

Miss Rain Day ready to pass title

7/24/2011 3:34 AM

WAYNESBURG - Kelcee Headlee's yearlong whirlwind reign as Miss Rain Day 2010 will come to an end today.

Headlee, 18, a daughter of Amy and Derrick Broadwater of Waynesburg, will pass the torch to one of six Miss Rain Day contestants who will be competing for the title at 4 p.m. at Waynesburg Central High School's auditorium.

The 2011 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School, Headlee said this past year has been "memorable, fun and I have learned a lot of responsibility from it."

Holding the title of Miss Rain Day has meant a lot to Headlee, considering her mother was her age when she won the title in 1991. "This is just another way I can connect to her," she said.

And, Headlee is not shy about her reason for entering the competition. "I entered with the intent of winning," she said. "I pushed myself (last year) to achieve that goal even more after winning third runner-up in 2009," she said.

Headlee, who will attend Geneva College in the fall to study biology and specialize in cardio-vascular technology, said, "I came to all the festivals and pageants and I wanted to be the girl with the crown and smiling face, walking around uptown Waynesburg showing what a queen should really be."

It is no surprise that Headlee, given her captivating personality, came out on top last year, considering she also won Miss Photogenic, sportswear, tied for the Rainmaker award for obtaining the most sponsors, the Remo Bertugli essay award and top talent for her vocal rendition of "At Last."

Perhaps most important, she won for top interview, which she said is given the highest percentage consideration by the judges.

"You have to knock that out of the water," she said.

Last year, when her name was called as the winner of the Miss Rain Day pageant, Headlee said she was in shock. "I was shaking and I thought I was going to cry. I had worked so hard."

As Miss Rain Day, Headlee was required to participate in just Rain Day festivities and the Waynesburg Chamber of Commerce's Christmas parade. But she did much more than that.

"I was contacted throughout the year either to ride in parades or do appearances. I never felt as if I had too much to do because you only get to be Miss Rain Day once, and I wanted to make the most of my year and do absolutely all that I could," she said.

Although Rain Day contestants are not required to have a "platform," the winner usually has a community service project. Headlee plans to do a bake sale for the Autism Foundation.

Her advice to the candidates vying to succeed her is quite simple: "Just smile as much as you can; make everyone fall in love with you and just be yourself."

Undoubtedly, it will be a bittersweet moment when she ends her reign.

"I will be excited for the new queen because she is joining a great group of girls who have won in previous years.

"I will be sad because it has been such a great year. I met so many great people and I got to know so much more about Greene County." Copyright Observer Publishing Co.