

Eleven young ladies to compete for Rain Day royalty

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WAYNESBURG -- With the annual Rain Day festival right around the corner, “Rain Royalty” will reign this Sunday when eleven young ladies from around Greene County will compete in the 34th annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant.

Sponsored by Rain Day Scholarship Inc., the competition will begin at 4 p.m. in the Waynesburg Central High School auditorium.

The contestants will be judged on the basis of personal interview, sportswear, talent and evening gown competitions. Awards will be presented to those with top scores in these areas as well as Miss Personality, Miss Photogenic, the Spirit Award, Scholastic Achievement Award and the Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award.

Participation awards will be given to all contestants. A Rain Maker Award will be presented to the contestant who collects the most scholarships, and the John O’Hara Award will be given to the contestant who composes the best essay on what Rain Day means to them.

The Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award will also be presented, which is judged from essays submitted by the contestants on how a volunteering experience changed their life.

It was also announced that Westmoreland County Community College is awarding the new Miss Rain Day a \$2,500 scholarship should she choose to attend WCCC.

Elissa McCracken, who won the title of Miss Rain Day in 2008 and who was recently crowned Miss Ohio 2012, will be making a special appearance at the pageant this year.

The contestants have had a busy schedule this summer. They gathered in May in the Glass Room in Benedum Hall at Waynesburg University to officially kick off their quest for the Miss Rain Day title. The young ladies and their guests were treated to dinner courtesy of McCracken Pharmacy. Guests that evening included Miss Rain Day 2011 Joanna Allen, 2012 crown bearer Loren Schroyer, and Miss Pennsylvania International 2012 Kesley Landy.

The contestants also had their portrait taken courtesy of Bruno & Bruno Full Service Salon and Portrait Studio and were interviewed by WANB Radio's Doug Wilson. They also attended a Washington Wild Things baseball game and a dinner-theater trip to Benedum Cultural Center to see the production of “Annie,” followed by dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

They also volunteered their time at the Greene County Humane Society, and they also helped at the Greene County Memorial Foundation Golf Outing. They will also attend the Rain Day 5K race to be held July 28.

After the pageant, Miss Rain Day 2012, her court and the contestants will participate in the Rain Day Festival on July 29, and the winners will perform for the festival goers.

Miss Rain Day 2011 Joanna Allen, the 18-year-old daughter of George and Georgeanna Allen of Waynesburg, is guiding the contestants through their quest for the title and will relinquish the crown to one of this year's contestants.

Those competing for the title of Miss Rain Day 2012 are, in alphabetical order:

n Floretta Chambers, the 17-year-old daughter of Barry and Stephanie Chambers of Carmichaels. In the fall she will be a senior at Carmichaels Area High School. Floretta will be performing a belly dance to music of "Hips Don't Lie."

n Chelsea Coder, the 18-year-old daughter of Cindy and Dave Coder of Waynesburg. In the fall, she will be a freshman at West Virginia University. Chelsea will be performing a musical theater selection to "The Wizard and I."

n Rebecca Conklin, the 15-year-old daughter of Rhonda Wolfe and Monty Stewart of Carmichaels. In the fall, she will be a freshman at Carmichaels Area High School. Rebecca will be performing a lyrical dance to the song, "Rain."

n Amanda Frampton, the 14-year-old daughter of Stephen and Debra Frampton of New Freeport. In the fall she will be a freshman at West Greene High School. Amanda has selected to perform "Concerto #1 in A Minor" on her violin.

n Kendall Lewis, the 16-year-old daughter of Mark and Jennette Lewis of Carmichaels. In the fall, she will be a sophomore at Carmichaels Area High School. Kendall will be performing a tap dance to "Party on the Floor."

n Stephanie Mitchell, the 15-year-old daughter of Jim and Becky Mitchell of Carmichaels. In the fall, she will be a sophomore at Carmichaels Area High School. Stephanie will be performing a lyrical acrobatic routine to "Out Here on My Own."

n Tanya Phillips, the 16-year-old daughter of Terry and Ethel Phillips of New Freeport. In the fall she will be a junior at West Greene High School. Tanya will be doing a jazz acrobatic dance to "All That Jazz."

n Carly Riggi, the 14-year-old daughter of John and Josey Riggi of Rices Landing. In the fall, she will be a freshman at Jefferson Morgan High School. Carly will be performing a musical theater dance to "I Want to Go to Hollywood."

n Nina Rivera, the 14-year-old daughter of Chad and Eryan Coss of Waynesburg. In the fall, she will be a freshman at Waynesburg Central High School. Nina will be performing a tap dance to "Fabulous Feet."

n Abigail Walters, the 16-year-old daughter of Dana and Greg Walters of Waynesburg. In the fall, she will be a senior at Waynesburg Central High School. Abigail will be performing a contemporary dance performance to the music titled, "Do You Want to Dance."

n Christa Ziefel, the 17-year-old daughter of Dave and Cathy Ziefel of Graysville. In the fall, she will be a senior at West Greene High School. Christa will be performing a tap dance to "If My Friends Could See Me Now."

Meanwhile, the annual Rain Day festival is shaping up to once again offer a day-long forecast of food, entertainment and family fun on July 29.

The 2012 Rain Day celebration, once again organized by the Waynesburg Special Events Commission, will take place on High Street from 11 a.m. till at least 9 p.m.

The annual street festival will feature an umbrella-decorating contest, a country music showdown, a Baby Rain Day contest, a merchant window decorating contest, children's games and activities, a wide array of live music, crafts and food booths, free entertainment throughout the day on the Rain Day stages, and much more.

Look for more information about this year's Rain Day in the July 27 edition of the Messenger.