



Miss Indian Arizona News

Welcome to our first Edition!

As part of our ongoing mission to improve our organization and increase our communication with the general public, we are proud to bring you our first edition of Miss Indian Arizona News.

Miss Indian Arizona News will be published on a quarterly basis, and is meant to serve several purposes. First, it will allow Miss Indian Arizona, and the Miss Indian Arizona Association to give an update on their activities during the past three months, such as appearances by Miss Indian Arizona, meetings that were held, or any other newsworthy items dealing with the MIAA.

Second, we will use the Miss Indian Arizona News to provide up-to-date information on upcoming events, upcoming deadlines, or special news that we feel would be of interest to our readership.

Finally, this newsletter will serve as a place where local Tribal Royalty, and their associated committees can share their own stories, pictures and information with other tribes, and readers of this newsletter. We would greatly encourage all Tribal Royalty and committees to take advantage of this unique opportunity to share news and photos of your own events and participants,

We have already been at work thinking of different types of content for this newsletter. For instance, beginning in the next issue, we will be highlighting a past MIA titleholder in each issue, including a bio, old photographs, and an update as to what they are doing today. Our first highlighted titleholder will be Veronica Homer, the very first Miss Indian Arizona.

Please feel free to offer your own suggestions about this newsletter. We want it to be both interesting AND useful. We greatly encourage you

to submit your own stories and photos to be included in our next issues. We thank you for reading this today, and look forward to having you as a reader in the future!

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2009

Miss Indian Arizona News is a quarterly publication of the Miss Indian Arizona Association, and the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program. The Miss Indian Arizona Association is composed of a variety of individuals, several of whom are past MIA title holders and participants. Membership in the organization is open to all interested individuals. If you are interested in participating in the Miss Indian Arizona Association, or contributing material for future publication, please visit our website at www.missindianarizona.com or email us at info@missindianarizona.com

Interesting Facts

Did you know...

One Mother and Daughter have both been Miss Indian Arizona

They are Delores Castro Savala, and Sonya Savala-Track, both from the Kaibab-Paiute Tribe in Northern Arizona.

Two Sisters have been Miss Indian Arizona

Veronica Homer was the first Miss Indian Arizona. Her sister Cindy Homer was also Miss Indian Arizona 12 years later.

Three Miss Indian Arizona Titleholders have gone on to become Miss Indian America

They are Maxine Norris, Gracie Welsh, and Vivian Juan Saunders.

Five Tribes have had a Miss Indian Arizona at least 5 times

The San Carlos Apache and Colorado River Indian Tribes have both had 8 titleholders. The Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe have both had 7 titleholders. The Tohono O'odham Nation has had 6 titleholders.



Miss Indian Arizona at Miss Indian World

Three of the twenty six contestants in the 2009 Miss Indian World Pageant were former Miss Indian Arizona Royalty. Evereta Thinn (Navajo), Miss Indian Arizona 2007-2008, Cissimarie Juan (Tohono O'odham), Miss Indian Arizona 2006-2007, and Tara Kitcheyan (San Carlos Apache), Second Runner Up Miss Indian Arizona 2006-2007, represented Arizona Tribes in the 2009 Miss Indian World Pageant held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 23-25. The event took place during the 26th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow.

The contestants competed for the title in the areas of public speaking, traditional presentation, personal interview, essay, and dancing ability. Brooke Grant (Hoopa/Yurok/Karuk/Chippewa) of California was crowned on Saturday, April 25, at the Gathering of Nations Powwow at the University of New Mexico University Arena, known locally as "The Pit." Evereta Thinn was selected as first Runner Up and also received awards for Best Dancer and Miss Congeniality. Tara Kitcheyan was selected as Second Runner-Up.

The new Miss Indian World will travel to many native and indigenous communities around the world on behalf of the powwow. The Emcee for the traditional talent presentation was Hattie Kauffman, a journalist for CBS News.

"The Miss Indian World title is a prestigious honor in the Native American and indigenous world. The winner will bring together native and indigenous people throughout North America by providing a cultural link between tribes." said Derek Mathews, organizer of the Gathering of Nations. Miss Indian World represents all native and indigenous peoples as a cultural goodwill ambassador.

The Miss Indian Arizona Association is very proud of these ladies, and recognizes them for all their hard work and preparation for this prestigious competition.

Arizona Tribes

There are 22 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes within the state of Arizona. The tribes live on lands that are very diverse, from the high mountain forests of Eastern Arizona, to the low desert of the Colorado River Valley, and the bottom of the Grand Canyon!



Ashley Vincent Crowned new Miss Ak-Chin.

Ashley Vincent, a senior at Maricopa High School, was crowned the new Miss Ak-Chin on March 30, 2009. Vincent is the daughter of Lemuel Vincent, from Ak-Chin, and Judy Hall, from the Duck Valley Shoshone Tribe. She lives on the Ak-Chin reservation with her grandmother.

Vincent is part of the Ak-Chin Youth Council, and has been for quite some time. She loves playing sports, especially basketball and softball. She played in the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) tournament with the Ak-Chin girls in 2008 for the very first time.

As the new Miss Ak-Chin, Ashley has ridden in the Tohono O'odham Rodeo and Fair parade, the O'odham Tash and Mul-Chu-Tha parade, and also participated in the O'odham Tash Powwow. During her reign, she plans on doing more activities and projects that will have a broad appeal to all ages in her community. One thing she would like to see is a Boys and Girls Club. She knows that it will be hard work to form, but that the club is worth pursuing for the benefit of families in her community. She also wants to do more activities that will bring the Ak-Chin culture back, and to get the younger kids involved, so that they will grow up knowing their traditions. When asked about the challenges before her, she replied "I promise you, the community, that I will try my hardest to do the best I can."

Dates

Important Dates and Deadlines
for the next 3 months

may

1

- Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Applications mailed out
- NABI Chasing the Sun 10k & Pow Wow - Glendale AZ

10

Mother's Day

11

NARD Meeting - Native American Community Service Center, 4520 N Central Ave, Phoenix AZ, 6pm

june

12-13

Miss Salt River Pageant

20

Whiteshell Woman Workshop
Ft. Defiance Chapter House
www.missnavajocouncil.org

july

12

Native American Day at the Arizona Diamondbacks
www.dbacks.com

17

Postmark Deadline for regular application fee of \$250 for Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Application

31

- WEWIN Fifth Annual Conference - Radisson Ft. McDowell. www.wewin04.org
- Miss Hopi Pageant - Hopi High School

2009 Miss Gila River

Daryl Lynn Jay is the new Miss Gila River. She is 22 years old, and is from District 6 - Komatke Village. Her parents are Michael and Priscilla Jay. She has two brothers and one sister.

Daryl is currently employed at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa, where she is a cultural ambassador, and has the honor of sharing her O'odham and Pee-Posh culture with resort guests. Aside from her work, she is also a student at Scottsdale Community College, where she is finishing here Associates degree, and is looking forward to continuing her education at Arizona State University, majoring in Communications.

In regards to her new title, she replied "I am honored and proud to serve as this years Miss Gila River 2009-2010, and look forward to represent our beautiful community and beautiful people. Thank you and God Bless!"

Support Miss Indian Arizona!

The Miss Indian Arizona Association works throughout the year, seeking donations to help support the program, pay for scholarships, and pay expenses related to producing the actual Scholarship Program. The Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona currently serves as the fiscal sponsor of the MIAA, and is a 501(c)3 organization.

If you, or your business, would like to contribute to the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program, please contact

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Checks, made out to ITCA/MIA may be mailed to the address above. Donations made to the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program may be tax-deductible. If you would like additional information about the program, or to inquire about other ways in which you can assist our efforts, please contact Denise. Thank you for your contributions!



The City of Chandler will be renovating the Chandler Center for the Arts this year. Because of this, this year's program will be held at the Mesa Arts Center. for more information about this years event, please visit our website at

www.missindianarizona.com