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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Derek Knows His Gun, Kyi-Yo co-president, (406) 243-1669; Jeremy MacDonald, Kyi-Yo co-president, (406) 829-8785; Kyi-Yo office, (406) 243-2703.

ANNUAL KYI-YO POWWOW FEATURES HAND GAME TOURNAMENT

MISSOULA —

The 32nd annual Kyi-Yo Powwow at The University of Montana April 28-30 will have something new this year – a traditional American Indian hand game tournament.

In hand game, participants hide bones in their hands and then have opponents try guessing where they are. Sticks are used to keep score, and some cagey hand game team will go home with a top prize of \$2,500 and Pendleton jackets. Prizes then range from \$1,250 for second place to \$200 for fifth place. The entry fee for teams of two to five players is \$200.

“Hand game is an ancient Indian bone game,” said Derek Knows His Gun, Kyi-Yo co-president and UM sophomore. “It’s been played since time out of mind. Our \$2,500 prize is pretty good for a first-time tournament, but I’ve heard of hand game grand prizes on the powwow circuit that reach \$25,000.”

The Saturday hand game tournament will be just one aspect of Montana’s premier college powwow, which will be held in the newly renovated Adams Center. Grand entries, which feature dancers dressed in traditional Indian finery, will be held Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at noon.

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Powwow admission is \$3 per day for the general public, \$2 for elders age 60 and older, and free to registered dancers, drummers and children age 4 and under. Dance registration, which begins Friday and runs through Saturday at 1 p.m., costs \$3 per contestant.

“It’s very important that the entire campus community is invited, as well as the Missoula community and surrounding areas, to experience a new culture,” Knows His Gun said. “This is such a great chance for Indians and non-Indians to be immersed in the Native American culture right here in Missoula. This powwow is for everyone.”

Knows His Gun said he hopes for a turnout of 3,000 or more during the three powwow days.

Besides the traditional dance and drum contests, the powwow will include special events such as the Bonnie Heavy Runner Teepee Race Saturday afternoon at the River Bowl practice field. Named for a former director of UM’s Native American Studies Program, the race challenges contestants to erect a teepee as fast as possible. Saturday evening also will feature a Miss Kyi-Yo contest for ages 15 and older, a Lil’ Miss Kyi-Yo event for ages 7 to 14 and a Tiny Tot Miss Kyi-Yo contest for those 6 and under.

The powwow host drum groups will be Blacklodge from White Swan, Wash., and Young Grey Horse from **Browning**.

“These are great groups,” Knows His Gun said. “Blacklodge is like the Bob Dillon of the powwow circuit, and I’m sure we’ll have people showing up just to hear them play.”

The master of ceremony duties will be filled by Earl Old Person and Kenny Scabby Robe. Other officials will be arena director Jonathan Windy Boy, head man dancer Jonathan

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Gopher and head woman dancer Kishey Baker.

The Kyi-Yo Powwow is a drug- and alcohol-free event. The word kyi-yo means
“grizzly” in Blackfeet.

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Specialized western, tribal

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