

Bandon Currents: Face Rock Creamery cheese now at Freddy's

5 HOURS AGO • [AMY MOSS STRONG](#)

The news for Face Rock Creamery just keeps getting better. Last week, FRC president Greg Drobot announced that Fred Meyer will now be carrying the creamery's full line of cheeses at all of their 130 locations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

"This is a huge deal and we are all very excited to work with Fred Meyer," Drobot said.

FRC cheese is also in several Market of Choice stores in Eugene, at the Harry & David store in Medford, and in specialty stores in Portland, Roseburg, Seattle and Montana, but having its cheese in mainstream stores such as Fred Meyer is quite an accomplishment for such a young company. I hope it leads to additional jobs for Bandon as well.

Pay it forward

Sen. Jeff Merkley was in town Saturday for a quick visit and town hall meeting. I received the notice Thursday morning, so wasn't able to get it in the Bandon Western World or Coffee Break, other than a listing under Bandon Today, which was irritating because I knew many people wouldn't hear he was in town. Still, email must have gotten the word out because there were almost 75 people in attendance.

Merkley, who has a personable and approachable personality, touched on many topics, but one that resonated with me was the rising cost of college tuition. I am facing this again soon myself with my youngest daughter, who's a sophomore, and know that the cost of tuition, room and board can be beyond many people's reach without going into severe debt. I'm so grateful for the generous people in Bandon who give our children thousands of dollars each year to further their education. From Mike Keiser to the Sprague Foundation to The Ford Family Foundation, the Evans Foundation, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Elks, VFW, University Women and many more. And the schools themselves are extremely generous to the students that excel. In some cases, students can get most of their expenses paid through scholarships, but even the smaller scholarships help.

But what about those students who aren't at the top of their class or those who don't know yet what they want to do, but who want to gain skills through community college or some type of trade school? Federal grant money is available, as well as guaranteed student loans. But Merkley mentioned a "pay it forward" plan that could really work. A student would receive a loan with the promise that he or she would pay it back based on a percentage of future earnings. It could get complicated, but it's an idea that might open the door of opportunity for many people.

Medical facilities expanding

I thought it was interesting that both Southern Coos Hospital and the Bandon Community Health Center announced on the same day that they would be expanding their spaces. BCHC

will move into the Bandon Professional Center, in the space formerly occupied by the VA Clinic. The building is now owned by local attorney Robert S. Miller III. The space is much larger and more conducive to a medical office than the building BCHC currently occupies, and will allow them to expand their services to the community.

Meanwhile, Southern Coos Hospital will soon install a 5,500-square-foot manufactured building for its Outpatient Specialty Clinic and hopes to also offer expanded services, plus house offices for the new surgeon, Dr. Montana, and is searching for an additional physician to move to the area.

It's a good sign that both medical facilities are growing and meeting the demands of our community, which contains a high percentage of older residents who have specific health concerns. Additional or expanded medical services can only be a benefit to current residents, and will surely be a draw to those who might not have located here previously because they couldn't get their medical needs met.

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