

Official questions timing of Caldwell vote

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Forcing Superintendent Elton Caldwell into possible retirement even before the Brownsboro Independent School District sets a November tax election was a mistake, Board of Trustees President Bobby Teague said.

"He has done an excellent job not only in the school system but also in the community," he said. "He's an ethical, moral and highly professional individual. This is not a proper time to change leadership with the impending bond issue. Mr. Caldwell has experience with bonds."

Four board members voted on Jan. 18 not to extend Caldwell's contract, with two others — Teague and Vice President Dusty Wise

— voting against the move. Caldwell, 70, has about 18 months remaining on his current deal, but he has said he may retire before it expires.

"Everyone has the right to their own opinion, and everyone on that board has a right to vote how they feel," Teague said.

Becky Grantham, Jeffrey Fulgham, Donny Wilson, and Ricky Wyatt voted not to extend Caldwell's contract. Joel Irwin was absent. Teague and Wise, with a combined 21.5 years, are the board's longest-serving members.

If Caldwell retires before the end of his two-year contract, the district would be forced to begin a premature search for a new superintendent. Teague said if Caldwell leaves before the November election, it

would spell trouble for district officials.

"It would be a mess," he said. "I don't know what Elton is thinking, but I'll tell you this: I've served under nine superintendents, and Mr. Caldwell is at the top of that list. I can't speak for anyone else, but I've not heard anything about him that was in a negative connotation."

Teague has been with the district for 28 years, the last 11 as a board member. He

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Bobby Teague
Board of Trustees President

intermediate, Brownsboro Intermediate and Brownsboro High - have been built and numerous improvements made to Chandler Elementary School, Brownsboro Elementary School and Brownsboro Junior High School.



Teague

An advisory committee of more than 60 members is scheduled to meet Feb. 15 as Dr. Arnold Oates of Texas School Planning provides a list of scenarios for how the district could use a bond proposal to finance new construction across the district.

The oldest of the district's six campuses - Brownsboro Elementary, Chandler Elementary, Brownsboro High, and Brownsboro Junior High School — need exten-

sive renovations or expansions. The elementary schools, though, are in the worst condition of the four and expanding them again does not appear to be feasible.

Chandler Elementary was built in 1969 and expanded five times between 1977 and 1995. Brownsboro Elementary was built in 1968, and it was expanded four times between 1972 and 1995.

While the Chandler campus could expand again if it removes its playground area, Brownsboro Elementary cannot even do that. The school is situated between the district administration building and

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2nd phase begins on SilverLeaf

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CHANDLER — The second construction phase of a government-subsidized apartment community on Farm-to-Market Road 2010 is underway, and the first homes should be available for lease within the next four months, city administrator Jim Moffeit said.

"The first phase is 30 units, and the second phase is 44 units. The first 30 apartments should be ready by June of this year."

An \$8 million project,

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NEW ALIGNMENT



File Photo

The realignment of districts was announced Monday by the Texas University Interscholastic League. Brownsboro moved into District 17-3A for the next two school years. The new district also includes Athens, Rusk, Bullard and Chapel Hill. Story on Page 8.

Dozens nominated for annual chamber awards

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Chandler Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce officials have selected their awards recipients from a list of more than 45 nominees, Chairman Dennis Mack said.

"We're really pleased with the nominations. In the past, we've not received that many. It kind of puts you in a difficult position, because we had to come up with just one selection for each award."

Chamber committee members met for more than two hours Jan. 28 to review nominees for citizen of the year, firefighters of the year, police officers of the year, educator of the year, and business of the year.

The awards recipients will be announced Feb. 11 during the chamber's annual banquet.

"Many great people were nominated," Mack said. "They all were really worthy."

Joan Hallmark of KLTV 7 in Tyler is the scheduled speaker. She hosts the weekly "Proud of East Texas" and is the producer of "Freedom Fighters."

Hallmark has been with the news station for 30 years, having interviewed American presidents and other celebrities.

Danny's Smokehouse Bar-B-Q of Athens, a member of the chamber, will cater the event. A silent auction will also be featured

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Jobless rate surpasses 8 percent

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Henderson County's jobless rate surpassed the 8-percent mark for the seventh consecutive month, according to a report released by the Texas Workforce Commission.

December's rate of unemployment rang in at 8.5 percent, tying for the highest jobless mark with September and October during the seven-month run, and making it three of four months that recorded an 8.5 percent rate.

In June, the county hit 8.2 percent, starting the streak of above 8-percent unemployment for the area. TWC estimated 3,003 residents were without jobs.

CHANDLER ECONOMY

Negotiations advance in city's motel project

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The Chandler Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce has entered the engineering phase of negotiations in a deal to bring one of three national motel chains to the area.

"Everybody agrees it's going to be 50 to 100 rooms," chamber Chairman Dennis Mack said. "And the groups want it to have enough room to grow. We're looking at three properties."

Chandler officials insist a motel is needed inside the city limits to accommodate the tens of thousands who visit the city each year for its recreational and sporting

events. Furthermore, they say, economic development in west and south Tyler make it even more necessary to build a motel here.

"We're looking at the footprint," Mack said. "In addition to that, we're considering what amenities to include, such as a pool, meeting room, and restaurant."

Mack said the chamber is talking to three companies: Choice Hotels International, LaQuinta Inn & Suites, and Best Western International. Choice operates Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Comfort Suites, Clarion Hotel, Cambria Suites, MainStay Suites, Suburban

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Paul Bryant Photo

Chandler Brownsboro Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman Dennis Mack says officials have entered the engineering phase of negotiations between Choice Hotels International, LaQuinta Inn & Suites, and Best Western International. One of the three chains, the chamber anticipates, will build a 50- to 100-room motel in Chandler. Officials have declined to provide a date on when construction might begin. Above is Choice Hotel International's Sleep Inn in Tyler.



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