



Festive lobby area at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

Cheryl Taylor photo

Spokane inhabited for 8,000 years

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Late last month city officials celebrated the 125 anniversary of incorporation. As it turns out, that's barely a pimple on 8,000 years of human habitation at the confluence of the Spokane River and Latah Creek.

In terms of continuous human use and habitation verified by radiocarbon dating, recent discoveries have made Spokane the oldest city in the state, said Stanley C. Gough, archaeology director at Eastern Washington University in nearby Cheney.

His findings at the 25-by-60-foot site are likely no surprise to Indian tribes in the area whose oral history regards the area as a salmon fishing and food processing site dating back to ancient times. "We've known that all our lives," said Buzz Gutierrez, a Spokane Indian tribal member who was born and raised there.

December Young Achiever Congratulations Shania Tom Sponsored by Les Schwab

Shania Tom is looking forward to Christmas for one special reason—she gets to spend more time with her family.

The 9-year-old fourth grader at Warm Springs Elementary said that is the highlight of the holiday for her.

Shania is exceptionally talented in math.

After the holiday break she will begin learning the subject at the fifth-grade level.

Fourth grade students use a math program that has 146 objectives for the entire year.

Shania has already completed 138 of those objectives since the start of the school year.

Math is her favorite subject, she said, because "It's one of the easiest things to do in the school."

She also enjoys reading. "It's fun and it's kind of a challenge," Shania said.

Later in life Shania hopes



to become a dentist.

The career appeals to her, she said, because she likes helping people.

Shania credits her mother as her hero, she said.

"She teaches me a lot of stuff from her culture," Shania explained.

Shania is the daughter of Sharon and Corbett Tom.

She has one brother, Corbett Tom Jr., who is six years old.

Shania also has a sister, Marilyn, who is two-and-a-half years old.

Many winners at Thanksgiving Powwow

The Thanksgiving Powwow at the Agency Longhouse was a great success. Here are some results from the dancing events at the powwow:

In the tiny tots and under age group, there were 21 girls in regalia, and 14 boys. They were gifted \$3 each. There were also 51 tiny tot boys and girls not in regalia, and they were gifted \$1 each.

In the 7-11 age group, girls fancy: first, Delan Autunez; second, Katie Mae Frazier; third, Kashena Stevens; and six consolation.

7-11 girls jingle: first, Leona Scott; second, Leah Suppah; third, Demiryce Miller.

7-11 girls traditional: first, Revonne Johnson.

7-11 boys grass: first, Marcel

Allen; second, Jeb Johnson; third, Neal Morning Owl; and two consolations.

7-11 boys fancy: first, Tyler Dashner; second, Preston Stevens; third, Damian Frank.

7-11 boys traditional: first, Gavin Begay; second, Kody Florendo; third, Amiel Rhoan.

12-17 girls fancy/jingle: first, Larissa Myers; second, Laurissa Ballenger; Angela Ballenger; and three consolation.

12-17 girls traditional: first, Sisiley Scott; second, Farrelynn Ballenger; third, Arlene David; and four consolation.

12-17 boys fancy/grass: first, Austin Jones; second, Trent Heath; third, George Clements.

12-17 boys traditional: first, Roland Morning Owl.

Adult women fancy all cat-

egory: first, Krysta Rhoan; second, Evaline Spino; Merle Kalama; and six consolation.

Adult men all category: first, Gene Harvey; second, Herbert Stwyer.

Golden age: 21 men and women participated.

17 and under girls team dance: first, Teryle Florendo, Sisiley Scott and Joanne Scott; second, Farrelyn Ballenger, Angela Ballenger and Laurissa Ballenger; third, Arlene David, Kasheena Stevens and Elise Bagley; and five consolation.

17 and under boys team dance: first, Trent Heath, George Clements and Matt Clements; second, Neal Morning Owl, Jeb Johnson and Preston Stevens; third, Jake Frank, Keilly and Michael; and

one consolation.

17 and under hand drum contest: first, Pine Grove Jr., Jucoby Frank, Wyatt Frank and Chez Frank.

Clown dance 17 and under: first, Arlene David; second, didn't write name down; and third, didn't write name down.

Clown dance 18 and up: first, Sally Polk Adams; second, Charlene Moody; third, Carlos Calica.

The Second Annual Northwest Indian Storytelling Festival will be Thursday through Saturday evenings, January 4-6. The festival will be followed by the Northwest Indian Storytelling apprenticeship workshop and tellers gathering Jan. 6-7 at Portland State University in downtown Portland. The festival will celebrate tribal storytelling season in the Pacific Northwest, featuring some of the region's finest

traditional and contemporary tribal storytellers, along with tribal drumming, singing and dancing. Those interested in the tribal storytellers events must register in advance, as seating is limited to 150. Registration paperwork is available through NISA. Festival tickets must be reserved at PSU Box Office (503) 725-3307, or contact Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com. (key word: storytellers festival).

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