

SECTION

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WEDNESDAY

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Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Life

SPORTS • OUTDOORS • CLASSIFIEDS

Panthers ready for Friday night lights!



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

Tony Malmberg of Freshwater Trust, gives a check for \$3,500 to Prairie City Athletic Complex treasurer Carol Voigt, while PCAC committee member Melissa Woodbury (left) and spokesperson Marge Walton enjoy the "bright" moment. The donation is enough to pay for OTEC crews to install power to the football field, which will allow the Panthers to play night games for the first time in four years. The first home game for the 2011-2012 season is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23.

Freshwater Trust puts field lights effort over the goal

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY – Night football games are finally coming to Panther town.

That reality was made possible by a \$3,500 gift from Freshwater Trust, which put the entire field lighting project at the Prairie City Athletic Complex between the goal posts.

According to Marge Walton, spokesperson for the PCAC, the nonprofit organization, which restores rivers and streams throughout Oregon, decided to show their appreciation to

the landowners in the Prairie City area with a donation that will benefit both the school and the community.

Tony Malmberg, flow restoration project manager for Freshwater Trust, made the handoff of the check to PCAC treasurer Carol Voigt on July 15.

The money will allow the second phase of the lighting project to be completed by Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative crews.

Walton said that OTEC has estimated the cost of placing the three-phase power to the field at \$14,888.12.

Four 65-foot black and orange poles were erected in August 2010, thanks to \$4,500 earned by that date from fund-raising efforts.

The school already has

the light fixtures; it was just a matter raising the rest of the estimated \$20,000 for the entire project.

Walton said the work by OTEC should begin around Aug. 10 and is expected to be completed quickly.

In plenty of time anyway, for the first Prairie City High School home game on Friday, Sept. 23.

And for the first time in four years, kickoff is set 7 p.m. ... under the lights.

The PCAC is also remodeling the track and football field, so cash donations are still appreciated for those efforts. Checks may be mailed to PCAC, P.O. Box 558, Prairie City, OR 97869.

For more information on Freshwater Trust, visit www.MyEagleNews.com for a website link.