## School bond projects explained

by Dalan Lee

If Banks School District voters approve ballot Measure 34-182 on November 2, the first priority will be to renovate the Junior High school to meet building safety and educational mandates. In a recent state required seismic tolerance inspection, certain classrooms at the Junior High building failed to pass, as a result they are now closed to students. The Junior High construction recommendations adopted by the district include thirteen new general use classrooms, science classrooms, a stage, dedicated computer room, new library, another gymnasium, new locker rooms, additional restrooms and a collection of smaller renovations. After the Junior High is finished it will have enough space for the sixth grade students, which should alleviate overcrowding problems at the elementary school, which is slated to have emergency vehicle access if the Bond is passed.

Some High School plans include creating sixteen general use classrooms, a new staff room, library, cafeteria/commons room and special education rooms.

## All school buildings have some deteriorating mechanical issues such as heating, ventila-

tion and electrical, which could prove costly and hazardous in the future. Also poor energy in-

sulation throughout will become increasingly expensive See Projects on page 18

## Bond measure set for school projects

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outlined in the ballot measure. They may not be used for general operations, maintenance, salaries, etc. The repayment period for bond funds, 26 years in this case, doesn't start when they are approved, but when they are sold.

The projected cost to property-owners in the district was initially estimated at about \$1.70 per \$1,000 of assessed (not appraised value or market value) property value, or \$170 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. That amount was reduced when the district was approved for a "Qualified School Construction Bond", part of the federal stimulus fund which will allow \$15 million of the proposed bond to be repaid interest-free by providing private lenders with federal tax credits in lieu of interest. This will save district property taxpayers around \$22 million dollars over the twenty-six year repayment period, bringing the cost down to about \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$145 per \$100,000.

There will be "stake-outs" held at the high school cafeteria to inform voters on bond Measure 34-182 on Friday, October 8, at 2:00, 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. and another on Wednesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. Anyone wanting to know more about the proposed bond is encouraged to stop by.

