



A pair of earrings that Martin made and is raffling off as a thank-you for those that support her running for Miss Indian World 2016.

PHOTO BY JAYSON KOBLUN

Local woman fundraising for Miss Indian World

By Jayson Koblun

whole.”

To attend the pageant, Martin has to sell at least 500 tickets to the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, taking place in April in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tickets are \$2.50 each and she plans on selling tickets to friends, family and anyone interested in helping reach her goal.

Helping her drive ticket sales and also to show appreciation to those that show support, every person who buys two tickets to the Pow Wow will earn themselves one raffle ticket that Martin will put into a draw and select winners from. The winners of the raffle will be given the opportunity to choose from a selection of beaded earrings that Martin made herself.

“It’s a way to say thank-you for supporting me,”



says Martin. “Our beadwork shows our people’s creativity while showcasing our evolution.”

Martin will be at several of the upcoming Ohsweken Demons’ lacrosse home games, selling tickets.

Martin, who was Miss Six Nations from 2014 to 2015, did not run for Miss Indian World last year because she thought she was not mature enough for the crown. She says she has grown and learned a lot in the past 12 months and could now be a great ambassador for indigenous people worldwide.

“I had a lot going on in my life and really felt as though I wasn’t ready for Miss World,” says Martin. “One year later I’ve grown up a lot and have learned a lot more about my people.”

Contestants are judged on several different factors, including; dance, talent,

professionalism and public speaking.

“The judges almost expect you to be a professor for your people,” says Martin. “You need to know where you’ve come from — the stories, legends, songs, dances — the contestants have to know that stuff.”

Chezney Martin is also a local reporter for the *Two Row Times*.

If interested in buying tickets to help, Martin can be reached chezney@tworowtimes.com. The tickets need to be sold by the end of April.

LEFT PHOTO: Martin shows some of the pieces she has made - two yokes, a belt and some of the earrings she will be raffling off. Her beadwork is done by hand and takes a long time, but you can see in her work the care that she puts into every stitch.