



General Council
briefed on health
plans for 2020
— pg. 6

FEBRUARY 15, 2020



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

So far away

Tribal member digs living in Spain as she studies paleontology

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories in 2020 about Grand Ronde Tribal members who live abroad.)

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

When it comes to the eight Grand Ronde Tribal members who live abroad, Sharrah Marie McKenzie is the second closest.

Residing in Barcelona, Spain, McKenzie is approximately 5,600 miles from Grand Ronde. Just the continent of North America, the Atlantic Ocean and most of the Iberian Peninsula away.

When it's noon on the Grand Ronde Reservation, it is 9 p.m. in McKenzie's flat in the city center of the 5.5 million population capital of the Catalonian region of northeast Spain located on the Mediterranean Sea.

"My flat is located in a 200-year-old building," McKenzie says via e-mail. "Most of the architectural designs are traditional, such

See SPAIN
continued on page 7



Contributed photo

Tribal member Sharrah McKenzie and her golden retriever Gypsi enjoy going for walks along the nearby Mediterranean coastline outside of Barcelona, Spain.

Grand Ronde Road seeing more and more potholes

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

Anyone who's driven Grand Ronde Road on a regular basis is familiar with the increasing number of potholes. Although the Tribal Public Works Department performs regular maintenance before the nuisance becomes a potential hazard, every year the potholes re-emerge.

"It's a priority for us to get those fixed, but the weather needs to clear up a bit first," Public Works Manager John Mercier says. "I know it's frustrating and I appreciate everyone's patience."

Grand Ronde Road was recon-

See POTHLES
continued on page 8



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

A pothole on Grand Ronde Road, near the Tribal Cemetery, is representative of the many that are occurring between highways 18 and 22.

Kennedy testifies before Congress, seeks fix to 26-year-old mistake

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy testified before the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples on Wednesday, Feb. 5, seeking to correct a mistake written into the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1994.

According to Kennedy's prepared testimony, the Bureau of Land Management discovered a survey error on the Grand Ronde Reservation that dates back to 1871. The error was discovered after passage of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1988 that re-

See CONGRESS
continued on page 9



Smoke Signals screen capture

Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy testified before the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples on Wednesday, Feb. 5, seeking to correct a 26-year-old mistake written into the Grand Ronde Reservation Act that prohibits further Tribal land claims within the entire state of Oregon. Tribal Attorney Rob Greene, back, accompanied Kennedy on the trip to Washington, D.C.