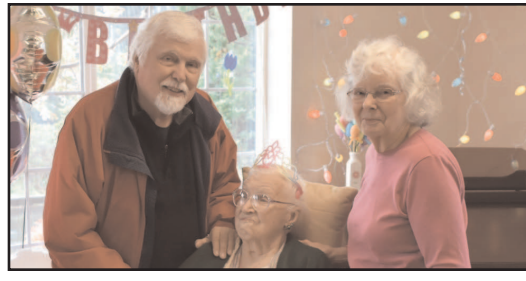




FLYING LEAP
SPORTS — B



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Easter Sunday, April 16

Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

PeaceHealth federal mediation makes minor progress

Both PeaceHealth and nurse representatives agree to continue round of talks

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

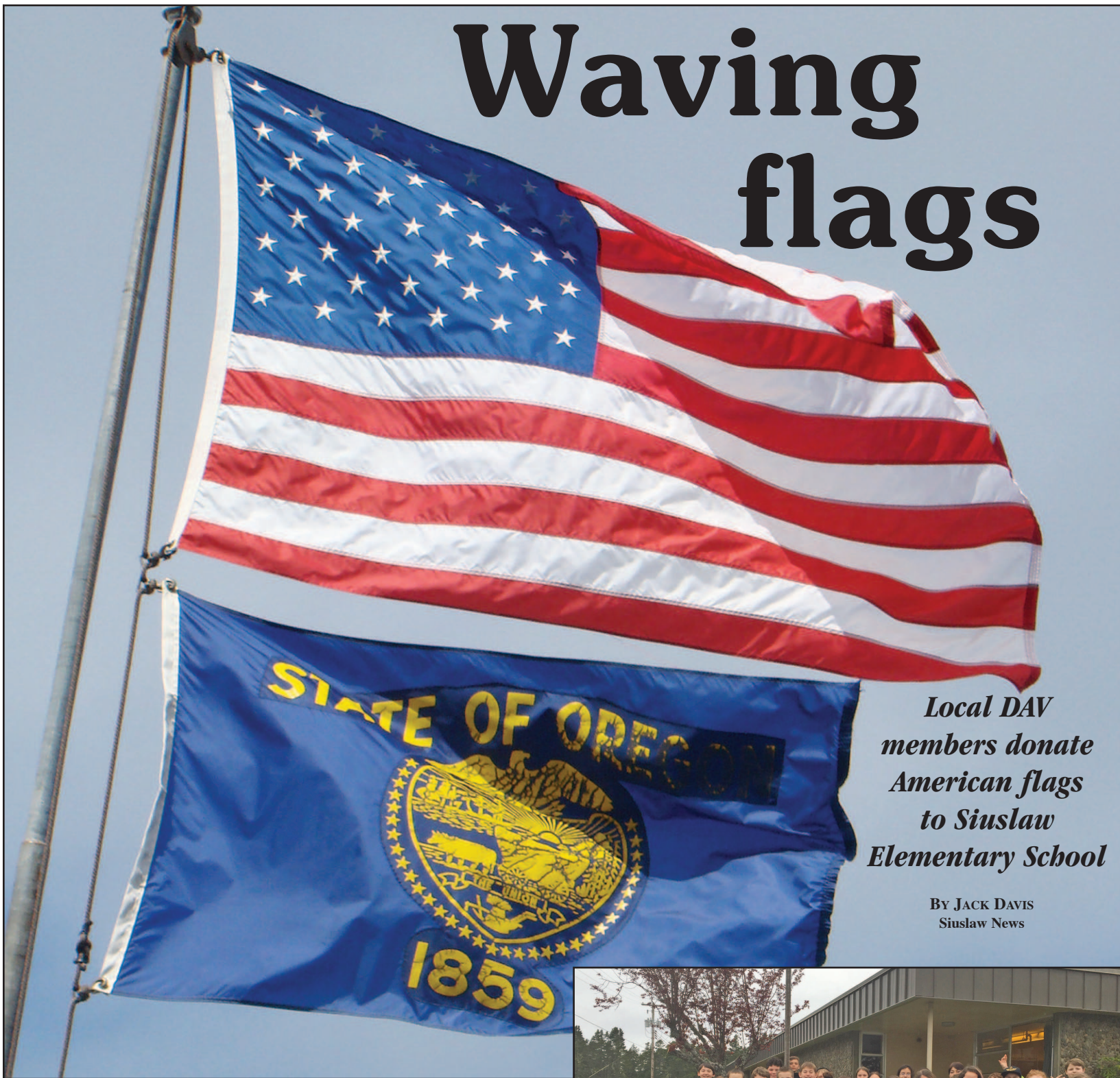
The first mediation session between PeaceHealth Medical Group and Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) representatives under Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service supervision, April 10, has had some success. Both sides acknowledged limited progress in the previously stalled negotiations.

A federal mediator was called in after six failed attempts at negotiating a new contract for the 75 nurses working currently without contract at Peace Harbor Medical Center. The previous contract expired Dec. 31 and a one-month extension lapsed Jan. 31. Mediation differs from face to face negotiations. The mediator meets separately with one side at a time, then

relays responses and recommendations to the other side in another room. ONA negotiator and Peace Harbor Registered Nurse Elaine Beers said, "Happily, there were small amounts of movement from PeaceHealth." An ONA negotiations update report stated, "The employer finally agreed to pay differentials comparable to the

prevailing standard in nearly all categories. We also agreed to language regarding the order of cancellation for low census, the availability of relief nurses (must be available for four scheduled shifts per month instead of the current three) and a clearer definition of preceptors."

See **MEDIATION 9A**



Waving flags

Local DAV members donate American flags to Siuslaw Elementary School

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Elementary School now proudly flies the American flag thanks to the efforts of second-grade teacher Kim Stokes and DAV Commander David Stitt (right, with Stoke's second-grade class).

Second-grade teacher Kim Stokes noticed something was missing when she started teaching at the school two years ago. There was no American flag on the flagpole. When she asked about this, she was told differing reasons as to why. "I was told the flag had gotten ripped. I was told the rope was too

frayed," Stokes said. She decided to do something about this. "I called the Florence Elks Lodge and they offered to donate a flag," Stokes said. Unbeknownst to Stokes, the Siuslaw Middle School had also requested a flag from the Elks. Signals got crossed and only one flag was ordered. When she tried to make arrangements to pick up



PHOTO BY JOHN STOKES

the flag she learned the middle school had already acquired the flag. Local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Commander David

Stitt learned of the flag problem through elementary school custodian and veteran Ken Hill.

See **FLAG 9A**

Dunes City addresses cannabis issue

Council members voice concerns, disappointment on inability to stop growers

The April 13 Dunes City Council meeting had full attendance for the first time this year, as Mayor Rebecca Ruede returned from an extended absence due to health concerns.

Ruede gavelled the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed the audience to the meeting.

The highlight of the first part of the meeting was the reading into the record a proclamation from the mayor designating May as Health and Fitness Awareness month in Dunes City. This coincides with the fourth annual Dunes City Triathlon, scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 13.

The council had a number of housekeeping items on their agenda.

One of these items was the decision by the council to authorize the added expenditure by the city to start live-streaming the council's meetings. This means the meetings will be available for viewers to watch on TV and via computer.

The council also approved the expenditure of \$500 to Darling's Marina to support its first Independence Day firework show. The event will be professionally staged and the cost is estimated to be \$5,000.

One agenda item drew councilors' particular attention as the evening progressed — the pending resolution to prohibit the cultivation, for sale to distributors, of cannabis within the boundaries of Dunes City.

There was public testimony on both sides of the issue.

After hearing the public statements, the council retired to executive session to decide the matter.

At the close of the lengthy executive session, Dunes City Council emerged and chose not to adopt the resolution to prohibit the cultivation of cannabis.

The councilors then proceeded to make short statements reiterating their disappointment at the city's inability to prevent the cultivation efforts.

Councilor Robert Orr said, "I think there are serious concerns with the growing of marijuana

See **DUNES CITY 11A**

Siuslaw School Board meeting draws large crowd

Attendees divided on 'Sanctuary' issue, which was not an agenda item

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The April 12 Siuslaw School District Board meeting convened precisely at 6:30 p.m. to a full house. The meeting had been moved from the district's main office to the library of the Siuslaw Elementary School to

accommodate the expected crowd, which was much larger than normal.

Most of the nearly 100 individuals in attendance were not students or parents of current students. They were community members that were on hand should the board consider adopting a new form of official

"Sanctuary" policy.

Those in attendance were concerned how any new regulation adopted might supercede or replace current state and federal policies governing the district.

While the discussion of these and other hot-button topics continued among the attendees before Thursday's board meet-

The Pledge of Allegiance was one of the few things the attendees at the April 12 Siuslaw School Board meeting actually agreed upon.

ing, the issue of "Sanctuary" was not on the board's agenda.

See **DISTRICT 11A**



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

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