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Q-C company buys Mama Bosso Pizza

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American Food Styles LLC has bought the assets of RCM Smith Inc., manufacturers of Rock Island-based Mama Bosso Pizza, and plans to hire 24 new employees in the next two years.

AFS founder Scott Florence, of Bettendorf, said the company dedicated to owning, consulting and buying food brands focused on authentic food styles.

"Ninety-five percent of Americans eat pizza once a week, and frozen pizza is especially popular here in the upper Midwest," said Mr. Florence, who is keeping the pizza recipe while expanding to new markets.

"Our plans are to hire 24 new employees in the next 24 months, bringing our workforce to 36. We're also looking at upgrading packaging and adding new varieties of pizza including Mexican, barbecue chicken and Hawaiian flavors."

Mama Bosso Pizza founder John Bosso originally served homemade pizza to the patrons of his Moline restaurant / tavern, which he ran from 1962-1980. He started a carryout/delivery business in 1985, and with his daughters Tracey and Mary added the frozen pizza business in 1987. After 16 years the Bosso family sold the business in 2003 to Randy and Christine Smith of RCM Smith Inc.

RCM Smith expanded distribution west to Des Moines and north into Wisconsin.

AFS obtained capital investment financing through the Bi-State Regional Commission and Rock Island's Commercial Industrial Revolving Loan Fund and Quad City Bank & Trust.

Before founding AFS, Mr. Florence was president and CEO of Hill & Valley Bakery Co. (formerly Nancy's Pies) and has extensive food manufacturing experience.

PHOTOS



Photo: submitted
 Scott Florence, owner of American Food Styles LLC, which recently bought Mama Bosso Pizza.

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Posted by **ReedMyLips** from **Geneseo** at 7:20AM on Thursday, 8/30/12

I used to eat, at the Bosso restaurant, before it closed, and Mama Bosso would turnover in her grave if she tasted the frozen pizza that they're marketing, under her name.

Posted by **Auggie** from **Rock Island** at 7:36AM on Friday, 8/31/12

So, HE built it... with government grants and loans. As did so many others.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 5, the 340th day of 2012. There are 26 days left in the year.
1862 -- 150 years ago: Men are engaged in cutting up the old wreck of the Grey Eagle. We hope it will all be removed before the river closes

for the winter.
1887 -- 125 years ago: Charles Dickens, son of the English novelist of that name, will visit Moline soon after Christmas to see the grave of his brother, Francis Jeffrey Dickens, who is buried in Riverside Cemetery.
1912 -- 100 years ago: Robert G. Hudson was named senior warden and R. H. Dart, junior warden, in last night's election for Trinity Episcopal parish.
1937 -- 75 years ago: A high school popularity contest has been won by Miss Shirley Hallgren and Richard Hainline.
1962 -- 50 years ago: The Moline City Council voted last night to have free parking indowntown Moline on Dec. 21, 22 and 24, and heard a letter of rebuttal against critical comments made about the retail division of the Association of Commerce last week.
1987 -- 25 years ago: More Moline High School students think their friends are using drugs or alcohol than the number of students actually admitting use, according to results of a survey on drug use and student attitudes taken last month.

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