

Upgrades from 1A

"We're connecting the roof to the walls and the walls to the concrete so it can't move off its foundation," Myers said.

Now, if an earthquake occurs, the buildings won't tip one way or another.

Another concern was the levels of lead that had been detected in one of the wings of the elementary school last summer. For several months at the beginning of the school year, the district capped off the water supply and provided bottled water for the students.

Now, there are no dangerously detectable lead levels in the pipes.

Safety won't be the only goal of the remodel as the faculty worked closely with the students on improvements. High school students requested a community room, which will be built in their building. The exits of the elementary build-

ings will lead into a courtyard for all grades to gather and mingle.

While the planning for the construction has taken time, the actual work has been occurring at a rapid pace. The last day of school was on June 14. By June 16, Mapleton staff had moved every piece of material into storage and construction began.

Just two weeks later, the campus is almost unrecognizable. With a crew of over 40 (and expanding by the day), walls have been torn out, floors have been pulled and roofs have been demolished.

Structural changes aren't the only improvements as the district is also installing broadband Internet, new computers, portable tablets and smart screens.

O'Mara believes all of these changes will create better chances for the students.

"These kids deserve every opportunity they can get, just like every other kid in every other community. It shouldn't matter that



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS
More than 40 people are working all summer to complete Mapleton's upgrades.

we're a rural community. It shouldn't matter what our poverty level is. For me, that's my goal. To make sure they have those opportunities," she said.

Mapleton School District has 39 days left to finish the project, but all involved are confident it will be done by then.



You can view the progress and constantly updated photographs on the Mapleton district's website, www.mapleton.k12.or.us on the Projects in Progress page under the "Bond" tab.



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\$175,000 BH7512 ML#17341506



NEW LISTING
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