

Hoop dancers compete at championship

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Four local youth traveled to Arizona last week to compete in the 18th Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest.

George Clements, Trent Heath, Matthew Clements and Kaiwian Clements all competed in Phoenix during the three-day event.

Matthew Clements is a 14-year-old 9th grade student at Madras High School.

Trent Heath and George Clements are both 13 years old. They are students at the Jefferson County Middle School.

Kaiwan Clements is two-years-old and goes to Early Childhood Education.

In order to travel to the event the boys and their families have been busy with local fundraisers like Indian taco sales, bake sales, fry bread sales and raffles.

According to George Clements, he has been hoop dancing since he was very young. The designs are the hardest part, he said, because "You have to keep up with the beat."

Matthew Clements agreed, and said the hardest part is, "Probably keeping up with the beat of the drum while making the designs and getting the hoops."

He prefers a faster beat, Matthew added.

Trent Heath couldn't pick a favorite design, instead say-



Matthew and George Clements dance during a fundraiser at the Sphectrum Youth Center.

ing that "everything" is his favorite.

The competition brings to-

gether hoop dancers from all over North America to compete for the world title.

This year's event - called the Superbowl of Hoop Dancing - is sponsored by Casino Arizona,

with support from The Jay Kahn Memorial Fund.

According to the official press release for the event, "Over the years, the intertribal hoop dance has grown to incorporate creative designs, difficult manipulations of the hoops and intricate footwork.

Each dancer presents a unique variation of the intertribal hoop dance, weaving in aspects of his or her distinct traditions and cultures. Individual routines are presented using as few as four to as many as 50 hoops, which are shaped to create a variety of designs including animals, butterflies and globes."

Competitors perform in five divisions including Tiny Tot (under 5 years), Youth (5 to 12), Teen (13 to 17), Adult (18 and older) and Senior (40 years and older).

The 2007 World Champion Dallas M. Arcand, a Cree tribal member from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, was expected to defend his title at the 2008 contest.

Other 2007 winners were Senior Division Champion Daniel Trammer, *Cherokee*, from Cherokee, N.C.; Teen Division Champion Charles Denny, *Chippewa/Cree*, from Fort Duchesne, Utah; and Youth Division Champion Tyrese Jensen, *Navajo/Maricopa*, from Scottsdale Arizona.

The competition is hosted by Heard Museum in Phoenix.

Culture and Heritage hosts 'Sewing for Feast' classes

During the months of February and March, the Culture and Heritage Department is hosting classes, "Sewing for Feast."

The classes teach the making of ribbon shirts, and wing dresses. The classes will be from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as follows: Ribbon shirts: Feb. 14. Wing dresses: Feb. 19, 21, 26 and 27. The group will determine what they would like to work on for the month of March. All are welcome. Eileen Spino and family will be the instructors. Classes will be held in the basement Cultural Room of the Education building. Call Culture and Heritage for information, 553-3290.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, along with partnering entities, will be conducting an outreach session this Thursday, Feb. 14 at Kah-Nee-Ta. The purpose of the session is to provide Warm Springs residents with the latest information on programs and services available through USDA and partners. The session will begin at 8:45 a.m. A free lunch will be served. Presenters: Risk Management Agency; Farm Service Agency; Rural Development Agency; InterTribal Ag Council; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Indian Ag Credit Outreach; OSU Extension Service; among other agencies. Session is sponsored by the Irrigation, Range and Ag Committee.



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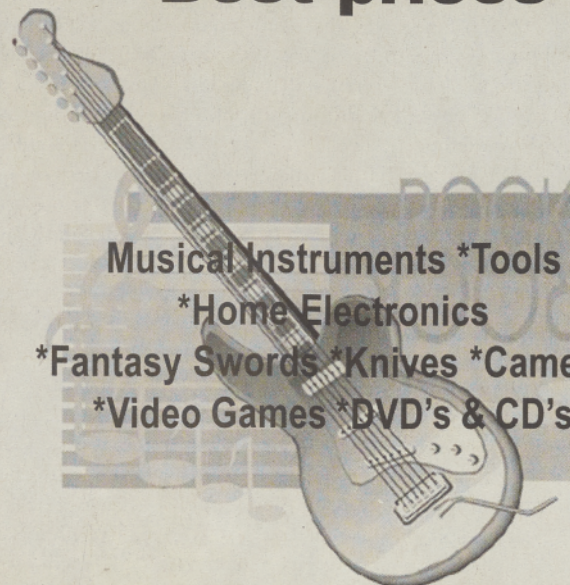
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