be at an academic emergency," Wooten said. "We're going to be maxed out."

Like the two elementary schools and the junior high nearby, Brownsboro High has been expanded over the



Fieldhouse showers

years. It has added wings and portable buildings as enrollment has increased.

But expansion can't continue at the same rate. Wooten said building a new high school might have to be considered.

"I think so. With the growth projected, what kind of school do you want for our kids? We're already beyond capacity in the athletic and theatre areas. We're at

an emergency state."

Texas School Planning is working with district officials and community leaders to determine which schools must be renovated or even replaced or moved.

A tax election could come as early as November 2010 to finance the project. Wooten, who's been the high-school principal for three years, said the district has few options remaining.



Fieldhouse

"I think the challenge for us is, where do we start? I think the important thing is just to start and have an ongoing process of evaluating and enhancing our facilities. I think we all agree something needs to be done."

Growth in Smith and Henderson Counties over the next 30 years is expected to be substantial.

The district has grown

about 60 percent over the last 20 years, and continues to grow 3 percent annually. The projected population in Henderson County by 2010 is more than 81,300.

By 2020, it is expected to be over 90,000 and, by 2030, the population is projected to reach 100,000.

Much of that growth will happen west and south of Tyler and will include Chandler.

FEES

fixed income. More than 70 units are expected to be built in the initial building phase, Moffeit said.

"The project will cost about \$7 million and will go on our tax rolls at \$3 mil-

lion. It will create two to four jobs."

Chandler's Economic Development Foundation, which Moffeit chairs, provided a \$100,000 loan to Solutions Plus in April to help

cover the cost of infrastructure. On Nov. 10, the city approved a resolution "declaring support" for SilverLeaf to apply for HOME funds from the Texas Department of Hous-

ing and Community Affairs in 2010.

The program provides grants and loans to help governments and agencies build affordable housing to low-income families.

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STUDENTS

What is it that you want your schools to do? There's always room for improvement."

Except for its two intermediate schools, each of the district's campuses need to be renovated, expanded, or rebuilt.

A single bond proposal in 2010 won't provide enough tax revenue to do the work all at once, but Oates stressed that projected growth in Smith and Henderson Counties over the next 30 years will force the district to make substantial changes — and quickly.

"By 2040, we will have about 40 million people in Texas," he said.

"I think you're going to see a lot of growth on this side of the county instead of in the Athens area. We think the community needs to be very much involved in the planning process. We need to think about where we're going."

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Much of that growth will happen west and south of Tyler and will include Chandler.

"Tyler is working to ensure growth occurs in all areas of our community," Tyler communications director Susan Guthrie said.

"In recent years, the majority of growth has been south Tyler. However, we have several projects planned in the next few years to stimulate growth in north Tyler and in west Tyler."

Two years ago, officials there approved Tyler 21, the city's master plan for the

next 20 years.

The 500-page document lays out in exhaustive detail the city's annexation and development intentions, breaks down the area's social, economic, and racial demographics, describes its land use, incorporates community input, focuses on historic preservation and downtown development, recreation, and residential development.

Tyler's population increased from 83,650 in 2000 to 101,160 in 2006. More than 20,000 new residents are expected in the city by 2015.

And according to the Texas State Data Center, Smith County's population is projected to be 128,572, up from 99,918 in 2005. Further, according to Tyler 21, Smith County has grown faster outside the city than within the city limits since 1970.

In the 1990s, its growth

was about 2 percent a year, about twice the annual rate within the city limits.

Construction of the Loop 49 toll road is expected to further stimulate growth in and around Smith County. The route is open between FM 756 and State Highway 155 south of Tyler, but the Texas Department of Transportation has proposed extending Loop 49 from 155 to I-20 north of Tyler.

It also plans to extend the loop west from FM 756 to State Highway 110.

Tyler's city and extraterritorial land areas include over 42 percent of Smith County's land area and about 47 percent of the county's population.

Land within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction is governed by Tyler's subdivision regulations.

Texas School Planning was hired in October to consult the district on its capital improvements plan.

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WRITER'S CORNER

You are the man I love and cherish,
And in this life that will not perish;

There is but one I love greater,
And that is God, our creator.

He put us together to do His will,
And as we walk together up that steep hill,

Our love for each other and for God grows greater still,
As we stand together in His Grace so our cup can get its fill.

I will be so proud to stand by your side
As the gates of Heaven open wide,

It is an honor to be your wife,
And serve God together in worship in our life.

I've never known such a

loving man
To hold so much of God's love in his hands,

And have such a big, forgiving heart;
It has brought great happiness in my life to be a part.

I thank God every day for you in my life,
And choosing me to be your wife,

And may I always let it show
That God and you are the ones that I love so.

My prayer today would be that everyone
Could know the Lord with their heart and come

To share with us in that eternal place called Home,
And in their life know only joy and peace and nevermore to roam.

Happy Birthday,
your wife, Peggy
by Peggy Adair

EDOM

the kids."

The ceremony drew about 150 last year.

"We had about 300 the year before that, and we expect at least a couple of hundred this year," Hargrove

HOLIDAY

and hot dogs.

The city is also selling raffle tickets for a Four Seasons fryer, steamer and boiler, and a Thanksgiving turkey dinner from Brookshires.

The event is set to start at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Park, with booths opening a half-hour earlier.

Featured singers include Casey DeLay and Praise Band, Westlake Baptist Church Singin Saints, Kaitlyn Hopson, Nicole Hilliard, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Jeff Smiley, Rick Daily, Bruce Thomas, Faith Tabernacle, Sherry Parker, Macedonia Baptist Church, and Amanda Parker.

said.

"We expect 80 to 100 kids."

Hargrove is director of the children's chorus. Participants are between 5 and 13 years old.

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CATERING FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Pies - Cakes - Breads

NOTICE!

ALLIED WASTE SERVICES
will not be providing garbage pick up on Thanksgiving Day.

All garbage scheduled to be picked up Thursday will be picked up on Friday. Friday's garbage will be picked up on Saturday. After Saturday, service will resume its regular schedule.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU.

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