

Siuslaw News

P.O. Box 10

Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

A message from the Humane Society

On July 20, 2015, Barb Hall submitted her letter of resignation from the position of shelter manager for the Florence Area Humane Society (FAHS), stating that her last day would be Oct. 31, 2015. The FAHS board of directors decided it was in the best interest of FAHS to have her leave earlier. She was given full pay and benefits through Oct. 31.

Since then, many unfounded rumors have been circulating on social media and within our community.

We want you to know that FAHS is not becoming a “kill” facility, does not have a “kill

GUEST VIEWPOINT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FLORENCE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

list” and animals will not be euthanized after being at our shelter for three or four months. FAHS will not euthanize animals because of age, length of stay or to make space at the shelter.

Our membership and volunteer pools have declined steadily over the years. The shelter has exceeded its capacity. We currently have 176 cats and 24 dogs that we

are responsible for. Some of these animals have been at the shelter and in foster care for many years.

Even with the generous donations we receive from this community, these numbers are far more than this small organization can afford to care for. This leads to the need for change.

The board has every intention of fixing these problems

and revitalizing FAHS. Our hard-working shelter staff and dedicated volunteers are continuing to do a wonderful job caring for the animals at the shelter.

We are holding special adoption events and are in the process of contacting outside organizations asking for help placing the animals that are in our care.

The public is always welcome to attend board meetings and contact information for board members is published in our newsletters or can be obtained by calling the shelter at 541-997-4277.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Oct. 1, 1890, an act of Congress creates Yosemite National Park in California, home of Half Dome and giant sequoia trees. The act paved the way for generations of hikers, campers and nature lovers, along with countless “Don’t Feed the Bears” signs.
 - On Oct. 2, 1948, the first American road race since World War II takes place in Watkins Glen, New York. The New York Central railroad agreed to suspend train service for the afternoon so that the drivers could cross the tracks safely.
 - On Sept. 30, 1955, actor James Dean is killed in California when his Porsche hits a sedan. Rumor has it that Dean’s car was cursed. After the accident, the car rolled off the back of a truck and crushed the legs of a mechanic. When the parts were sold, the engine, transmission and tires were all transplanted into cars that were subsequently involved in deadly crashes.
 - On Sept. 28, 1960, at Boston’s Fenway Park, Red Sox star Ted Williams homers in the final at-bat of his 21-year career. After being booed by Red Sox fans early in his career, Williams swore never to tip his cap to the Boston fans. He never did.
 - On Oct. 4, 1970, singer Janis Joplin dies of an accidental heroin overdose at age 27. Joplin, who had a No. 1 hit with “Piece of My Heart,” was discovered in her Los Angeles hotel room after failing to show for a recording session.
 - On Sept. 29, 1982, cyanide-laced Tylenol kills six people in Chicago, leading to a nationwide recall. The culprit was never caught, but the mass murder led to new tamper-proof medicine containers.
 - On Oct. 3, 1990, less than one year after the destruction of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germany come together on what is known as “Unity Day.” Germany had been divided since 1945.
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VIEW FROM UPRIVER



Why the survival of our community food co-op matters

WESLEY VOTH

For the Siuslaw News

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. We look forward to working together to see our store through this process and to emerge as an even better and more responsive store for you and our community.”

The co-op is organized and operated on a not-for-profit basis, with bylaws and a board of directors. With 600 households on its membership rolls and open to shopping by non-members as well, the store had \$220,000 in revenue in 2014. While small, it has exerted considerable influence since opening at its current location on Rhododendron Drive just off Highway 101.

In the six-plus years that the co-op has been in operation, and maybe not entirely coincidentally, there has been a dramatic increase in organic offerings at Florence’s grocery chain stores and claims for locally sourced food, something that lagged here compared to Eugene locations of the same stores. More Florence restaurants now feature local food. The school has a garden. The co-op’s existence has meant that my food shopping happens primarily in Florence rather than Eugene. This is true for a number of other upriver folk as well.

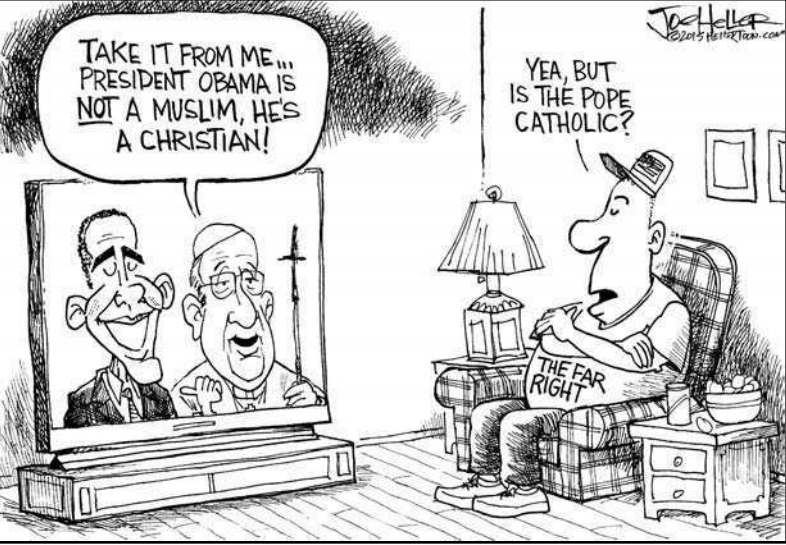
According to Bloomberg, Costco has

become the largest seller of organic products with \$4 billion a year (of \$114 billion annual sales), and Kroger, which owns Fred Meyer, is now a major player with \$1 billion (of \$100 billion annual). Many others are following suit, but none of that benefits Florence’s food sustainability. The grass-fed beef may well be from Argentina; the organic strawberries from Mexico.

The food co-op in Florence was started by and with an ongoing connection to area organic farmers, whose products not only bear a smaller carbon footprint, but are just superior. I joined at the beginning to support these farmers and because I wanted food as local and organic as possible, and for the rest of what I eat to be from sources and networks that are transparent and trustworthy. Learning in my mid-20s that I had serious food allergies, I have had to read ingredient lists most of my adult life.

I have learned the hard way that the food system in this country is an industry rife with obfuscation, misleading terms and closely guarded trade secrets. It is hard to keep up with the mergers and acquisitions among the food industry giants, but major companies including those that own organic labels contributed mightily to defeat GMO labelling here in Oregon, where they bought the “No on 92” vote last year, spending more than \$20 million in our state, or some \$27 a vote, to deny my right to know whether my food contains genetically modified ingredients. If I sound bitter about this, it’s because I am.

Real Food Co-op has been a bright light in the midst of all this; if you care about quality food and local food sustainability, please find



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer’s full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

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