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FOGHORN LIFTS OFF

Coast Guard removes signal due to severity of winter storms



PHOTO BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE

The U.S. Coast Guard removed the North Jetty sound signal earlier this week. The foghorn will be returned in the spring.

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

From late spring to early fall each year, residents near the Siuslaw River can hear the sound of a foghorn near the North Jetty. On Wednesday, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Coos Bay removed the foghorn sound signal.

"I found out this was happening when I watched the foghorn fly by my office window," said Senior Chief Tim Tregoning of the USCG Station Siuslaw River. Deborah Heldt Cordone, an area resident, has observed the yearly removal as long as she has lived on Siuslaw River. "I find the river activity so fascinating," she said. She photographed the event and added, "I'm so proud of our local 'Coasties.'" Tregoning said that the Siuslaw River North Jetty Sound Signal is maintained by ANT Coos Bay. It is one of four sound signals that the team services in 250 miles of coast line from Brookings to Depoe Bay. Besides maintaining sound signals, ANT Coos Bay is also responsible for ensuring channels are properly marked to promote safe navigation for commercial and recreational boating. ANT Coos

Bay collaborates with USCG Air Station North Bend to air lift sound signals along the coast. Boatswain's Mate First Class Joshua Williams, ANT Coos Bay executive petty officer, said, "The Siuslaw River North Jetty Sound Signal is a seasonal aid because of the treacherous conditions we encounter during the winters here. A permanently installed aid would not hold up to the abuse of breaking waves during the winter, and would be too dangerous for the technicians to service to keep it operational." According to Williams, ANT Coos Bay puts the signal into service around May 20 and takes it out of service around Oct. 1 of each year. "We have a window of about 20 days around Oct. 1 to do the light lift," Williams said. He added that ANT Coos Bay broadcasts when they do the lifts and will make sure people know when the signal is returned in May.

Port manager resigns

Forsythe says 37 of 41 goals accomplished as he heads into retirement

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw Manager Bob Forsythe submitted his resignation letter Sept. 23 to port board President Ron Caputo.



Bob Forsythe

Forsythe, 65, has been port manager since March 2012. At the time he accepted the position, he agreed to serve as manager for three to five years. "Bob was a great manager," Caputo said. "He saved the port a lot of money with his conscientious business practices. He will be missed." "I've been telling the board president that I wanted to leave before the end of the year and our personnel policy says that I have to give 90 days notice," Forsythe said. "The 90 days is today, if I want to be out of here by Christmas," he said Wednesday. When Forsythe took over the management of the port, he and the board developed a list of 41 goals to accomplish. "We have accomplished 37 of them," Forsythe said. "The last four are not financially ready to be done until we get more money, or sell some property." According to Forsythe, the port needs new, larger restrooms and showers located toward the center of the campground. It needs a new bulkhead to prevent erosion along the river. And the port needs to tear down the two blue indoor storage buildings and create a large pull-through space to accommodate RVs.

See PORT 9A

Real Food Co-op faces financial crisis

Co-op needs more members, volunteers to stay viable in the community

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Members of Real Food Co-op of Florence received a plea for help earlier this month from volunteer Joann Henderson, calling for volunteer support and additional participation in order to keep the doors open. "We need to bypass larger chain stores and give our business to the co-op whenever possible," Henderson wrote. "All of us have worked hard to have a co-op in Florence, and we thank you for the time you have given in the past. "If we can co-operate to meet this present challenge, we will carry our store through to a new, more vibrant existence and we truly will have made it

a co-operative." Real Food Co-op, at 1379 Rhododendron Drive, is a member-owned food cooperative that has operated in Florence for the past seven years. "Even though there is expanding interest, there are many new places to get natural and organic food," newly appointed interim manager Ian Crosby explained. "The challenge is declining sales. This is an industry-wide issue right now. The Kroger's, Whole Foods and Costcos all want a piece of the co-op natural and organic market." Real Food Co-op currently has almost 200 members who pay a one-time \$25 equity investment buy-in fee and a

\$25 annual fee to become co-op members/owners. In exchange, members receive an average 10 percent discount on all purchases. Volunteers currently work up to nine hours per month and receive from 5 to 15 percent additional food discounts, depending on how many hours per month they work. Co-op members account for approximately 75 percent of the co-op's revenues. The other 25 percent are drop-in shoppers. The co-op depends on volunteers to man the cash register and help with things like inventory in order to keep overhead down. "It is difficult for the smaller stores like Real Food Co-op to

be competitive with the larger chain stores," Crosby said. Many chain store "organic" products meet the minimum standards for the label. "In the higher-end organic produce and meats, we don't have the same products as the chain stores. Price-wise, we are comparing apples to oranges," Crosby said. "Our pasture-raised beef, pork, lamb and chicken comes from Knee Deep farms and Deck Family Farms." See FOOD 9A

Real Food Co-op interim manager Ian Crosby seeks to avert closure by recruiting more co-op members and volunteers.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

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