

TERO Worker of the Month October 2020

Name: Devree DelaRose-Wilder

Employer: ACME Concrete Paving Inc.

Position: Laborer

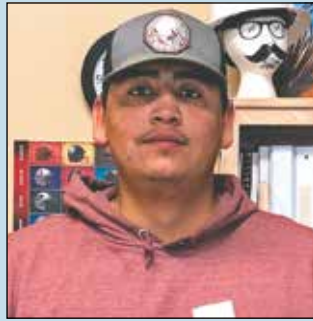
Devree first applied for the TERO Skills Bank in July of this year.

He was dispatched to a concrete slurry plant in Corvallis to help on an Oregon Department of Transportation project. This was Devree's first experience with a TERO program because he is from southern Oregon and has not had access to a TERO program within his vicinity.

Devree says he has had an opportunity to learn many new things from road construction and operating since being dispatched. He is also thankful to Grand Ronde TERO for allowing him the opportunity to enroll in the BTI Heavy Equipment Operators Training he is currently in. The opportunity is offered through a collaboration between Grand Ronde TERO and Baker Technical Institute.

Devree was chosen as the October TERO Worker of the Month due to his high level of commitment to both the contractors he works for and TERO. He took the initiative to enroll in TERO's Skills Bank program and take advantage of the many benefits it offers.

"I recommend TERO for anyone wanting to get out of their comfort zone and set themselves up for success," he said. ■



Devree DelaRose-Wilder

Tribe receives Meyer Memorial Trust grant

PORTLAND — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was one of several Native American Tribes and organizations that received Meyer Memorial Trust grants in 2020.

The Grand Ronde Tribe received \$35,000 to help pay for the completion of the Chankawan Wildlife Area restoration alternatives analysis. The Tribe obtained the 425-acre conservation property in May 2016 as part of the Bonneville Power Administration's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

The property fronts more than a mile of the North Santiam River near Stayton in Marion County.

Other Native American Tribes and organizations receiving grants included:

- National Indian Child Welfare Association in Portland, \$180,000, for operational support of the organization dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families;
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corp. in Portland, \$50,000, to support the organization's mission and work to strengthen Native American entrepreneurs in Oregon;
- Coquille Indian Tribe in Coos Bay, \$100,000, to address pressing health care needs by using self-directed and culturally respectful approaches;
- Red Lodge Transition Services in Oregon City, \$115,000, to operational support that provides culturally focused programs for Native Americans released from jails, prisons and treatment programs;
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society in Albuquerque, N.M., \$177,464, to improve Indigenous student success across Oregon through implementing STEM-related college and career readiness strategies;
- Native American Youth and Fam-

ily Center in Portland, \$123,333, to eliminate barriers to college and career readiness, and cultivate a stronger college-bound culture within Portland's Native American community;

- Nez Perce Tribe of Joseph, \$138,824, to integrate Tribal knowledge into Willowa Lake management and explore reintroduction of sockeye into the lake;
- Burns Paiute Tribe in Burns, \$173,884, to help the Tribe exercise sovereignty by protecting natural systems and salmon in the waterways of the Tribe's traditional homelands;
- High Desert Food & Farm Alliance in Bend, \$177,942, to develop and implement a plan that will establish a sustainable, culturally relevant food system in the Warm Springs community;
- Native Fish Society in Oregon City, \$85,000, to grow relationships with rural and Indigenous communities by integrating equity outcomes into ongoing environmental programs and efforts;
- Natives of One Wind Indigenous Alliance in Medford, \$46,000, to elevate the voices of Indigenous workers in the timber sector and improve statewide forest practices and workplace safety rules;
- Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, \$300,000, for redevelopment of Tistilal Village, to help low-income and formerly homeless Native families in Multnomah County;
- And the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, \$300,000, to redevelop the Lucky 7 manufactured home park with new, high-efficiency homes.

The Meyer Memorial Trust made 150 grants totaling \$21.3 million to make Oregon a more flourishing and equitable state, Director of Communications Kimberly Wilson said. ■

State's COVID 'freeze' not affecting Tribal operations

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's "freeze" to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the state that went into effect on Wednesday, Nov. 18, is not affecting Tribal governmental operations.

"We are aware of the governor's latest 'freeze' to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon," said Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez in an all-employee e-mail on Monday, Nov. 16. "After careful consideration, the Tribe has made the decision to maintain its current operations for the Tribal government."

However, Hernandez added, Tribal employees who feel it is in their best interest to work remotely can do so with approval of their supervisor.

Working remotely, if possible, is one of Brown's "freeze" suggestions for Oregonians.

Brown also limited all bars and restaurants to takeout only, closed all gyms, restricted indoor and outdoor gatherings to no more than six people from two different households, limited capacity at grocery stores and pharmacies, and allowed churches and faith groups to accommodate indoor crowds of no larger than 25. The freeze is scheduled to last until at least Wednesday, Dec. 2, in most of the state and probably longer in more populated counties.

The "freeze" is in reaction to surging COVID-19 cases in the state that suddenly jumped to more than 1,000 for three consecutive days and have continued to grow over the Thanksgiving holiday week.

General Manager David Fullerton announced on Thursday, Nov. 5, that two Tribal governmental employees for the first time had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The two positive tests prompted Fullerton to limit campus access on Friday, Nov. 6, and Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9-10, to only essential staff members. Other staff members were asked to work from home or granted administrative leave for the day.

Since Wednesday, Nov. 11, was Veterans Day and a Tribal holiday, the Tribal government resumed normal schedules and operations on Thursday, Nov. 12, with the exception that guests are no longer

allowed on the Tribal campus.

The two positive cases within the Tribal government, which employs more than 500 people, are not the first coronavirus cases to affect the Tribe.

Spirit Mountain Casino, which employs more than 1,000 people, reported four of its behind-the-scenes employees had tested positive for COVID-19 in mid-October.

According to the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, as of Monday, Nov. 30, it has conducted 1,179 COVID-19 tests with 1,124 negative results, 28 retests and 27 positive results.

The Tribe limited access to the Tribal campus to only a skeleton crew of essential employees in mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic became a major public health concern in Oregon. After the Tribal government re-opened in mid-May, employees have had to undergo daily temperature checks, been asked to wear masks and encouraged to wash their hands frequently and keep socially distant.

"We have done a great job keeping the virus contained, but we all must do our part to protect ourselves, family and co-workers from this virus," Hernandez said. "Wash and sanitize your hands, wear masks and social distance. We are closely monitoring the situation and we will continue to evaluate if any changes need to be made."

The Tribal government was closed the entire week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 23-27. Tribal employees were already scheduled to have Monday, Nov. 23, off in celebration of Restoration and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27, off in observance of Thanksgiving.

Meanwhile, Spirit Mountain Casino announced a temporary suspension of smoking within the facility starting on Tuesday, Nov. 17. The smoking prohibition includes 20 feet from all entrances to the lodge, casino and lobbies.

The casino is still requiring that all guests wear face masks, which is a policy instituted in early July.

Since the Tribe is a sovereign nation, it does not have to follow state-mandated guidelines, a fact Brown acknowledged in March during the initial reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

Community Health Program

Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation.

