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**School** from 1A

The Mapleton meeting will include a self-guided tour of the high school, with questions being answered by school staff and board members.

"The goal of the first round of community meeting is to listen to what the community has to say and make the appropriate adjustments," Wilson said.

He added, "The fact that it is a one-campus school district is unique and important. There are similarities in the building architecture that are worth preserving."

**Photos** from 1A

His unique shots were used for the studio's publicity, and he was able to keep more than 250 sheets of the negatives.

From the "Steve Allen Show," Richard went to work for the "Della Reese Show" and "Queen for a Day Show." He was also hired by the studios to shoot events, celebrities and politicians around the greater area of Los Angeles.

The 40 photographs at Siuslaw Public Library include familiar faces like John Wayne, Vanessa Redgrave, Carol Burnett, Ronald Reagan, Regis Philbin and more.

"It's a real trip down memory lane for a lot of us," Alice said.

Colgan-Bennetts said, "The LaFonds have all these wonderful Hollywood stories. Richard can talk about what it was like with each of the folks that he photographed."

Her favorite story was one Richard told about comedian Bob Hope after Richard took his picture.

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**Bridge** from 1A

The noisiest activities are sandblasting and applying the zinc.

Residents have reported hearing loud popping noises coming from the construction zone. ODOT said the popping noise comes from reversing air through the filters that circulate and filter air for worker safety and environmental protection.

The construction crew is working early in the morning and continuing late at night in a nearly continuous operation of long shifts of preparation work, directly followed by long shifts of spraying zinc.

"Once the surface has been sandblasted clean, it is important to apply the zinc as soon as possible, before the surface becomes contaminated by particles landing on the clean concrete. This is crucial to ensuring the longevity of the zinc coating," said ODOT's public information officers.

The zinc coating is a cathodic protection system that relies on an electrical current that flows between the zinc coating and the steel within the bridge itself.

The report also said that construction crews are remaining on Bay Street longer than initially anticipated to ensure that the repair is done properly on the bridge, "a treasured icon of the central Oregon coast and a vital transportation link."

"ODOT is working hard to have Bay Street open to concurrent two-way traffic and with a very reduced contractor presence during the prime tourist season," the report said.

After this spring, work will move out onto the water and construction impacts to Bay Street will be significantly less.

To learn more about the Siuslaw Bridge Protection Project, go to www.siuslawbridge.com.

Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "We don't want to lose the fact that this is the Mapleton School District. We want this to look like the Mapleton School, not a school from a different district or city. We want to maintain that character."

In addition to the \$4 million state grant and the \$4 million to \$5 million proposed bond measure, the district may also be eligible for up to \$1.5 million in seismic upgrades for each of the two school buildings eligible for the state grant program.

The district's aquatic building and old middle school Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "We don't want to lose the fact that this is the Mapleton School District. We want this to look like the Mapleton School, not a school from a different district or city. We want to maintain that character."

As the LaFonds put up the photographs with Colgan-Bennetts, they remembered what it was like in Hollywood then.

"He's showing nothing but the classics," Colgan-Bennett said. "I think of many of these stars as heroes from my childhood."

Alice said, "There was a lot of history going on then. It was a combination of luminaries."

Alice had come to Hollywood to find work as a short-hand typist. Her agency directed her to Arwin Productions, where she got a job with Martin Melcher, husband to Doris Day, after impressing him with her spunk and typing skills.

"I worked for Doris Day for four and a half years as a typist and answering fan mail," she said.

Richard, meanwhile, worked with trucks, stunts, lithography and "a lot of adventurous things," Alice said.

ing and old middle school building do not qualify for any of the funds.

The last Mapleton school bond measure expired March 1, 1961. Mapleton has no operating levee or construction excise tax and has depended on state funding and grants to support the district.

The board will determine the amount of the general bond after the three community meetings.

"I feel like a \$4 million or \$5 million grant would best serve the community," O'Mara said.

The board will decide on the improvements to be included in

He got his original job at the "Steve Allen Show" when his friend, who worked on set, got sick. Richard filled in and soon was a permanent member of the production team.

"He was just 26 at the time, but they loved his work and hired him," Alice said.

Richard's work at the studio launched him into some of his other endeavors. However, it wasn't until he grew a beard that people started referring to him as "Mr. LaFond," instead of "Hey, kid."

Now, the LaFonds spend time on their individual art projects as they slow down, though they are still involved with various clubs and galleries along the coast.

"We're content to be in our house with our pets," Alice said.

Colgan-Bennetts hopes people head to the library to see the hanging portraits throughout the main room.

"It is a really rather impressive 'snapshot' of the golden

both grant figures at a Feb. 22 special meeting.

The board hopes to have bond goals and final figures determined after the second round of community meetings, to be scheduled for March or April.

The May 17 election may also include a bond measure from Siuslaw School District, which announced last week that it too was selected to receive a \$4 million state grant through the same program.

Both school districts must have voters approve the bonds to receive the state grants.

In other business, O'Mara

reported that Mapleton had received two additional grants, including one from Peace-Health Peace Harbor Medical Center to pay for a medical professional to travel to Mapleton one day per week.

"Now it is just a matter of time before we can provide those services on campus," she said.

Mapleton also received a \$15,000 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) grant from Nike. The funds will be used to send Mapleton teachers to AVID training centers during the summer.

age of television," she said.

"Everybody has fun in their lives. How we draw on our experiences and the people we know really shapes us," Alice said.

For the LaFonds, it is their

love that keeps them together, and their memories of days past.

For more information about Richard LaFond's work, go to www.lafondphotography.com.

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