

October déjà vu

Coliform bacteria detected in area water again

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

For the second October in a row, the Grand Ronde Community Water Association has found coliform bacteria in the area water supply and sent notices to its more than 950 customers.

A Nov. 25 notice said that 10 water samples were taken in October and four detected the presence of coliform bacteria. The state standard is not more than one test may indicate the presence of coliform bacteria.

The notice said that area residents do not have to boil their water or take other corrections actions, but if you have specific health concerns you should contact your health care provider.

“People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly may be at increased risk,” the notice said.

Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful since they are naturally present in the environment. However, they are used by health officials as an indicator of other potentially harmful bacteria that might be present.

The notice said follow-up testing did not find other harmful bacteria, such as fecal coliform or E. coli.

“After we completed our ice pigging project (scouring the inside of the pipes), there may still be areas that need to be flushed more aggressively,” the notice said. “We will start our annual tank cleaning

ASAP, then start flushing the system with chlorine. Some areas may need to be flushed a second or third time to remove all the chlorine. ... We anticipate resolving the problem within the timeline of the Health Division. This may be as long as a month as we have several tanks to clean and chlorinate to start the process.”

Water Association Manager Karl Ekstrom said multiple samples taken in early December have not detected any coliform bacteria, but that he is waiting for more samples to come back negative before declaring the water totally safe.

Ekstrom said the Water Association has received about eight calls from customers, inquiring about the notice.

A similar notice was sent to Water Association customers in October 2014 when two of five water samples detected coliform bacteria.

In reaction to the notice, the Tribe provided bottled water at the Dec. 6 General Council meeting for anyone concerned about drinking tap water.

General Manager David Fullerton said the Tribe’s priority was notifying the membership and community.

“As far as I know, we have not had any specific requests for water from the membership,” he said.

In addition, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said the clinic has not treated anyone for illnesses caused by the bacteria. ■

Getting tutored



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Nokoa Mercier receives help with his math homework from Delphian School student Ashtyn Almstead during Family Tutoring Night held at the Tribe’s Youth Education building on Thursday, Dec. 3. The Delphian School is located in Sheridan and a group of students from the school come to help tutor Tribal students on a regular basis.

Tribal Council makes two committee appointments

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council made appointments to two Tribal committees during its brief Wednesday, Dec. 2, meeting.

Justine Colton was appointed to the Education Committee with a term expiring in March 2017 and Amber Yates was appointed to the Social Services Committee with a term also ending in March 2017.

In other action, Tribal Council OK’d the agenda for the Sunday, Dec. 6, General Council meeting and approved the enrollment of two infants and three non-infants into the Tribe because they qualify under the provisions outlined in the Enrollment Ordinance and the Tribal Constitution.

Tribal Council member Jon A. George joined Bobby Mercier, Jordan Mercier, Greg Archuleta, Kathleen George, Chelsea Clark and Cheyenne Simmons in performing the cultural drumming and singing to open the meeting.

Dec. 9 meeting

During a brief Wednesday, Dec. 9 meeting – scheduled because most Tribal Council members will be attending the annual Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit on Dec. 16 in Canyonville – Tribal Council approved the Ken’s Thin Logging Unit timber sale and a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribe for wildland fire management.

Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno acknowledged that the timber sale was named after Ken Lafferty, who walked on in 2014.

Cultural Department employees Bobby Mercier, Travis Stewart and Brian Krehbiel performed the cultural drumming and singing to open the Dec. 9 meeting.

The meetings, in their entirety, can be viewed on the Tribal website, www.grandronde.org, by clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■



CHEMAWA STATION, LLC.
2016 LANDSCAPING RFB
(Request for Bids)
2015-01

Issue date: Dec. 1, 2015

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Economic Development Department
9615 Grand Ronde Rd,
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
503-879-5211
www.grandronde.org

Please contact Meghan Zimbrick for full RFB
503-879-1306
Meghan.zimbrick@grandronde.org

Bids are due by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2015.

WALK-IN DENTAL APPOINTMENTS FOR KIDS <6

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY FOR DENTAL CHECK-UPS FOR KIDS 5 AND UNDER WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE SEEN AT THE TRIBAL CLINIC. JUST COME ON IN!

We will check your child’s teeth during any of our clinic hours without an appointment. Dental check-ups are recommended beginning with the first tooth!

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Dental Clinic
Phone 503-879-2020

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8:00–5:00; Thur 9:30–5:30

