

Chemawa Station located in prime spot

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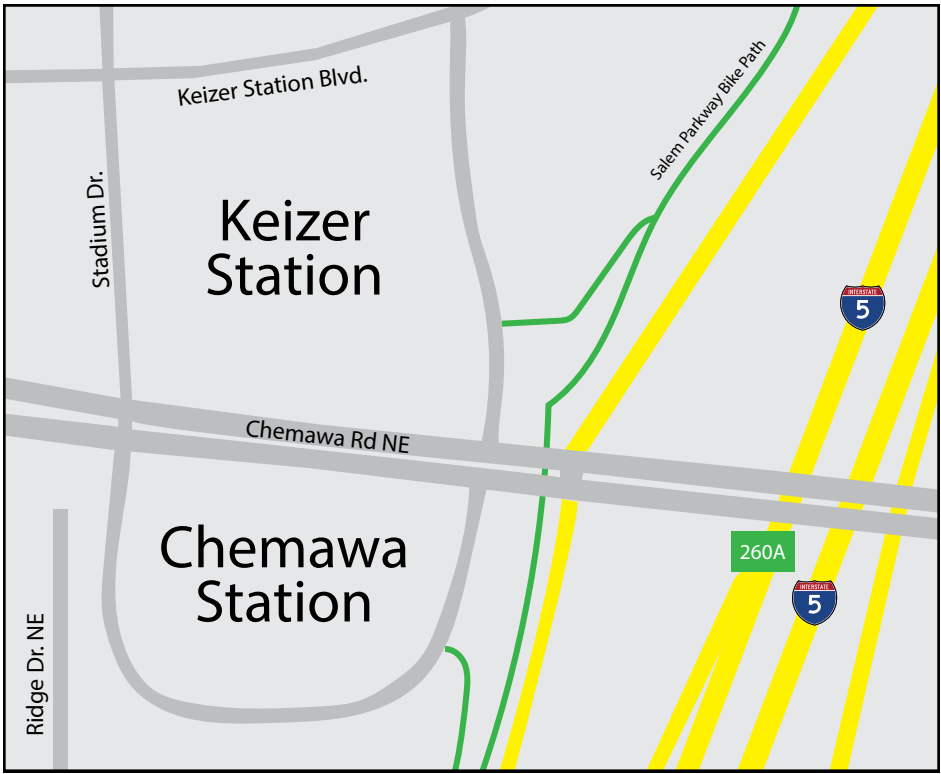
step in bringing that vision to life. Soon, families will gather here, dine here and work to support their families through the jobs that these businesses will provide. We couldn't ask for anything more."

The Chemawa Station site is located in a prime spot bordering Interstate 5 and Chemawa Road. To the north is the 237-acre Keizer Station development that includes transportation, retail shops, dining and a sports complex.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council members Jon A. George, Steve Bobb Sr., Denise Harvey and Michael Langley attended. They were joined by Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez, Finance Officer Chris Leno, Engineering and Public Works Manager Jesse White, Senior Staff Attorney Jennifer Biesack and Deputy Press Secretary Sara Thompson.

The ceremony opened with a blessing and drum song by Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier, Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, Harvey, Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta, Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier, Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson and Prevention Coordinator Cristina Lara.

Members of the Chemawa Station Board of Directors were introduced by Siletz Tribal Chairwoman Delores Pigsley. They include Bobb



Map created by Samuel Briggs III



Sr., Harvey and Langley. Siletz members are Reggie Butler Sr., Loraine Butler and Lillie Butler.

"This has been a difficult and long process that began many years ago," Pigsley said. "This is the former Chemawa Indian School property. I used to pick fruit and play here as a child. ... It is quite historic that the land was given to us."

In 2002, the Federal Highway Administration transferred ownership of the 15.7-acre property to the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes under the Indian Self-Determination Act. The area is a part of the Grand Ronde Tribe's ceded homelands.

The two Tribes initially broke ground on the project in 2005, but couldn't finance it because of a pro-

vision within the act that permitted the federal government to take the property back if it were not used for economic development or natural resources. The clause caused concern among lenders who might potentially finance the project.

In 2007, President George Bush signed Public Law 110-78, which removed that provision. Since then, the two Tribes have been working together to further refine their collaborative vision for the development. They created Chemawa Station LLC to manage and explore options.

At its Nov. 6, 2019 meeting, the Grand Ronde Tribal Council approved an approximately \$1 million capital contribution to the Chemawa Station phase one development. Infrastructure improvements will support a gas station, a quick service restaurant and additional tenants.

Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark credited the Tribal leadership for bringing more economic opportunities to the community.

"We are very excited," Clark said. "Many people will be served by this and will benefit from it."

Langley said the Siletz Tribe is Grand Ronde's "closest cousins."

"I look forward to these projects, both now and in the future," he said.

Harvey recalled when the property was first given back to the Tribes in 2002.

"This is a very meaningful day for me," she said. "It's always been a passion and goal of mine to see this develop." ■

Community Fund distributes 2,810 grants in 22 years

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ceives 6 percent of Spirit Mountain Casino proceeds to distribute to charitable groups in the areas of health, education, public safety and environmental preservation, among others.

The presentation opened with an invocation by Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. and a prayer song by Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George. Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, who served on the Community Fund Board of Directors, also attended.

Afterward, a video was shown that highlighted the history of the Tribe and Community Fund, as well as the work done by some past and current grant recipients.

"It is such an honor and a privilege to partner with you," Community Fund Executive Director Michael Cherry said.

This quarter's highlighted grant recipient was Lutheran Community Services Northwest of McMinnville, which received \$48,000 for its expansion of A Family Place Relief Nursery in Willamina. The nursery offers respite care to underserved children from birth to age 5 and their families through utilizing a specialized classroom, offering parent education and home visitations.

Harvey thanked the nonprofit

organizations for their work.

"The people of Oregon are so lucky to have you here," she said. "I truly appreciate the work you do."

Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Sears announced grantees' names while Cherry, Board of Trustees Chair Chip Lazenby and Harvey shook recipients' hands.

"The joy of doing this is making the community and state a better place to live," Lazenby said.

Following the check presentation, Oasis Ministries of Portland won a Pendleton blanket that was raffled off.

Large grant recipients during the Dec. 11 event were:

- Falls City School District, \$50,000, for its FACES After-school Program;
- Neighbors For Kids of Depoe Bay, \$49,000, for its Family & Community Support project;
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest of McMinnville, \$48,000, for A Family Place Relief Nursery expansion;
- Mental Health For Children Inc. of Springfield, \$50,000, for its ABA-Autism Research and Treatment Clinic capital construction project;
- CASA For Children Inc. of Portland, \$36,539, for its Strategies for Strengthening Diversity, Equity & Inclusion project;
- Bridge Meadows of Beaverton,

- \$38,500, for Strengthening Communities Through Intergenerational Health and Well Being program;
- One Hope, \$9,711, for reducing trauma of vulnerable children in Florence;
- Advantage Smiles for Kids of Portland, \$44,000, for providing necessary orthodontic treatment for under-resourced youth;
- Oregon Health & Science University Foundation of Portland, \$38,500, for OHSU Wy'East Pathway: Increasing Native American Physicians;
- Benton Furniture Share of Corvallis, \$15,400, for its Life is Better When a House is a Home program;
- Albertina Kerr Centers Foundation Inc. of Portland, \$38,500, for Albertina Kerr program operations support;
- Volunteers of America Inc. of Portland, \$38,500, for its Family Relief Nursery;
- Lines For Life of Portland, \$40,000, for its YouthLine suicide prevention effort in schools;
- Perrydale Domestic Water Association, \$38,500, to repair the Decade-Brown Road drinking water booster;
- College Possible of Portland, \$15,400, for its intensive summer transition programming for graduating high school seniors;
- Verde of Portland, \$38,310, for

community-led action for environmental justice in Cully;

- Constructing Hope of Portland, \$30,000, for a job developer for construction career placement and retention;
- Dundee Fire-Rescue Volunteers, \$19,250, for extrication equipment;
- And CAUSA Oregon of Salem, \$11,550, for immigrant family community navigation and resources.

Small grant recipients during the Dec. 11 event were:

- American Military Encouragement Network of Damascus, \$7,500, for feeding military families and support for veterans, soldiers' families and children;
- Oasis Ministries Portland, \$7,500, for Homeless Life Packs;
- Our House of Portland Inc., \$7,500, for Esther's Pantry expansion project;
- Solar Energy International of Portland, \$7,500, for solar job readiness women's training;
- The ALS Association Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter, \$5,000, for its ALS medical support program;
- Volunteer Caregivers of Albany, \$7,500, for transportation services;
- And World Stage Theatre of Portland, \$7,500, for the greater Portland region August Wilson Monologue competition. ■