

Li'l Miss pageant draws big turnout of girls and families February 3



Li'l Miss Warm Springs winners and runner-ups pose after pageant.



Older girls gave support



Contestants finish up dancing



Youth speaks during contest

The Li'l Miss Warm Springs pageant was on Monday, February 3, at the Warm Springs Community Center gym. There were five different age groups' three-to-four, five-six, seven-to-nine, 10-13 and 14-17. There were about 30 participants who had hopes of being named Li'l Miss Warm Springs.

The contest had a great turnout of parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and cousins in attendance.

The first group up was the three-to-four-year-old age group that was judged by performing the round dance and their speaking abilities. The five contestants did a fine job and got plenty of encouragement from the crowd. In the end, Ada Polk-Lopez, age three, won by one point with 30 points to Alicia Yazzie's, also three, 29 points. Lopez's mother is Angela Polk and Yazzie's mother is Beatrice Scott.

In the five-to-six-year-old division the winner was five year old Kristi Olney, the daughter of Cinda Heath. The runner-up was Rachelle Herkshan, age six, daughter of Nadine Scott.

Sallie Polk-Adams, age nine, won the seven-to-nine age division, but it

was not easy because Carina Miller was right on her tail. They ended in a tie when the officials first counted the point total. The girls had to perform a skip dance to break the tie. Adams won the tie by the score of 11 to eight. Adam's total score was 52 to Miller's 49 points. Dempsena Polk is the proud mother of Sallie. Sue Matters & Ken Miller are the proud parents of Carina.

The 10-13 age group also ended in a tie between Leeann Wolfe, 10-years-old, and Valerie Suppah, 11-years-old. The girls had to dance for the judges again to break the tie. Leeann came out on top with 58 points to Valerie's 52. Leeann is the daughter of Flossie Wolfe and Tony & Lucy Suppah are the parents of Valerie.

Lillian Heath, age 15, granddaughter of Delvis & Shirley Heath, won the 14-17 age division.

Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath gave an uplifting speech at the end of the program to help encourage the youth to keep going and learn more about their culture. Other guest speakers were current Miss Warm Springs Arlissa Rhoan and former Miss Warm Springs Merle Kirk. Both expressed pleasure in seeing how many girls turned out and hoped that all the girls continue participating in such activities. The judges were Anita Davis, Geraldine Jim and Mavis Kirk. The announcer was Wilson Wewa. Two drums were there Rising Sun and Eagle Spirit Singers. Pat Miller, Adeline Miller and Arlita Rhoan sang the skip dance songs.



Girls await turn to show dancing skills

Photos by Dan Lawrence