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## Grieb wins 1993 conservation farm



Ken, Virginia and Geri (front) Grieb

Photo by Joyce Hughes

The 1993 Morrow County Wheat League Conservation Farm of the Year was awarded to Grieb Farms, Inc. of Lexington according to Doug Drake, Morrow County Wheat League president. The announcement was made at the spring meeting held Tuesday night, April 20 in Ione. A tour to honor the Grieb Farm is planned for June.

Grieb Farms, Inc. consists of owners Virginia, Ken, Geri Grieb and Julie Grieb Weimar. The Grieb farm 3,550 acres with 1,280 acres supplemental irrigated, 320 acres dryland, 1,610 acres in fallow, and 340 acres in perennial grass cover. The majority of the farm is in wheat/fallow rotation with 100 percent in winter wheat (Stephens and Madsen).

The Grieb property was acquired in the north Lexington area in 1947 by Bert and Gertie Grieb. Today the land is farmed by Grieb Land Co., a partnership of Ken and Geri, the third generation on the farm. The Grieb have one employee, Audomaro Victorio, who has been with them for 11 years.

Although the farm is not deemed "highly erodible", the Grieb are conservation minded and believe in keeping the soil in its most productive state. The principal conservation concern for the farm is wind erosion. For this reason the Grieb maintain an excess of 1,500 pounds of straw mulch cover. They also planted 340 acres in perennial grass cover (crested wheat) that are not in the Conservation Reserve Program. The Natural Gas Pipeline Co.

has just recently completed going across 38 acres of the Grieb Farm. Despite replacement of the topsoil by pipeline contractors, the Grieb will have to stabilize the disturbed soil. They will spring seed wheat on 31 acres and utilize Soil Conservation Service technology of "hydro seeding" on the perennial grass acreage.

The farming operation starts with a spring application of "RoundUp" to 1,600 acres of fallow ground to reduce tillage operations and to conserve moisture in the ground. Next a disk tillage is used for heavy straw incorporation. The ground is then chisel plowed, and followed by successive rod-weeding to control weeds and to maintain surface straw cover. Fertilizer is applied just before planting each fall.

After harvest the stubble is disked lightly to manage heavy straw. Virginia Grieb says that conservation practices used on the farm since 1947 have been instrumental in maintaining high crop yield and good control of soil erosion.

Supplemental crop irrigation has been a practice on the farm since 1968. Grieb use an 80 foot wheel-move water distribution system. The farm is in a critical groundwater area and water distribution is regulated by state laws. The wheat crop is irrigated in the spring, receiving 2.5 inches of water. Five inches of water are used to pre-irrigate summer fallow ground in preparation for fall seeding. The Grieb Farm is able to maintain average crop yields despite the drought.

Soil samples are taken each year to avoid over fertilization and to coordinate fertility with available water. The predominate soil on the property is a Warden silt loam.

The Grieb are members of the Oregon Wheat League, Morrow County Farm Bureau, and the Lexington Grange. Virginia is chairperson of the ASCS Committee, a director of the Morrow County Grain Growers, a member of the County Farm Review Board, and a member of the Morrow County Wheat Marketing Club. Geri is secretary of the Morrow County Extension Advisory Council and an Oregon 4-H Foundation Assistant. Ken has auctioneered the Morrow County Fair 4-H and FFA Fat Stock Sale for the past five years and donates his time to auction local FFA Slave Sales.

The Grieb philosophy on conservation farming is to utilize maximum resources for water conservation, maintain a productive unit, protect the soil from wind erosion, and to manage the land for future generations using minimum tillage and good farming management. This philosophy has resulted in being selected as 1993 Conservation Farm winners, based on excellent conservation practices, management and a sound economic base, said a press release. The Grieb's farm is a prime example of a successful eastern Oregon wheat enterprise that is competitive with other areas of the world, continued the release.

## District cuts over \$379,000 from budget

The Morrow County School Board at its regular meeting Monday night, April 19, eliminated \$379,000 from the 1993-94 school year and further directed building principals to come up with another \$50,000 in cuts to cope with measure 5 funding reductions.

The board eliminated all extended duty contracts for the teaching staff district-wide. Extended days are extra work days before or after the school year outside the regular number of contract days the teachers are required to work.

Also eliminated from the budget were two teaching positions, one from Ione and one either from Heppner Elementary/Middle School or Heppner High School and two certified librarian positions, one from Ione and one from Columbia Junior High.

The food service program was reduced by 25.8 hours a day. Confidential employees at the district office were reduced by 4.5 hours a day (1.5 hours a day for three employees) and a confidential maintenance position was eliminated.

Proposed staff reductions include:

Heppner Elementary/Middle school-up to one fulltime teacher, one computer coordinator, 33 extended contract days;

Heppner High School-up to one fulltime teacher, one computer coordinator, one rally advisor, one dance/drill team advisor, one newspaper advisor and 93 extended contract days;

Ione schools-one fulltime teacher, one certified librarian, one computer coordinator, one assistant baseball coach, one rally advisor, 27 extended contract days;

Sam Boardman Elementary-one computer coordinator, 23 extended contract days;

Riverside High School-one computer coordinator, one rally advisor, one dance/drill team advisor, one newspaper advisor, 93 extended contract days, five assistant coaches, boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball, golf

and tennis;

Columbia Junior High-one certified librarian, one computer coordinator, 30 extended contract days;

A.C. Houghton Elementary-one computer coordinator, 13 extended contract days.

The food service program cuts are as follows: Heppner Elementary/Middle School-5.3 hours; Heppner High School 5.5 hours; Ione schools 7 hours; Riverside High School 3.5 hours and Columbia Junior High 4.5 hours.

The board also approved addition of staff, mainly in the North county schools to cope with increased enrollment. A.C. Houghton, Columbia Junior High, Riverside High and Sam Boardman Elementary will each add one teacher. Columbia and Ione will hire library technicians instead of filling positions previously held by certified librarians. The district office will add eight addition special education assistants.

In other business the board:

-approved a request from the citizens of Lexington to upgrade and blacktop the district office tennis court. The county court will donate the materials and equipment for a three inch overlay for the courts and all work to upgrade the courts was volunteered. The district is being asked only to remove the fence so that the work may be completed and to put the fence back up when the work is done;

-voted to accept the title to the Lexington baseball field if the Lexington city council approves. The council asked the board to either turn the title over to the city of Lexington or take the property back. The property was owned by the district but held by the city. The city, however, could not

make improvements on the property because it was owned by the district;

-approved a Riverside High School request for bus transportation for a drug/alcohol free graduation party in the Tri-Cities;

-rescinded board policy which authorized extended contracts;

-reviewed election results from the March 23 election. Board member Scott Bauska was elected to Boardman-Irrigon Zone 7 and Gary Frederickson to Zone 1. Patrick McNamee was elected to Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee position 6. Write in candidates for the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee were: Robert Byrd, position 2; David Hirai and Robert Byrd, position three. Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee members elected were Chloe Pearson, position 1, John Boyer, position 7 and Virginia Nairns, write-in for position 2. Valerie Doherty was elected Ione-Lexington Advisory Committee position no. 4;

-approved a \$35,000 architectural/engineering agreement with SCM Consulting, Inc., for plans for proposed construction of additional classrooms in the north end of the county to cope with growth. The proposed construction will go before voters in a bond levy;

-heard the first reading of board policy to establish or contract with another agency to review all public contracts made by local public agencies within the county;

-did not approve a request from Bill Adams, former confidential employee for early retirement benefits. Adams, 62 and a half, worked for the district 12 years;

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## Christman receives no jail time for death

Carl Christman, Ione, was placed on parole and received three years' probation on charges stemming from a May 11, 1990 incident in which one man was killed.

Christman was convicted of second degree manslaughter, failure to perform the duties of a driver involved in an automobile accident, reckless driving and three counts of reckless endangering.

Christman, 35, was under the influence of intoxicants and driving at a high rate of speed when he struck and killed Steven Leroy Burland, 26, who had been lying on the road following an earlier automobile accident. Three other people were endangered as they gave Burland aid and attempted to get Christman to stop before he struck Burland.

Morrow County District Attorney Earl Woods, Jr., said that he asked that Christman receive 20 months in the state penitentiary. Woods said that local judges were either unable or unwilling to preside over the sentencing. Judge Milo Pope of Baker County was presiding judge.

Christman was convicted of two previous charges of driving under the influence. A third drunk driving charge, in connection with the manslaughter charge is still pending and set for trial on June 11.



**BREAK IN** - John Bristow, owner of Bristow's Market in Ione, checks damage thieves did to store's safe during break-in Friday night.

Thieves gained entrance to the market by smashing open a back delivery door. "It must have been somebody who knew the store pretty good, because they knew right where to hit," Bristow said about the broken door. John's brother Don discovered the break-in when he opened the market Saturday morning.

From there Bristow said the thieves went to the front of the store, disabled a surveillance camera, drank some beer and set about trying to open a big safe in the back room.

The combination dial on the safe was knocked off, and sheet metal was peeled off the front of the safe. "They must have worked on it for a couple of hours," Bristow said. They never did get into the safe, however, and so went to the front of the store and stole liquor, cigarettes, some cash and other grocery items.

Bristow did not have a dollar amount for the loss, but did say there was four to five thousand dollars in damage to the safe.

"I think they got around 60 bottles of liquor, and they took 14 cartons of cigarettes," he said. He added that he was going to have an elaborate security system installed soon.

## LOW RATES ON AUTO LOANS

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