

Tribal Council approves first reading of amendments

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a first reading of proposed Enrollment Ordinance amendments at its Wednesday, March 19, meeting.

The Enrollment Ordinance is being amended to align with the lineal descent constitutional amendment, which was certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Currently, enrollment for those older than six months and all non-emergency enrollments is on pause until Tuesday, June 3. At that time, open enrollment will begin for non-infant/non-emergency applications. It will close at 5 p.m. Friday, July 18.

Staff will publish a list Monday, July 21, of completed applications that are eligible for a random drawing. The Tribal Constitution sets a limit of 150 to 200 applications per year. That limit doesn't apply to infants younger than six months or minors who are the subject of pending juvenile dependency proceedings.

Before the first reading was approved, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier read a statement.

"The Tribe's path to lineal descent has been a long one. We appreciate the time everyone has taken to participate in this process and be part of the discussion. The community meetings, surveys, and ongoing conversations have all been an important part of where we are now. We've heard your comments and are happy to be rolling out the proposed changes to the enrollment ordinance for its

Council to limit online chat function

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, most everyone had to make a quick switch to remote meetings. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was no exception.

Fast forward five years and hybrid meetings have become the norm, with Zoom a regular feature of Tribal Council and General Council meetings, allowing the Tribal membership from across the globe to participate.

However, along with the benefits of this technology have come issues as well, which is why the Tribal Council said it has decided to partially disable the "chat" feature button for meetings going forward.

During the Wednesday, March 19 Tribal Council meeting, Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy read aloud the following statement.

"I would like to thank our members for continuing to engage in meaningful dialogue with us during our regular Tribal Council and General Council meetings," she said. "We greatly value the thoughts and feedback of our

members. Unfortunately, over the years we have encountered some issues with our hybrid formatting and have seen the chat feature used by some in ways that aren't appropriate for public meetings. In addition to that, the chat is extremely fluid and challenging to keep up with distracting some participants from the presentations and/or dialogue at hand. More recently, we have also had trouble verifying peoples' identities as links are shared with others. As a result, we have decided to limit some of the online chat features."

Moving forward, the chat will only be enabled for online participants to message all hosts and panelists during the meeting. If a member would like to ask a question but is not comfortable in a public setting, they will be able to message anyone of the panelists to request the question be asked on their behalf. Thank you all for your understanding and patience as we work to improve our hybrid meetings. We look forward to continued communications." ■

first reading.

He continued, "We have decided to move forward with an open enrollment period for first-year applicants and a drawing to create the waitlist. While we realize that this approach may not be the preferred path for some, it was important that we come from a place of fairness and equity. This process

will not discriminate against individuals with different application factors. We believe that this process will also alleviate concerns members have shared with us around other types of processes...We will be providing additional updates as we move forward."

Tribal members will have until Thursday, May 1, to comment on the proposed changes. Those can be sent to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road,

Grand Ronde, OR 97347, or by email to legal@grandronde.org. The proposed changes will run in Smoke Signals in the Tuesday, April 1 and Tuesday, April 15 editions.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved appointing Pamala Warren-Chase to the Tribal Member Review Board;
- Approved the Tribal Transportation Program funding agreement between the Tribe and U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- Approved amending a contract with Maul Foster & Alongi for a maximum amount of \$196,350 for demolition permits and oversight related to the latest round of demolition at tumwata village in Oregon City;
- Approved amending a contract with Elder Demolition Inc. for a maximum of \$1.89 million to demolish 40 structures at the tumwata village site, including all fire damaged buildings and warehouse buildings;
- Approved an application to Philanthropy Northwest for its EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant for up to \$250,000;
- Approved an application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant for up to \$10 million;
- And approved the enrollment of three infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. ■



CTGR Member Services

Requests for Descendancy Options

1. Descendancy letter (no DNA testing)

2. Certificate of Descendancy (DNA testing required)

Process:

Submit completed application (digital signatures are not accepted) along with a copy of an original state certified birth certificate (we cannot accept copies) and proof of payment for the DNA from the Finance Department. Once application is received, Enrollment Office staff will process and setup the DNA appointment.

DNA at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center: Cost of DNA testing is \$50 and you must pre-register with the clinic prior to your appointment. To pre-register, contact Ashley Stonebrink at 503-879-1325 or Stacy Pond-Bissonette at 503-879-2096.

To request an application or if you have any questions, contact the following:

Memberservices@grandronde.org

Enrollment staff:

Tristin Armstrong 503-879-1619, Tristin.armstrong@grandronde.org
Nick Labonte 503-879-2490, Nick.labonte@grandronde.org

Please send completed applications to:

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Attn: Enrollment Office
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

2025-26 Royalty Courts

Currently accepting applications.

Application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 9.

Late applications will not be accepted.

General requirements:

- Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member and/or direct descendant of a Tribal member (must show proof via a descendancy letter and/or certificate).
- Must be drug, alcohol and tobacco free.
- Attend school regularly and be in good standing.
- Must be single with no dependents.
- Attend mandatory orientation and sign and comply will all royalty guidelines.

For information contact:

Shannon A. Simi
503-879-1358
Shannon.simi@grandronde.org



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