



Fort Hall Classic tourney reunion among players

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY
Sho-Ban News
FORT HALL – The Fort Hall-Indian Basketball Classic has a fine reputation amongst long time ballers, who not only come to play year after year but mostly to reunite with friends.

The history of the tournament was it initially began through the efforts of Wayne George, Roger George and Mike Sakelarlis. It started as a 30 & over league with eight teams. The games were played at the Fort Hall Elementary School. It eventually became a tournament and grew with the crowd over the years and evolved into what it is today.

This year the tournament is April 7-9. There are 48 teams competing, which features five divisions: Women's 40+, Men's 40+ and 50+ and the Wayne George Memorial will include the 60+ and 65+ division.

Fort Hall Recreation Director Mike Sakelarlis said he expects close to 500 players coming in, along with their families, which is a boost for the local economy.

Planning an event



Fort Hall Classic trophies.

of this size means they have to prepare in advance as well as be organized, especially in setting up the schedule, securing referees, scorekeepers and timers. Getting awards for each division is another feat, with over 200 to order. Old Town Embroidery did custom jackets and pullovers and Alma and Susan hand-painted the trophies.

This year games will also take place at the gyms in Blackfoot High School, as well as at Timbee Hall and Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School.

"It's very difficult to make sure everything is perfect. If you make one mistake that could throw the whole tournament off," said Sakelarlis.

He pointed out that despite the player's

ages, the competition is pretty good and encourages people to come out and watch.

The Memorial ceremony for Wayne George will be on Friday, April 8 at 6 p.m. at Timbee Hall.

Wayne George passed away in February last year. He enjoyed the sport of basketball throughout his lifetime and even played for a men's league in California in the mid 1960s. He also sponsored the All Nations basketball team in the Fort Hall Classic for several years.

Visiting players, Ernie Bighorn and Maurice Bighorn, have been coming to the tournament since it's early beginnings in the 1970s. They play for the Brockton, Montana team from the Fort



Fort Hall Recreation Director Mike Sakelarlis (center) pictured with cousins Maurice (on left) and Ernie Bighorn. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)

Peck Indian Reservation. This is the main tournament they play in throughout the year and dedicate time to condition and stay in shape by playing in smaller tournaments. They say the competition, even at their age in the 65+, is good.

"You still have to do something," said Ernie as he laughed.

Maurice said even if they don't win, they just come down and compete.

"It's always that idea that you'd like to

go back to the way you were a long time ago," he said. "Even though you might not be able to obtain that same ability. You'll still work with what you have left."

To them, basketball is more than a game; it's a lifestyle and a part of who they are.

As youngsters, basketball gave them an outlet and was widely supported by the involvement of their families and pulled the community together – as it still does today.

Ernie explained the reason they come is not only because they've gotten to know a lot of people who attend, but also they respect how Fort Hall Recreation runs the program and like that it's a non-alcohol event.

Playing in the Classic Tournament has been a family affair for the Bighorn family, as eight of them have taken part.

Tribal Enterprises sponsoring Rez Ball Hoop Shoot contests

By SARA BRONCHO
Shoshone-Bannock Enterprise Marketing
FORT HALL — Most Tribal Enterprises locations are sponsoring a Rez Ball Madness Hoop Shoot Contest, which is a co-ed free throw contest free to enter.

Sign up is at each sponsoring store and the hoop shoots will happen throughout the month of April.

The first Hoop Shoot Contest is Friday, April 8 at 3 p.m. It is aimed towards the Recreation's Wayne George Memorial Tournament for ages 40+, 50+ age groups and sign up is at Sage Hill Travel Center by noon on Friday, April 8.

Second, is the Hoop Shoot Contest on Friday, April 15 at 3 p.m. There is no tournament this week, but is aimed towards the 18 to 39 years age group. Sign up is at the Bannock Peak Truck Stop by noon on Friday, April 15.

Third, is the Hoop Shoot for Juniors and Kids ages 12-14 and 11 & Under age group on Friday, April 22 at 3 p.m. There will be two this day for the two different age groups.

Sign up at T.P. Gas by Friday, April 22 by noon.

Fourth, is the Hoop Shoot for Teens 18 and under. This will take place Friday, April 29 at 3 p.m. This runs concurrent with Recreation's 18 & Under tournament and sign up is at the Trading Post Grocery Store by noon that same day.

There is no purchase necessary and all the hoop shoots will take place at the Sho-Ban School at the outside basketball hoops in the back of the school. There will be three places per contest with prizes.

Also, there is a Basketball Hoop Giveaway as Sage Hill Travel Center, Bannock Peak Truck Stop, T.P. Gas Travel Center and Trading Post Grocery Store will be giving away a regular size basketball hoop. No purchase necessary and individuals must sign up at each of the locations.

Each location has their own Facebook pages, so like us for updates on the Rez Ball Madness Hoop Shoot and for information on sales, specials and more.

Local teams compete in Owyhee tournament



Native Fire won first in the 7th and 8th grade division. All Stars include Cedar Washakie and Ruthie Baker. They played Elko in the championship game. (Submitted photos)



The Minion Terror team took second in the first through third grade division. All Stars include Starlynn Runninghorse and Paja Weed. They played Elko in championship.



Terror Squad team from Fort Hall also took second and played Owyhee in championship. Adelia Marin and A'den were named All Stars.

Recreation News

Youth drama class

Camille Carter will be teaching a youth drama class every Saturday in April for four weeks. Youth will learn theatre and be in a play at the end. For more information, sign up in the Recreation office.

Youth circuit training

Youth circuit training for youth 12 to 17 years of age is Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Timbee Hall weight room. Call Alberta Yazzie at 406-1987 to reserve a spot.

Youth leagues

Because of tournaments, youth basketball leagues will be played on Monday and Tuesdays.

High school league signup is in the Recreation office.

Buckskin Gloves Boxing

Buckskin Gloves Boxing Tourney

is April 15 and 16 in memory of Jeanetta P. Buckskin at Timbee Hall. Bouts begin at 6 p.m. each night. Grand entry is at 5:30 p.m. Admission charged at the door. Twenty plus matches each night. Weigh ins are Friday noon to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Raiburn Buckskin at 208-200-1717 or eachhawkbc@hotmail.com or Mike Sakelarlis at 208-478-3770.

Timbee Hall hours

Timbee Hall hours are Monday through Wednesday 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please watch your children while at Timbee Hall. Recreation is not a daycare and the cafeteria isn't a playground. Any unattended children will be reported to the Fort Hall Police.