

Emergency Conservation Program sign-ups available now

A lack of moisture over an extended period of time has caused producers in Morrow County to suffer from the effects of severe drought conditions. Farms and ranches experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under ECP. This disaster program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA), which provides cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock or orchards and

vineyards has been reduced below normal to the extent that neither can survive without additional water. A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost shares not to exceed 50 percent of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on 75 percent of the total eligible cost. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per natural disaster. Approved practices and measures may include:

- installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water or existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards;
 - constructing and deepening wells for livestock water; and
 - developing springs or seeps for livestock water.
- Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water may contact the local FSA county office. Requests for assistance will be accepted at Morrow FSA

county office from now until Oct. 1. To be eligible for cost shares, practices shall not be started until a request has first been filed at the FSA County Office and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by COC or its representative. COC will review the inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares. To obtain additional program information or to schedule an appointment to file a cost-share application, contact the county office at 541-676-9011.

ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston hiring event at SAGE Center

Boardman West Plant hiring for multiple positions at Sept. 11 event

BOARDMAN—Job opportunities with ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston in Boardman will be available at a Sept. 11 hiring event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. ConAgra Foods is hiring at the Boardman West Lamb Weston potato plant for positions including

general laborers, lift truck operators, packaging operators, and several backup positions. ConAgra Foods asks event attendees to come interview-ready with a résumé. Interested parties also need to apply online at www.conagrafoodscares.com.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selects Mary Abrams as new supervisor for Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office

Editor's Note: Mary Abrams grew up in Heppner, the daughter of the late Bob and Marion Abrams of Heppner.

PORTLAND, OR—Long-time natural resources manager Mary Abrams has been named Supervisor for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office in the Pacific Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Abrams succeeds Loyal Mehrhoff, who retired from federal service.



Mary Abrams

Abrams has a strong background in science, policy and international work. She is currently Director for the Oregon Department of State Lands, which plays a significant role in the state's natural resources management. In addition to management decisions for about 750,000 acres of forest, range, agricultural and commercial trust lands, Abrams also oversees more than 1 million acres of navigable and tidally influenced

waterways. "Hawaii and the Pacific Islands are vital for the conservation of wildlife in the Pacific Region," said Robyn Thorson, Pacific Region Director. "The Service, our partners and the public will benefit from Mary's proven leadership skills and cooperative approach to conservation. Mary played a vital role in protecting habitat throughout Oregon, and I'm confident that experience will translate to working with public and private lands in the Pacific Islands."

Abrams will assume her new duties on November 2, 2015. Based in Honolulu, this 90-person staff manages complex natural resource issues throughout the Pacific Islands, which includes Hawaii, America Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office's

core responsibilities include species conservation and recovery, private lands and conservation partnerships, listing and classification of endangered species, federal agency assistance and consultation, and the assessment of contaminants on natural resources. "The opportunity to lead the Oregon Department of State Lands over the past three years has been richly rewarding. It has been an honor to serve the people of Oregon," Abrams said. "The opportunity to contribute to the Service's important work in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Islands will, without doubt, be equally rewarding and challenging. I look forward to developing a strong partnership with state and federal agencies, partners and the public to address the conservation challenges facing Hawaii and the Pacific Islands."

Prior to her position as Director for Oregon Department of State Lands,

Abrams worked internationally, serving as Country Director for U.S. Peace Corps in Niger, Rwanda and Zambia. She was also Division Administrator and Senior Water Quality Specialist for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, as well as an Environmental Manager for the City of Portland. Abrams also served on the faculty of the Oregon Graduate Institute where her research topics included non-point source impacts on water quality and soil/plant interactions.

Abrams has doctorate and master's degrees in soil science from the University of California, Davis. She earned her bachelor's degree in agronomy and plant genetics from the University of Arizona.

Abrams and her husband, Gary Cramer, currently live in Portland, OR, and enjoy traveling, hiking, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Sheriff's Report

July 30: -A flying service reported an overdue aircraft, flying from Vancouver, WA to Richland, WA that might have diverted to the local area, and requested Morrow County Sheriff's Office check at the Boardman and Lexington airports. The aircraft was located in its hangar at home base.

-A caller in Irrigon reported that there were people on the refuge, walking toward town on the burned area, who were screaming and yelling; the caller gave a description of the couple's clothing. MCSO responded and arrested Leobardo Jacques III, 39, for Violation of Restraining Order and Violation of No Contact Release Agreement, as well as on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear on Harassment. The subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with no bail.

-A caller reported a motorcycle wreck on I-84 East, Boardman. The caller did not stop but reported a man and a motorcycle on the bank. MCSO, Boardman PD, Boardman fire, Boardman ambulance and Oregon State Police all responded. One individual was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center.

-A female in Irrigon advised she was on her front porch and her uncle rode by and called names and threatened violence against the female and her family. She advised there was a restraining order in place.

-A caller advised MCSO that there was a red vehicle and someone looking for something along the side of the road, and

they requested the police be called. The caller called back and stated that someone burned the sister of the person in the car with acid and the sister jumped out of the vehicle onto the side of the road. MCSO responded and transported the subject to Good Shepherd.

-A male in Lexington stated his dog was just attacked by another dog; his dog was torn up and wouldn't come to him because it was so skittish. The caller requested phone contact.

-A female in Heppner advised her elderly mother was incoherent but breathing; it had started about three hours ago. Heppner ambulance responded and the patient was transported.

July 31: -A female advised Morrow County Sheriff's office that she was in a motor vehicle accident near Les Schwab's in Heppner and requested deputy contact. She advised that the other driver was still there. MCSO responded and made contact with all involved.

-A male advised MCSO that the neighbors of his rental property in Heppner could smell meth. The caller said he believed it was highly explosive and he would like a deputy to check into it. Deputy advised he was in the area and did not smell anything out of the ordinary.

-A caller advised there was a black, extended cab pickup running all over Hwy. 74 near Heppner, possible drunk driver, swerving and speeding up and slowing down. The caller called back and advised the vehicle was headed toward

Ione. MCSO responded and made contact with the caller and located the vehicle.

-A female in Heppner reported that another female was intoxicated and yelling in her face. She advised the female took off running between houses while the caller was on the phone. MCSO responded and determined no crime had been committed.

-MCSO advised that the major crime team was activated for Milton-Free-water.

-MCSO received a report that a female had run into the bridge on Quaid St. in Heppner. Katy Leigh Arnsperger was cited and released for DUII, .15 blood alcohol content, and failure to drive within lane.

August 1: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office was advised by a subject that he was exceeding the speed limit in order to get a patient in pain to St. Anthony. Dispatch advised the subject that he could pull over and they could send an ambulance, but the caller wanted to drive straight through. Oregon State Police was also advised.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police, Gilliam County and Arlington Ambulance responded to a motorcycle accident on I-84 eastbound between Boardman and Arlington, involving two bikes, with three people down and injured. MCSO was cleared once OSP arrived on the scene.

-A resident in Irrigon advised MCSO that a male subject was at the residence and harassing them. The caller advised that the male duct taped signs to the windows and was refusing to

leave. He had been asked to leave several times. While the caller was on the line with dispatch, the subject left in a Suburban pulling a boat. Caller advised there was a restraining order but the subject contested it and the judge dropped it. The caller was worried he would come back and requested deputy contact. The subject was trespassed from two locations.

-MCSO escorted a subject off Bucknum's property in Heppner.

August 2: -A Morrow County Sheriff's deputy advised he was out with a male who was urinating behind Bucknum's in Heppner. The male was warned for offensive littering.

-MCSO was advised of a car on fire in Boardman. The caller did not know how or why the car caught on fire since it was not working and was just sitting parked in the grass. MCSO, Boardman fire and Boardman ambulance responded.

-A female in Irrigon advised MCSO that a male subject was beating up a female two houses down. She stated she could hear the male hitting the female; she was unsure who lived there, but the female was screaming. MCSO and Boardman PD responded and determined it was verbal only and that no crime had been committed.

-MCSO responded to a complaint about a 16-year-old female in Irrigon getting physical with family members and acting irate. MCSO responded and determined no crime had been committed.

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Chamber Chatter

Thursday, Sept. 10 – 2 p.m. "safeTALK" Community Training – Christian Life Center: safeTALK is a three-hour training program that prepares helpers to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first-aid resources. Most people with thoughts of suicide, either directly or indirectly, invite help to stay safe. Alert helpers know how to identify and work with these opportunities to help protect life. Powerful videos illustrate both non-alert and alert responses. Discussion and practice stimulate learning. This training is open to anyone 15 years of age and older. For further questions or to confirm attendance, call Sam Fisher at 541-256-0692.

Friday, Sept. 18 – 9 a.m.—Morrow County Veterans Services Town Hall: Topics related to safety concerns for veterans and seniors will be discussed. To confirm your attendance, please pre-register by calling 541-922-6420. Public welcome, most topics will pertain to veterans, some information may apply to all seniors.

Monday, Sept. 21 – 7 p.m. – Senator Bill Hansell Town Hall – Heppner City Hall Conference Room: Sen. Bill Hansell will be talking about the legislative session as a whole, legislation that was passed that will affect Eastern Oregon and his plans for the fol-

lowing session, and will hear issues that citizens are interested in.

Saturday, Oct. 2 – 5:30-8 p.m. – Domestic Violence Services Annual Soup Bowl Supper and Silent Auction – Pendleton Convention Center: Support a fundraiser by Domestic Violence Services – Cost is \$25 per person and enjoy delectable soups, appetizers and more and keep the soup bowl. For reservations or to donate to their silent auction, please call 541-276-3322 or visit www.domesticviolenceservices-or.org.

Saturday, Oct. 3 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Second Annual Morrow County Harvest Festival – The SAGE Center, Boardman: Local vendors come together to offer a lot of selection with homemade or home grown items to sell. Come shop local produce, arts and crafts vendors, taste local beer and wine. There will be horse and buggy rides, pumpkin painting, a mini horse petting zoo and more. The event is free and is a family-friendly event, check out the SAGE Center exhibits too.

Saturday, Oct. 10 – Heppner Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction – Heppner Elks Lodge: Hold the date and plan on coming out and getting a great dinner and bidding on some great ideas that have been donated. More information to be provided at a later date.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Cody Edward Rankin, 25, was convicted of two counts of Recklessly Endangering another Person, a Class A misdemeanor, and sentenced on each count to 90 days driver's license suspension. Of the 180 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 24 months bench probation, to include 10 days jail time with credit for time served, to be served consecutively, and no contact with the victims.

Rankin was additionally convicted of a count of Criminal Mischief II, a Class A misdemeanor. Execution of the sentence of 180 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 24 months bench probation, to include no contact with the victim.

Additional counts of Menacing and Reckless Driving were disposed without conviction. Fines, fees, assessments and restitution totaled \$500.

-Darrell Dwight Rollins, 48, was convicted of two counts of Theft II, a Class A misdemeanor; execution of the sentence of 180 days jail time for each charge was suspended and

the defendant sentenced to three years bench probation, to include 30 hours of community service per count and no contact with the victims.

Additional counts of Theft I were disposed without conviction. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$300.

-Brandon James Vaughan, 33, was convicted of Harassment, a Class B misdemeanor; of the sentence of 90 days jail time, 87 days jail time was suspended and the defendant sentenced to 24 months bench probation, to include 30 hours of community service, with contact with the victim governed by court documents. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$600.

-Howard Floyd Bancroft, 48, was convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance II, a Class C felony, and sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, subject to 90 sanction units with 30 jail units, to include 80 hours of community service, with license suspension to be reserved for later sanctioning of probation violations.

An additional count of Disorderly Conduct was disposed without conviction. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$673.