iPrescott History In A Minute

"Did You Know?" Series



Viola Jimulla





- Born in 1878 on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Viola attended Rice Phoenix Indian School before relocating to the Prescott area around 1900
- Through the leadership of Viola and her husband, Sam, the only reservation solely for the Yavapai was established in 1935
- Viola became Chieftess of the Prescott Yavapais in 1940, thus making her the first Chieftess in the North American West
- Viola formed the Yavapai Tribal Council to better ensure the people's voice in their own governing
- Her ability to care for and work with both the Indian and Anglo cultures had a long lasting benefit for her people and for the greater Prescott area
- She was a master basket maker using traditional Yavapai symbols representative of mountains, animals, people and celestial images
- Viola was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in 1985
- She guided her tribe with wisdom and kindness until her death in 1966