

★ Elect ★



Ken Grieb

Morrow County Commissioner

"Working for ALL of Morrow County"

- Morrow County Grain Growers' Board
- Morrow County Wheat Growers' President 1999 & 2000
- Oregon Wheat Growers' League President 2003
- Morrow County Soil & Water Conservation District 1998-Present
- Morrow County Planning Commission 1997-Present
- Morrow County School District Advisory Committee 1999-2003
- Lobby wheat issues at State and National level
- SMART reading volunteer, Heppner Elementary School
- Oregon Wheat Foundation Board
- Ione Community Agri-Business Organization
- North Morrow Vector Control District
- National Association of Wheat Growers' Budget Committee
- Morrow County School District Ag Science Advisory Committee
- OSU Extension Advisory Committee
- Morrow County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee

Ken Grieb

Leadership for Morrow County

Paid for by Elect Grieb Committee

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Oregon Brand Department in financial dilemma

Would you take two hours and drive fifty miles to earn \$17.50? Would you provide and pay an employee from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. to earn \$75? Would you pay an employee to do nothing and earn nothing for two hours? Well, no, you wouldn't. But you do. Through our brand registrations and fees we are helping pay for all of these money-losing activities. And what if you had to pay 44 1/2 cents per mile for the vehicle the employee drives and pay the employee \$10.50 an hour or more? Let's see, \$10.50 loaded equals about \$15 and fifty miles at 44 1/2 cents per mile equals about \$22. That \$17.50 you earned cost about \$52. So, how long can this business model last?

By the latest estimates, Brand Department officials say it can last until about January 2007. Without changes in program, income, or both, the Brand Department will be broke. And since the Brand Department is a user-funded program within the Oregon Department of Agriculture, there will be no bailout. The department would simply close its doors. And, you might ask, who is responsible for this go-broke endeavor? You could blame management, but you would be wrong. You could blame inept employees or supervisors but, again, you'd be wrong. Over the past dozen years the Brand Department has become a lean, cost-conscious, labor-conscious, well-managed operation. If you want to blame anyone, you should blame us all, and the cost of labor and the cost of fuel and vehicles and the cost of

supplies and rent and everything else that is needed to run a business.

We ask the brand inspector to come out 20 miles and inspect two horses at \$3.75 each. The inspector charges us the \$7.50 plus the \$10 service charge and the brand department loses about \$10. We ask the brand inspector to hang around until the last load of three cull cows arrives at the sale yard at 3:15 p.m. The fee is \$2.25 and we paid the inspector \$30 to stand around for two hours waiting for those three cows. In 2000, about 1,250,000 cattle were inspected in Oregon at 75 cents per head. In 2005, about 1,100,000 cattle were inspected at the same rate. That decrease of 150,000 head cost the Brand Department about \$112,500. But the actual number of inspections didn't change much. There were fewer animals inspected per visit but the number of trips and hours remained about the same. So costs increased and revenue dropped. (It's about the same as when the market goes down year after year but your costs per cow keep going up.) In 2000, the reimbursement for a brand inspector to drive his own vehicle was about 31 cents per mile. The latest figure is 44 1/2 cents per mile.

Okay, you say rather grudgingly, raise the per head fee a little and wring out more excess. As with everything, it's not that simple. The per head fee at 75 cents is at the ceiling authorized by the legislature. Likewise with the \$10 service fee, the various horse inspection fees, and the brand registration and renewal fees. An increase in any of these fees will require new legislation, and the legislature doesn't meet until 2007. In the end, after poking and prodding, and worrying every fee and number (kind of like getting tangled up in a big cobweb) the problem's solution resolves into two parts.

Part one is a plan to keep the department solvent through the 2007 legislative session. Part two is to devise a plan that will place the department on a sound financial base for the foreseeable future and to ask for legislation to implement the plan.

About the only income producing measure that can be taken now, without legislation, is to implement an administrative rule that will assess a time and mileage charge on field inspections. The Brand Advisory Committee has recommended that a \$15

time and mileage charge on each field inspection be adopted by rule as an interim measure. The charge would begin as soon as the administrative rule process can be completed, probably in about 90 days. Brand Department officials predict that the \$15 charge will allow the department to continue to perform its function through the 2007 legislative session. Along with the \$15 charge, the six salaried, full time brand supervisors stationed around the State will be directed to perform as many inspections as possible by themselves. This measure will take full advantage of the salaried supervisor's time and save the cost of using a part time, hourly employee and paying mileage on those inspections. Additionally, the two investigators will be directed to stop patrol activities. These three measures will constitute part one.

So, with the program shored up by the \$15 charge and the other economies, the department and the industry will be able to direct energy toward formulating a plan, and the necessary legislation, to place the department on a

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

April 15: BPD issued a citation to Dana Jo Willis, 42, for driving while suspended and failing to prove vehicle registration. Arley Jay Hamilton, 47, was cited for Failure to Register Vehicle/Switch Plate and Permitting Unlawful Operation of a Vehicle.

April 16: MCSO cited Deborah Anne Cronk, 58, was cited for Violation of the Speed Limit, 88 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Peter Graham Klym, 19, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 84 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report that the neighbor's pit bull bit a lady twice. Kristi Dawn Rogers, 29, was cited for Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance.

-MCSO cited Edward Joseph Meyers, 48, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 84 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Manuel A. Reyes Alarcon, 29, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 82 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Rafael Cansino, 24, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 93 mph in a 65 mph zone.

sound financial base for the future. The components of that plan (part two) are open for discussion. Some possible pieces might be: Raise the ceiling on the various fees to allow more flexibility; Reformulate the horse program; Initiate surcharges; Change the stray rules; Change staffing levels; Get funding from the State Police budget; Review every facet of the program; Ask the legislature to fund a portion of the brand department's cost; and Discuss and evaluate "outside the box" ideas.

The goal of the Brand Department and of the Brand Advisory Committee is to retain a viable and effective inspection program as economically as possible.

Please comment. Our brand program has helped our animals and our livelihoods for over 80 years. We need to keep it viable into the future for animal identification, disease traceback, age and source verification, the ever increasing need to know more about our animals, and whatever other new stuff shows up, confounding our ability to be successful in an ever changing industry.

-MCSO cited Thomas Jeffery Leiferman, 30, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 82 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited David Zirpoli, 35, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 87 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Adria Sumi Layne, 20, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 89 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Troy Thomas Lamont, 35, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 83 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO cited Temaleti Volav Vakaloloma, 46, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 78 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-Boardman PD arrested Ernesto Gomez, 23, for DUII (BAC .19), Violation of the Basic Rule, 50 mph in a 20 mph zone, and No Operator's License.

Births

Matthew Glenn Wright- a son, Matthew Glenn, was born April 13, 2006 to Brent and Nadia Wright of Bend. Grandparents are Nadezda and Jarda Rohlik of Patertlil, Czech Republic, Judy Knight of Bend and Kenny Wright of Bakersfield, CA. Grand-grandparents are Lenna and Glenn Smith of Heppner and Mary Wright of Newberg.

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Come into the bank on April 21, 2006, and get a free Car Wash Coupon - then take time to let the Heppner High School Football Team wash that grit and grime from your automobile! (BEO is making a \$500 donation to the team!) (Here's your chance to watch them perform off the field!)
Time: Between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
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"And every Friday in April, the bank will have free cookies and coffee, too!!"