



THE COOP *Spoonful*

A bi-monthly publication for members of the Olympia Food Co-op and its surrounding communities

March 14-April 3, 2018

Local Savings **BLACK HILLS ORGANIC** *Microgreens*

Black Hills Microgreens owner Karl Schaffner is originally from Landshut, Germany, and now lives in the Black Hills west of Olympia. Within the greenhouses at Black Hills Organic Microgreens, grow a wide variety of carefully tended sprouts that pack up to 40 times the vitamin concentration of fully grown vegetation. The Co-op carries Sunflower Shoots, Pea Shoots, Broccoli, and Arugula



Microgreens, as well as Spicy, Mild, Radish and Red Mixes! Enjoy 50 cents off any selection of these delicate nutritional powerhouses! ■



FARMWORKER AWARENESS WEEK MARCH 24-31, 2018



image courtesy SAF alum Tony Macias

“Every time we sit at a table to enjoy the fruits and grain and vegetables from our good Earth, remember that they come from the work of men and women and children who have been exploited for generations.”
—Cesar Chavez, Co-Founder, United Farm Workers

Our most vital workforce does hard labor for long days, suffer low wages, and are often invisible to consumers. They handle toxic chemicals and dangerous equipment. The percent of farmworker families living in poverty is nearly double that of other working families in the US. Farmworkers were

Farmworker Awareness Week continued on back

CO-OP LOCAL COUPON

50¢ OFF



good for 50¢ off any
**BLACK HILLS ORGANIC
MICROGREENS**
(one per visit)
Valid thru 4-3-18



excluded from the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which protects workers acting collectively to form unions.

Myth Busting: From the Fact Sheet published by Farmworker Ministry Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches

Not all immigrants are farmworkers, and not all farmworkers are immigrants. Our agricultural system has always relied on the labor of displaced people that do not have the benefit of full citizenship in this country -- whether indentured servants, slaves, sharecroppers, or undocumented immigrants. Sixty-eight percent of US farmworkers were born in Mexico.

MYTH: Immigrant farmworkers do not pay taxes.

FACT: Immigrant farmworkers pay the same sales, real estate, and consumer taxes as all United States residents. The US Social Security Administration has estimated that three out of four undocumented immigrants pay payroll taxes, and that they contribute six to seven billion dollars in Social Security funds that they are not able to claim. During their lifetime, immigrants will pay an average of \$80,000 more per capita in taxes than they will use in government services.

MYTH: Immigrant farmworkers come to the United States to get welfare.

FACT: Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, and most other public benefits. Even though over 30% of farmworker families live in poverty, less than 10% use food stamps and under one percent use general assistance welfare.

Many farmworkers, immigrant workers, and advocates have called for a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, reunification for families separated by international borders, and the right to advocate for improved wages and working conditions.

Look for more farmworker myth busting in the next edition of the Co-op Spoonful. **GET INVOLVED!** Visit Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) at www.saf-unite.org



CO-OP DEFENDANTS HAVE THEIR DAY IN COURT

On Wednesday, March 9th, a Washington State court dismissed the lawsuit brought against the Olympia Food Co-op's then voluntary Board of Directors, over their decision to boycott Israeli goods -- in protest of the government's ongoing violation of Palestinian human rights.

The case was filed in 2011, and then dismissed under a Washington statute which outlawed SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.) The SLAPP statute was struck down in 2015, so the case went back to court. On Wednesday, the court granted the defense's motion for summary judgment, because the plaintiffs, (three of the five Co-op members who originally brought the suit), had failed to demonstrate that the boycott had injured the Co-op. "We are proud of our attorney team, and proud of our community for supporting us, and we are grateful for the outpouring of solidarity we've received from around the world," said Grace Cox, defendant and long-time Co-op staff member.

Maria LaHood, Deputy Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, who argued for the Co-op, announced, "We are pleased that the court has dismissed this meritless lawsuit. It is a relief and a vindication for our clients, and a victory for everyone who supports the right to boycott."

PACIFIC CROSSWALK FOR EASTSIDE STORE

We are relieved to announce that The City of Olympia will be constructing ADA accessible pedestrian crossings at the intersections of Pacific Avenue & Devoe Street and Pacific Avenue & Landsdale Road for safer access to the Olympia Food Co-op's East side location!



Construction began Monday, March 12 and will be complete the end of April, 2018. Travelers should expect lane restrictions, driveway disruptions and traffic delays during construction. Flaggers will direct motorists and pedestrians through the construction.

WELCOME BACK EION!

Eion is gaining strength, laughing and joking, working floor shifts, packaging cheeses, and organizing the Co-op Archives. We are elated to have our colleague back in service after his recent illness. We're celebrating every day!

