

CALIFORNIA RODEO SALINAS

# miss rodeo



Miss San Benito Rodeo Amanda Jacobsen reacts in 2007 after being named Miss California Rodeo.

PHOTO BY SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

## Six young women vie for Rodeo's tiara

*All of the Miss California Rodeo contestants are accomplished horsewomen and scholars*

**E**ach July, young women converge upon Salinas from every section of the state for the honor of wearing the Miss California Rodeo gold and silver tiara. The winner takes home a \$2,500 cash scholarship to be used at the college of her choice, a trophy belt buckle, the use of a two-horse trailer for one year and many other gifts. Miss California Rodeo Salinas 2008 contestants:



**MARKIE MARIE BATTAGLIA**

Markie Marie Battaglia enters as Miss Clovis Rodeo and is the 20-year-old daughter of Joyce Battaglia and Clay Hatch. At the age of 10, she moved with her family from the city to the country town of Ramona where her love for 4-H and rodeos took off. During high school Battaglia represented the golden state as the 2004 California High School Rodeo Queen while competing in barrel racing, breakaway roping, team roping and cutting events. Battaglia is studying at Arizona State University with plans to transfer to the University of San Diego to pursue a degree in both communications and Spanish. Besides competing in college rodeo and practicing her events, she enjoys reading, the gym and the beach.



**SARAH FRIESEN**

Nineteen-year-old Sarah Friesen, the daughter of Maria and Kevin Moore and Dennis Friesen of Atwater, is Miss Merced Horsemen's Association. Friesen's dream of riding horses came true with her involvement in 4-H and FFA. In her final year of FFA she earned the coveted Golden State degree. She reigned as Miss Merced Rodeo in 2005. After finishing up an Associates of Science degree in equine management at Merced College, Friesen plans on transferring to California State University, Fresno, to study kinesiology. She spends her spare time with her Greek family, and playing basketball and soccer.



**ANNE MARIE KATUIN**

Anne Marie Katuin of Madera is the 20-year-old daughter of Curtis and Tammy Katuin and represents the Central Valley Saddle Club. After receiving her first horse she was hooked on learning to rope, run barrels and show Western pleasure. As an active 4-H member she held many leadership positions and competed on the state horse judging team. A lauded academic student in high school and college, Katuin is attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she is majoring in ag science, concentrating in ag education and animal science with a minor in equine science. She is planning to teach agriculture at the high school level so she can share her experiences with the youth of America.