

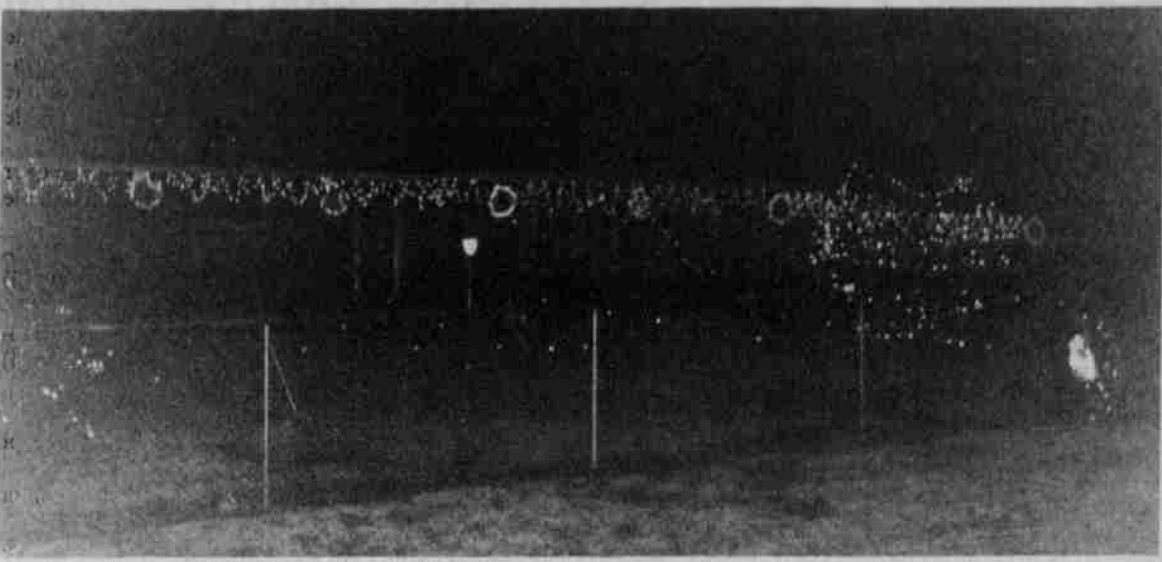
# Christmas Lights Decorating Contest drew 21 participants in Wasco and Jefferson Co.



Paul and Vio Vaeth placed third in the Wasco Electric.



Carol Wewa placed second in Pacific Power.



Cecil Seyler placed third in the Pacific Power.



Anita Davis placed first in Pacific Power.

We would like to thank all the participants in the House Decorating Contest for 1998. We had a total of 21 participants. For this year we would like to encourage all community members to participate in the House Decoration Contest during the Christmas of 1999. 1998 winners are:

- Wasco Electric**  
 1st-Sharlayne & Delbert Garcia  
 2nd-Sandra Greene-Sampson  
 3rd-Paul & Vio Vaeth  
**Pacific Power & Co.**  
 1st-Anita Davis  
 2nd-Carol Wewa  
 3rd-Cecil Seyler  
 Congratulations to all the winners. We would also like to thank our sponsors for the gift certificates donated for their

electricity bill. First place winners received \$75, second place winners received \$50, third place winners received \$25.

Next year we hope to start a committee for the decorating contest, if anyone is interested contact Carol Allison, 553-3243. Thank you from the Community Wellness Center, Recreation Dept.

## Court orders federal agencies to consult regional fish and wildlife plan in Columbia River operation decisions

A federal magistrate ruled this week that two federal agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, must take the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program into account when deciding how much water to release from storage dams to help flush juvenile salmon and steelhead to the ocean.

"This ruling is an important reminder to the federal agencies that they must account for the ecological values protected by the Council's program," said Council Chairman Todd Maddock. "The ruling points the way toward coordination of the region's values, reflected in the Council's program, within the bounds of federal law."

The ruling came in a case regarding the operation of federal dams in the Columbia River Basin in the summers of 1996 and 1997. The state of Montana sued the Corps and Bureau, alleging that the two agencies released more water from reservoirs behind two dams in that state - Hungry Horse and Libby - to help downstream salmon migration in the Columbia River than was required by the 1995-1998 Biological Opinion

on Hydropower Operations. The Biological Opinion, issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, establishes minimum river flows in the Snake and Columbia rivers to protect endangered Snake River salmon.

It is not unusual for the Corps, which operated Libby Dam, and the Bureau, which operates Hungry Horse Dam, to release water from behind the dams to boost river flows downstream. Both dams are located on tributaries of the Columbia. However, the Council's fish and wildlife program includes specific measures that prohibit deep drawdowns of the reservoirs. These measures, known collectively as Integrated Rule Curves, are designed to protect fish and wildlife in the reservoirs.

While the Corps and Bureau can draft the Montana reservoirs deeper than allowed in the Council's program if necessary to meet the requirements of the Biological Opinion, that was not necessary in 1996 and 1997 because both years were wetter than normal and the flow requirements could have been met without deep drawdowns in Montana, Magistrate Leif Erickson ruled. Under the Northwest Power Act, the

1980 law that created the Council, the Corps and Bureau are required to take the Council's fish and wildlife program into account at each relevant stage of decision-making to the fullest extent practicable.

In 1996 and 1997, the Corps and Bureau failed to do that, Judge Erickson ruled, and he ordered the two agencies to do so in the future. He also noted that once the agencies meet the requirements of the Biological Opinion, they must consider and implement, the fullest extent practicable, the integrated rules curves in the Council's fish and wildlife program.

Erickson's ruling can be appealed to the U.S. District Court in Montana. Copies of the opinion are available from the Council's office, 800-222-3355.

The Council is an agency of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington and is charged by the Northwest Power Act of 1980 to prepare a program to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the construction and operation of hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River Basin while assuring the region an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable electricity supply.

## You've got mail

Many of us have fond memories of the recent holiday season. However, those memories may fade quickly when the holiday bills start pouring in. Are you unsure how you'll pay them?

"Sometimes people enjoy the end-of-the-year holiday season only to become dismayed when they see how much they spent," says Terri Rahmsdorff, Consumer Credit Counseling Service. "However, consumers can take positive steps right away to help solve this financial problem."

If you have spent too much money during the holidays, you should first figure out how to get out of debt and then set up a savings plan to make next year's holiday season debt free. These three tips may help achieve both goals.

- 1) Make paying off your debts a

priority. Develop a plan to repay all debts as soon as possible. If you don't know how to develop a debt repayment plan, contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service to make an appointment with a counselor who can help you.

- 2) Know exactly each month where you are in your debt repayment plan. Pay more than minimum amount due on credit card accounts to reduce debt and minimize finance and interest charges.

- 3) Carefully track your spending and cut back on non-essential spending. When making new purchases, use cash as often as possible. To keep from adding to your debt, only use credit cards for emergency situations.

"Learn from this year's overspending. Make a concerted effort to become debt free and

approach the 1999 holiday season with caution," recommends Terri Rahmsdorff, Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

For help with money management or budgeting, contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Consumer Credit Counseling Service is a nonprofit, community service organization that provides confidential counseling, guidance, debt management and education programs to financially troubled consumers. Consumer Credit Counseling Service is a member of the National Foundation for Consumer Credit (NFCC).

Enjoy getting mail again. Schedule an appointment with a Consumer Credit Counseling Service counselor by contacting Consumer Credit Counseling Service at 389-6181.

## Community Health Education Team news



We have seen a lot of youths using tobacco products, and asked where they obtain it. A majority get their tobacco from adults, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters. Some are smoking cigarettes at the young age of 9 and 10, and chewing at earlier ages of 5 and 6. Most kids say they use tobacco because their parents do. What can we do as adults to lower the risk of cancer, high blood pressure, and asthma in the future? Do you even care? Ask yourself.

There have been store front operations done with in the past year which consisted of confronting retail stores who sell tobacco and try to purchase products utilizing underage youth to buy the products themselves. The result of merchants selling to underage youth was fairly low. This led to the question, "How are they getting their chew and cigarettes?" Yes, from the adults! Some responsibility lies with the merchant who could possibly be cited up to \$500 for selling tobacco to minors. The majority of responsibility is up to the parents, aunts, uncles, community and other adults.

If this article is getting boring and you want to quit reading you are probably not interested in making a difference or you may be saying to yourself, "I don't smoke or chew, this doesn't concern me." We all can

be of assistance in one way, the way is not to buy tobacco products for underage youth and continue being a positive role model by not using tobacco yourself. There are little things that can make a difference if you are willing to say NO and not let tobacco rule you. There has to be a change. Take a bicycle chain, if the chain is not broken it will continue to go round and round until the cycle is broken.

This question has been asked numerous times by junior high and high school students. Does the tribe pay and cover medical expenses or pay life insurance policies of tribal employee's who choose to use tobacco products knowing that it is dangerous and has been related to other health problems?

There have been organizations and tribes that have lowered life insurance policies and medical expense coverage knowing that the policy holders were using tobacco. These organizations knowing that tobacco use has been related to many health problems stepped up and avoided unnecessary payments of funds. Why should they pay for medical problems brought on by choice, not by nature/natural?

We continue to remind you that safety is very important while in a vehicle. We would like to encourage you to keep buckling up. There are

many of you who have begun to Buckle Up, but there are many people who are not. We see children standing up on the front seat and babies being held on your laps. Remember your child will be between you and the dash or steering wheel of your automobile when you get in a crash. Don't be responsible for your baby's death, Buckle them up in the proper child restraint. There are parents who lose children in automobile crashes who are still getting criminally charged and spending time in prison for not buckling up their child.

Our February 8-14, is National Passenger and Child Safety Week, look for activities to take place in the community and schools.

In a continued effort to keep everyone safe and uninjured, we always encourage you to Buckle up every time you travel anywhere. If it's a short or long trip keep it simple and Buckle Up!

**Who is a friend?** -someone you can trust: -someone you care about: -someone you see everyday **Who is a friend?** -someone you can trust: -someone you care about: -someone you see everyday: -**Who is a friend?** -someone you can trust: -someone you care about: -someone you won't see everyday. Don't cloud your Judgment, Alcohol and Automobiles don't mix.... A.A.D.M.

**Hug-O-Grams on sale now. January 12th to February 10th. Deliveries will be made this year!! Regular balloons-\$2.00 each, Foil balloons-\$4.00 each. Place your prepaid orders at the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center. Deliveries will be made on the 11th & 12th.**

## Hoop Dance contest set for March 20-21

The 9th Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest is set to be held Saturday and Sunday, March 20, 21, 1999 at the Heard Museum Amphitheater (2301 North Central Avenue), Phoenix, Arizona from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies is Dennis Brown, Sr. (Seneca) from Tuba City, Arizona. The judges will be R.G. Harris (Sac and Fox/Ponca) from Stroud, Oklahoma; Darrell Goodwill (Dakota) from Window Rock, Arizona; Ann Abeysa (Eastern Shoshone/Isleta) from Logan, Utah; Bill Crouse (Seneca) from Salamanca, New York; and Peter Jo Olney (Yakama) from White Swan, Washington.

Head Northern Singer is Mike Spotted Wolf (Seminole/Creek/

Hidatsa) from Tucson, Arizona. Head Southern Singer is Joe Fish DuPoint (Kiowa) from Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Prize money Senior Division (40 years and older)—1st place, \$1,000; 2nd place, \$500; 3rd place, \$250.

Adult Division (18-39 years)—1st place, \$2,500; 2nd place, \$1,800; 3rd place, \$1,200; 4th place, \$900; 5th place, \$500; 6th place, \$300.

Teen Division (9-17 years)—1st place, \$500; 2nd place, \$250; 3rd place, \$100.

Youth Division (8 years and younger) \$200 cash prize to split among all contestants.

This contest is open to Native dancers only. Tribal enrollment card or CIB required. For more information call 602-251-0284.