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Wednesday, May 13, 2009

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Miss Poway court seated

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By Pat Kumpan
May 6, 2009

This week, newly crowned Miss Poway, Samantha Mullett, and Miss Teen Poway, Nastassia Grzeskiewicz, are balancing school, homework and their new roles as community ambassadors.



Newly crowned Miss Poway, Samantha Mullett, left, and Nastassia Grzeskiewicz are all smiles after winning their titles Sunday during the Miss Poway pageant. Photo by Verley Brooks



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The girls were selected during Saturday's pageant at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

Selected for the Miss Poway court were Michelle Dilley as first princess and Brooke Banning as second princess.

The Miss Teen Poway court is Pilar Altman as first princess, Emma Castor as second princess and Julia Chassen as third princess.

This year, the Miss Poway program attracted 22 girls, according to pageant director Jan Grzeskiewicz.

"The response was remarkable and so were the girls," she said.

Mullett, a Rancho Bernardo High School junior and Poway resident, has a 4.2 GPA, enjoys dance, and has served dinners to and socialized with senior citizens at Villa Monte Vista nursing home in Poway.

She has also volunteered to clean beaches and organized a benefit for "Nothing But Net," which helps African children.

"My dream is to open a dance studio that would include lessons for the physically and emotionally challenged," Mullett said.

On Monday night, Mullett said she was still "in the clouds" and finding it "unbelievable, but amazing" that she won the title.

Meanwhile Nastassia Grzeskiewicz, "Tasha" to her friends, had the added bonus of having her sister, Gabbie, a former Miss Teen Poway, hug her after her name was announced as the new teen queen.

"We kept saying 'Oh God, Oh God,'" Grzeskiewicz said.


She previously went on a 30-day hunger strike to raise money for the poor in Africa and has given time to many community service projects.

The 6-foot tall, Poway High freshman said she loves to play volleyball and has a passion for writing.

"I'd really like to be a motivational speaker," she added.

As the new Miss Teen Poway, Grzeskiewicz said she plans on being the best role model she can be.

Reader Comments

 **Talk Back:** Share your thoughts on this story

Frances McQuesten of Poway wrote at 3:35 pm on May 11, 2009:

Undertaking a hunger strike is not an appropriate service project for a minor. The newspaper errs in presenting it as an admirable activity.

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