

ENROLLMENT ORDINANCE
OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council has moved forward with a first reading of amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance at the Tribal Council meeting held on March 19, 2025.

The amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance will (1) Update sections of the ordinance including the duties of staff section, the committee section, the Tribal roll section, the application section, the proof of descendancy section and the publication section; (2) Add sections to the ordinance including a waitlist section, a 2025 open enrollment section, and an enrolled in error section; (3) Remove the blood degree correction section and other unnecessary references to blood quantum; and (4) other minor technical changes. Tribal Council invites comments on the amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance.

For a copy of the ordinance, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by May 1, 2025. ■

PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE
OPEN FOR COMMENT

Tribal Council has determined that Elders and vulnerable adults in our community have a heightened risk of abuse and there is a need to increase protections. Therefore, Tribal Council adopted amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance on an emergency basis at a meeting held Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

The amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance will provide for (1) mandatory reporting, (2) emergency protective orders, (3) civil penalties for those who commit abuse and fail to report abuse, and (4) other minor technical changes.

Tribal Council invites comments on the amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance. For a copy of the ordinance, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by Friday, May 16, 2025. ■

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elder Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■

‘Wasn’t my decision’

GENERAL MANAGER
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all well.”

Blackwell told Smoke Signals that her departure “wasn’t my decision.”

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy released a statement saying that, “We have appreciated working with Angie over the past year as the Tribe’s general manager and wish her the best in her future endeavors. Bryan Langley will be stepping into the general manager role in the interim.”

Kennedy added “We appreciate the hard work and dedication of each and every member of our team and our staff. Working together, we will continue to bring services to our members and move our Tribe forward.”

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson declined to say whether Tribal Council had voted to terminate Blackwell’s contract.

“This is an employment related issue and we are not able to comment beyond the statement that Cheryle issued,” she said.

Several employees, who are also Tribal members, wrote emails in support of Blackwell, quoted below with their permission.

“I’m sad to see you go,” Tribal 477/ Employment & Training Specialist Tiny Gibbons wrote. “I can say that you are a Tribal member in every sense of what that means. Your family is a good family and I will say that I wish you well and many prayers over you. I’m happy you reached your dream job and love your strong support.”

Tribal Shelter Advocate Teresa Henry wrote, “What a huge loss for our Tribe! Thank you for your lifetime of service to our Tribe and all in this community. I appreciate you so very much and I know so

many others do too. I look forward to seeing what you do next!”

Tribal Homeownership Coordinator Michele Plummer wrote, “What a huge loss for this organization and our Tribe! I am saddened and quite honestly very disappointed with regard to good leaders being ‘let go.’ Angie led with much needed transparency, honest, humility, wisdom, and a genuine and true love and care for this organization, this membership, our community and our Tribe. She was the best GM we have had in the 14 years I have worked here, period.”

Plummer continued, “This pattern of good leaders being let go is difficult to watch, process and experience, not only as an employee and Tribal member, but as a human being. I pray that it stops and that people start doing the right thing even if it’s scary, because sometimes the right thing is hard to do, but it’s necessary. I am heartbroken for how this has played out and it’s hard being powerless to do anything about it. The time she took to learn our departments and programs helped her make informed decisions, understanding a whole story before deciding, always making herself available, upholding the truth and doing the right thing no matter what – that is what makes a true leader, that is what we need.”

Blackwell, 57, was hired as general manager in February 2024, after several years as the Tribe’s Early Childhood Education Program Manager. She has also served as a Tribal Council Vice Chair and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director, and ran her own business, “Blackwell Family Resources LLC,” as a family life educator.

The general manager reports directly to Tribal Council and has authority over most Tribal departments for day-to-day operations. ■

STI Awareness and Prevention Event

April 16th from 12-1PM at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building
Snacks will be provided.

The more we talk about STI's the more we can reduce the stigma and be better informed on how to protect ourselves and others. This event will help to learn about prevention, testing, and sexual health.

Let's stop HIV together!

Call 503-879-1396 for an appointment

Get tested at Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building

Let's stop syphilis together!

Call 503-879-1396 for an appointment

Get tested at Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building



COMMUNITY HEALTH

ELDER JUSTICE

Do you feel respected as an elder?

Studies show that a significant amount of Native American Elders (one in three) are actively experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual, sexual, and/or financial maltreatment/abuse/disrespect



nsayka munk-kintaks nsayka ulman tilixam
"we respect/honor our elders"

If you or someone you know is experiencing disrespect and would like support, make a confidential report by calling

503-879-SAFE