

Bypass is scheduled to be complete by November 2017

**PROJECT continued
from front page**

"I commute daily and have for about 13, 14 years," she said, eliciting empathetic laughter from those in attendance.

Mercier, who served more than eight years as a Tribal representative on the Yamhill County Parkway Committee, said, "I remember when this was kind of a dream ... but as the years wore on it got closer and closer. I remember when we announced this donation and I thought, 'This is going to happen.' And here we are. ... I'm just excited."

Tribal Culture Department employees Bobby Mercier, Brian Krehbiel and Travis Stewart performed an honor song and other Tribal employees in attendance included Tribal Attorney Rob Greene, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Martin, Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Clark and Tribal Council Senior Administrative Assistant Lauri Smith.

The check presentation also attracted local officials, including Yamhill County Commissioners Allen Springer and Stan Primozych, McMinnville Mayor Rick Olson and Newberg Mayor Bob Andrews. Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett also attended.

"The Tribal Council spoke about partnerships," Garrett said. "Looking around here, these are true partners. At times we were running against the wind, but we found a path. Today, we celebrate that and we look forward to when we are cutting a ribbon as we connect this phase one of a very significant and critical transportation project.

"We not only celebrate part-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett, left, shakes hands with Tribal Council member Chris Mercier during a ceremonial check presentation held in Newberg on Monday, March 7, for the \$4 million the Tribe donated to help fund the first phase of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass construction project. Tribal Council members also in attendance were, from fourth from right, Brenda Tuomi, Denise Harvey, Jon A. George, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., not pictured.

Visit the Tribe's
facebook
page to see more photos

nerships, but we also celebrate commitment. We're celebrating commitment to our past, but also to our future. The future and safety of our people and the opportunities that will come to all of the communities that are represented here. I think that is extremely important. It is the partnership of many that makes this a reality today."

Tribal Council Secretary Cheryl A. Kennedy, who was then serving as Tribal chair, pledged \$4 million in Tribal money to help fund the

first phase of construction on the bypass during a Nov. 8, 2011, City Club meeting held in McMinnville.

The Tribal funds, originally designated in its gaming compact with the state of Oregon to help build a new interchange at the convergence of state highways 18 and 22, are helping Yamhill County and three of its city governments fund their \$20 million share of the project.

"When they sing the chant about the heroes on this project, one of them will be the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," said McMinnville attorney Dave Haugeberg, who chairs the Yamhill County Parkway Committee and was one of the prime movers behind

getting the bypass constructed. "You were here first and you are leading us into the future, and we are blessed by this partnership."

The bypass will fix the "transportation nightmare" in Newberg and Dundee that negatively affects every Oregon community westward along Highway 18. The 5.5-mile first phase is being funded with \$192 million from state government, \$45 million from the federal government and \$20 million from local governments, including the Tribe. It is creating a transportation corridor with only two stoplights between McMinnville and Interstate 5, bypassing the currently congested downtowns of Newberg and Dundee.

Once completed, the bypass will make it easier and faster for Portland-area residents to access wine country, Spirit Mountain Casino and the coast. Construction work is scheduled to be complete by November 2017.

The Tribe will receive a credit from the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding the highways 18 and 22 interchange for re-allocating \$4 million to the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. The Tribe's contribution cap for that project is \$9.45 million adjusted annually for inflation, according to the compact.

At the Tuesday, March 8, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Council members acknowledged Greene, who originated the fund transfer idea many years ago and saw it through to fruition.

George provided the invocation that opened the check presentation ceremony.

"I don't know where they're going to find an ATM large enough to cash this," Giffen added to a round of laughter. ■



Night at the Museum

April 8th – April 9th

Join Culture Department for our Second "Night at the Museum"!

Event is for youth in Grades 6-12 and will include food, games, activities and a movie.

Registration: In order to attend, you must register with the Culture Department prior to the event. To register contact Flicka Lucero at 503-879-2268. Attendance is limited to the first 20 registrants, make sure to sign up early!

What to bring:

- 1- Parent or guardian to sign you into the event.
- 2- Sleeping bag & pillow
- 3- Toiletries
- 4- Optional- Camera

Please leave all other electronic devices at home.



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Culture Department
8720 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
Phone: 503-879-2226

Drop-off: 5:30 pm April 8th
Pick-up: 9:00 am April 9th
No late pick-ups !!





free gardening course

Seed to Supper: Growing Veggies on a Budget

Mondays
April 4th-May 9th
6-8 pm

Learn low-cost ways to build healthy soil, plan your growing space, choose your crops, care for your growing garden, and harvest your bounty!

where
Iskam Mek h Mek Haws
9675 Grand Ronde Rd.
Taught indoors with possible visits to onsite garden

how
Registration is required. Contact Surabhi at 503-581-3855.
Contact Francene Ambrose at 503-879-3663 for more information.

details
Please plan to attend all 6 classes. Participants get a free gardening book, seeds, and other goodies!



