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ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN CELEBRATION AT UM APRIL 18-19

MISSOULA —

The public is invited to share in American Indian heritage and artistry during the 40th Annual Kyi-Yo Celebration at The University of Montana on Friday and Saturday, April 18-19.

This year’s theme is “Celebrating 40 Years through Song and Dance.” Events kick off with a grand entry featuring dancers in traditional dress at 6 p.m. Friday, April 18, in the Adams Center.

The celebration offers community members a chance to enjoy the skills of champion American Indian dancers and drummers from across the region. Dance specials that highlight different styles will be held throughout the weekend. Additional grand entry events take place at noon and 6 p.m. Saturday.

General admission is $5 Friday and Saturday evening and $8 for all day Saturday. Dance registration is $5 with one pass, and drummer registration is $40 with 10 passes. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and weekend passes will be available.

A complete schedule of Kyi-Yo Celebration events is online at


This year’s head dancers are UM students Shandin and Salisha (OldBull) Pete. Celebration events include special performances by the Buffalo Creek Dancers from the Seneca Nation of New York and by the 2008 World Champion Hoop Dancer Charles Denny of Fort Duchesne, Utah.
Activities Friday and Saturday also include drum contests, a health fair and vendors.

The following events will be held in conjunction with this year's celebration:

- Tuesday, April 15: Grade School Educational Event, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., UM Oval.
- April 15-17 conference: “Intersecting Interests: Tribal Knowledge and Research Communities,” University Center. Information: http://www.tribalknowledgeliteracy.org/
- Thursday, April 17: Jordan Carlson Memorial Scholastic Bowl, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., University Center.
- Friday, April 18: Missoula Indian Youth Conference, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., University Center.
- Saturday, April 19: Groundbreaking ceremony for UM’s new Native American Center, 9 a.m., UM Oval south of the Grizzly Bear statue and east of Lommasson Center.
- Saturday, April 19: Bonnie Heavy Runner Memorial Tipi Race, 10:15 a.m., UM Oval.
- Saturday, April 19: Youth Traditional Games, 10 a.m., UM Oval. Youth basketball tournament at noon in the Adams Center West Auxiliary Gymnasium.
- Monday, April 21: Transfer Transition, for students who will be transferring to UM fall semester 2008. Information: 800-462-8636.

For more information, call Kyi-Yo President Dustin Whitford at 406-945-4330 or Kyi-Yo program assistant Denise Grant at 406-243-5403, or e-mail denise.grant@mso.umt.edu.

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