

The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 28 Number 1 □ January 1, 2018 □ www.asianreporter.com



Baby panda melts hearts of fans in debut

Page 2



50 couples marry in mass ceremony

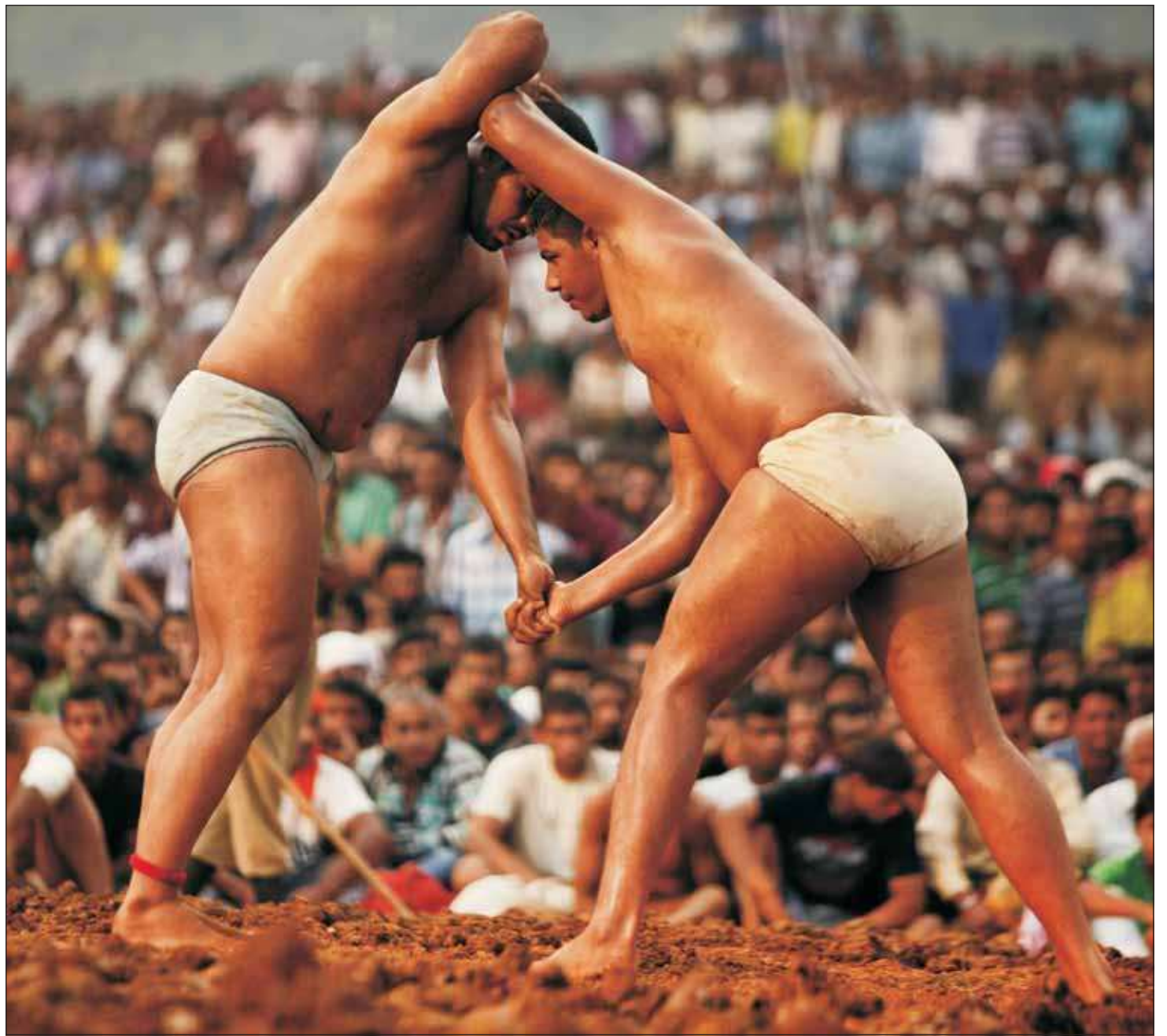
Page 3



Recipe: Shrimp and Pineapple Brochette

Page 13

Ancient wrestling offers a future for some in modern India



KUSHTI DEVOTEES. India's Jodha, right, competes with Pakistan's Mohammed Ali during the seventh "Mission Dosti" Indian-style wrestling competition at Katra, about 30 miles from Jammu, India, in this file photo. The annual friendly event features participants from India, Pakistan, and England. (AP Photo/Channi Anand, File)

By Nick Perry
The Associated Press

BAHADURGARH, India — Wearing nothing but loincloths, a group of boys warm up by climbing sturdy ropes that take them high into the trees. One teenager walks around the wrestling pit swirling incense, blessing the arena, and preparing it for battle.

On this evening, as the dusk thickens and the bugs venture out, a couple dozen

young devotees of *kushti*, the ancient Indian style of wrestling, have gathered to face off. They range in age from 10 to 16. The earth in the pit has been prepared as it has been for centuries, turned over and mixed with sawdust, turmeric, and ghee, or clarified butter. It's mildly fragrant and soft to the touch, making it easier on the wrestlers' skin.

These devotees, or *pehelwans*, have made a commitment that extends beyond the hours they spend practicing each

morning and evening. They live an ascetic lifestyle, eating specific foods like almond milkshakes and chapattis slathered with ghee. They don't eat meat and refrain from smoking, drinking, and dating.

The sport, thought to be 2,000 years old, is mentioned in ancient Hindu texts and depicted in temple carvings. Although women wrestlers have made strides recently in India, the vast majority of participants are men.

Continued on page 3



Mark your calendar!

The Year of the Dog begins February 16, 2018.

The Asian Reporter's Lunar New Year special issue in honor of the Year of the Dog will be published on Monday, February 5.

ATE-OH-ATE
HAWAIIAN RESTAURANT

2454 E BURNSIDE ST
5200 SE WOODSTOCK BLVD
WWW.ATE-OH-ATE.COM

STRAIGHT BROKE DA MOUTH SINCE 2010

ACCIDENT & WELLNESS Chiropractic

Physical Therapy & Massage
Auto & Work Injuries

4124 SE 82nd Ave., #700
Portland, OR 97266
(Inside Eastport Plaza)
(503) 206-8863

6035 SW 185th Ave.
Aloha, OR 97078
(Farmington Rd. & 185th)
(503) 992-6080

AccidentWellness.com

The Asian Reporter
922 N. Killingsworth St.
Portland, OR 97217 USA

MULTIPLY YOUR FUN!

NEW X Scratch-its™
OVER \$6.8 MILLION IN TOTAL PRIZES

LOTTERY GAMES ARE BASED ON CHANCE AND SHOULD BE PLAYED FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY. ODDS AND PAYOUTS VARY BY GAME.



OREGON LOTTERY
Together, we do good things.