

## Prairie City Sustainable School Project Update: October 2005



Newly painted Elementary Wing

- Landscape : A grant was awarded by the Hardy Plant Society. PCHS Student Council donated funds for drip system. Bark chips were donated by Prairie wood Products. Drip system is installed. Some trees will be planted in the fall of 2005. Remainder of planting to be done spring/summer of 2006.
- Paint: Prairie City School Maintenance budget funded purchase of paint and Prison Work Crew. Volunteers worked with crew to power wash, prime and paint the “Old High School” and the Elementary wings of the school. Further research is being done about possibly finding funding to restore the historic “Old Gym”. Paint has already been purchased for further painting, we just need to wait for good weather and funding for crews or volunteers.
- Cyclone Fencing: The Alumni fund, together with money donated by the Greater Prairie City Community Association will purchase cyclone fencing for the track, football field. This will help to make the area attractive while protecting the new

- track /football field when it is installed. The funding is there and the School's maintenance staff will work on installing this during the 2005/06 school year.
- Track/Football Field: We are very close. Ford Family is considering us for a \$50,000 grant. We are in the process of writing grants to the Meyer Memorial Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation.. We are short \$25,000 for a \$250,000 project. Good job PCAC and the Oregon Solutions team.
  - Water Source: The school and team continues to work on this in conjunction with the city.
  - Alumni Committee: Funding for projects has been made possible by the generous support of former students and teachers. A new letter will go out in the fall of 2005 seeking support of the Track/ Football Field project.

Before and After





Before and after.....

A Visit From Bill Bradbury Highlights our efforts:



Eagle photos by Reilly Cosgrove

Members of the Prairie City community have been trying to make their school more attractive, sustainable, and useful. They recently got the opportunity to meet with Secretary of State Bill Bradbury to discuss their progress. Back row, from left: Susie Combs, Bradi Voigt, Nate Hughes, James Sullens, Yazzie Voigt, Carol Voigt, Ruth McPherren, Sandy Murray. Front row: Lynette Sullens, Tee Voigt and Bradbury.

# School work earns smiles



Sandy Murray presents Secretary of State Bill Bradbury with a Prairie City T-shirt.

*Improvements attract secretary of state*

By Reilly Cosgrove  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Members of the community have been trying to make their school more attractive, sustainable, and useful. They recently got the opportunity to meet with Secretary of State Bill Bradbury to discuss their progress.

The project is called Prairie City Sustainable School, and is part of the Oregon Solutions program. Oregon Solutions is a statewide initiative designed to promote economic, environmental and community objectives. It is not a direct source of funding, but is designed to coordinate government efforts with communities and businesses.

"We were quite struck with

how good downtown is looking. It looks healthy. Obviously, the school needs improvement," Bradbury said, as he met with 10 people in front of the school.

He sympathized with the hard economic times that Prairie City is facing, and said that declining timber harvests had been difficult for his hometown of Bandon as well.

Bradbury asked if there had been any consideration of combining Prairie City with another school district to save money, and "no" was the general consensus.

"You may not have the constant students, but you have the other aspect, which is community, which is priceless," Bradbury said.

"If we lose the school, we're going to lose a lot of our infrastructure," said Fire Chief James Sullens, and he pointed out that 25 to 30 percent of the volunteer firefighters are high school students.

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## SCHOOL: Bradbury likes group's progress

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"The school is the focal point of any small town," Carol Voigt said.

Planned improvements include landscaping, painting, finding a new water source for the sports field, new sports facilities, and restorations to the old gym. There are four sub-committees that are handling different parts of the project.

So far two fund-raising letters have been mailed, and a third letter will be mailed soon. Donations to date: alumni, \$1,320; hardy plants, \$1,070; community association, \$2,000; student body, \$1,000.

"It sounds like you've raised quite a bit of money. Not enough yet, but getting there," Bradbury said.

Grants are being submitted to the Oregon Community Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Ford Family. Nike denied a grant request in 2004.

"We're going to landscape first. The nice thing about doing that first is that the community will see that something is getting done, and hopefully we'll get more volunteers to

help with the painting," Sandy Murray said.

Landscaping has begun, and Nate Hughes is in the process of installing a drip watering system around the perimeter of the school.

The paint committee plans to buy recycled paint from Metro Paints in Oregon City, which is less expensive than new paint. A work crew from Powder River Correctional Institution will be hired to do some of the painting.

Besides repainting the exterior of the school, a grant is being written to pay for murals on the buildings, which would be painted by Toni Morgensen. Morgensen is an art teacher at the Prairie City School, and has already painted two murals downtown.

The improvements to the sports facilities, including a new track, are by far the most expensive part of the project. Planning and fund-raising were started before the other parts of the project. Funds, materials, and labor worth over \$150,000 have been raised for the track project, which will cost about \$250,000.