

## FSA livestock disaster program deadlines

Oregon USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Lynn Voigt reminds eligible ranchers and livestock producers who had livestock losses or grazing losses during the 2011 crop year that the deadline for applying for benefits under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is Jan. 30, 2012.

"It is imperative that producers meet the deadline for disaster assistance since there are no late file provisions for LFP and ELAP," said Voigt. "To insure a smooth application process, producers should have all required supporting documentation with them at the time they apply for benefits," he said.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire that occurred before Oct. 1, 2011. The National Drought Monitor index of drought level severity qualifies a county for producer

eligibility. Fire losses apply only to federally-managed rangeland. Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires that occurred before Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other disaster assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Producers who experienced livestock death losses must file a notice of loss 30 days after the loss is apparent, but no later than Dec. 29, 2011. Producers who suffered livestock grazing and feed losses must have filed a notice of loss no later than Oct. 31, 2011 and have until Jan. 30, 2012, to submit an application for payment for livestock death losses and

livestock grazing and feed losses.

In order to qualify for LFP and ELAP, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance-Rainfall Index for Grazing (PRF-RI) program offered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR).

Program applicants should note that certain payment limitation and adjusted gross income eligibility requirements must be met in order to qualify for LFP and ELAP.

For more information on FSA's livestock disaster assistance programs, contact the nearest county USDA Service Center. Information can also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Farmers and ranchers urged to vote in committee elections

The 2011 FSA county committee elections will begin November 4 with the USDA mailing ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is December 5.

"The role and input of our county committee members is more vital than ever at a time when our country faces important choices regarding the funding and operation of our government," said FSA administrator Bruce Nelson. "New county committee members provide input and make important decisions

on the local administration of disaster and conservation programs."

County committee members provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees

operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be eligible voters, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots from their local USDA service center. December 5 is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA service centers. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than December 5. Committee members will take office January 1, 2012.

## McCabe team member awarded Bronze Star

Reprinted from America's North Shore Journal. Story by Sgt. Marcy Sanchez.

A Marine with I Marine Expeditionary Force, Cpl. Zachary D. Byron, received a Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device during an awards ceremony on May 20. Byron served as a member of Heppner man Sgt. Michael McCabe's team in Afghanistan.

Byron, a Pashto linguist currently assigned to 1st Radio Battalion, was presented the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for actions while serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in November 2010.

Byron's squad was caught in an enemy ambush in the vicinity of Durzay, Afghanistan located in southern Helmand province.

"You can never simulate that kind of environment ever again," said Byron, from Marion, N.Y. "It was a wakeup call for all of us. When the guy in front of me got hit I couldn't see him, but I heard him yelling. I immediately got up and moved toward him."

Byron, 23, was shot in the wrist and thigh as he tried to render aid on the injured Marine in front of him.

"When I got shot in my leg everything kind of stopped," Byron said. "I got a feeling of straight fear—fear that things were going



Cpl. Zachary Byron (L) and Sgt. Michael McCabe (R). Byron requested that McCabe pin his bronze star on him at the ceremony in front of the entire battalion. Afghanistan was McCabe's third deployment; he had served two tours of duty in Iraq. —Contributed photo

to get a lot worse."

As he fell in and out of consciousness from blood loss, he continued to translate enemy communications, allowing the squad to avert another assault.

"I had a sense of loyalty to my job and my troops to make sure I didn't fail them," Byron said.

Sgt. Maj. Albert Diaz, the sergeant major of 1st Radio Bn., complimented Byron's humbling personality and wasn't surprised to hear of his heroic actions.

"He is always going out of his way to help somebody," Diaz said. "He is always sought out for advice."

Sgt. Michael J. McCabe said the Bronze Star is well deserved and is wit-

ness to Byron's outstanding performance.

"He's very selfless when it comes to his job and accomplishing his tasks," said McCabe, a team trainer with Headquarters and Support Company, 1st Radio Bn., who served as Byron's team leader in Afghanistan. "I don't think there's enough you can say about his performance. He's by far the best Marine I've ever worked with."

"It's a great honor, not just for me, but for 1st Radio Bn.," Byron said. "There were a lot of Marines in the squad whose actions encouraged me to push on."

The Bronze Star is the fourth highest award received for combat actions in the U.S. Armed Forces.

## TECHNOLOGY GRANT

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—approved a wrestling cooperative sponsorship between Ione High School and Heppner High School.

—approved resolutions to accept \$2,075 in unappropriated funds donated by the Alliance for Community Traffic Safety in Oregon and adjust the budget.

—received the following attendance report as of Nov. 1: A.C. Houghton Elementary School-271; Heppner Elementary School-188; Heppner High School-187; Irrigon Elementary School-216; Irrigon High School-342; Riverside High School-416; Sam Boardman Elementary-315; Windy River El-

ementary-205; Morrow Education Center (MCS D students)-41; Morrow Education Center (Umatilla School District students)-16; total-2,197.

—received the following employment report: retirements-Karen Clough, Heppner Elementary School teacher, to finish the academic year; John Sebastian, A.C. Houghton Elementary School principal, to finish the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years; Rose Sebastian, Sam Boardman Elementary School Title I teacher, to finish the school year. Extra duty resignations-Blaine Ganvoa, Irrigon Junior High School assistant boys' basketball coach; Jason Palmer, Hep-

ner High School assistant track coach. Employment-Cristela Olson, Irrigon Elementary School ed assistant; John Thompson, Irrigon Elementary/Morrow Education Center assistant custodian; Susan Reagan, Windy River Elementary assistant cook. Extra duty contracts-Jeremy LaFramboise and Tyler Barrie, both RHS assistant boys' basketball coaches.

—heard the following announcements: Thanksgiving holiday-November 24-25; next board meeting-December 12, Irrigon Elementary, 7 p.m.; last day of school for students and staff-December 16; Christmas break-December 19-January 2.

## South Morrow represents at state championships

By Zech Hintz

Last weekend Morrow County was represented well at the State Volleyball 1A/2A Finals, hosted at Pacific University in Forest Grove, by both the Heppner Mustangs and the Ione Cardinals.

The Mustangs started the weekend with a win over North Douglas in five sets, 3-2. The Cardinals followed that up with a win in the afternoon against Adrian in four. These successes gave both teams the advancement into the

semi-finals.

Heppner was up first with a tough match against the number-one ranked team in the state, Days Creek. Losing 3-0 was a tough blow for the Mustangs and put them in a finals match against Reedsport the next day to determine 3rd/5th place. Ione faced off with the Hosanna Christian Lions in the semi-finals taking the win 3-0 and advancing them into the championship finals.

The Mustangs seemed to come onto the

court with a new-found energy after their loss the day before. In a tough fight against Reedsport, they came up short 3-1 taking 5th place. That night the Ione Cardinals played what some could say was the toughest game of the year, going head-to-head with Powder Valley. The Lady Cardinals did not disappoint, and came out on top to win the championship in 5 sets taking 1st place.

Congratulations to both the Mustangs and the Cardinals. You did it.

# Design Our Parade Float!

The Winner Will Get Their Name On The Float And \$100!

Float Design Contest is open to anyone.

The float will be featured in the December 15th holiday parade in downtown Heppner.

To enter, draw a picture of your float idea and a paragraph describing it, keeping in mind that there are just four people putting it together and that the cost of supplies should not exceed \$200.

Turn your entry into the Heppner Branch of Community Bank

by November 30th before 5:30 PM.

Winner will be selected by a judge outside of the bank.

Come join us for cookies and punch and the chance to win some door prizes at our Open House on December 1st from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

Parade Float Contest Winner will be announced at 5:30 PM.



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MORROW COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS. SOUTH END 57185 HWY 74, LEXINGTON AND NORTH END 69900 FRONTAGE LN, BOARDMAN. WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS SAT. AND SUN. DECEMBER 24 AND 25, 2011

SUNDAY JANUARY 1, 2012

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IT ALLOWS OUR ATTENDANTS TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS 541-989-9500.