

Rain royalty

By Cindy Lee Cumpston, for the Greene County Messenger | Posted: Thursday, August 1, 2013 12:00 am

WAYNESBURG – Any good story about a princess or a queen worth its salt starts out “once upon a time.” So, once upon a time a little five-year-old princess named Stephanie was the crown bearer for the 2002 Miss Rain Day pageant.

The little princess said to her mother, “One of these days I am going to wear that crown.”

On Sunday, 11 years later, Stephanie Mitchell’s dream came true when she was crowned Miss Rain Day 2013 at the conclusion of the 35th annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant held in the Waynesburg Central High school auditorium.

Mitchell, who is the 16-year-old daughter of Jim and Becky Mitchell of Carmichaels, is not the first to be chosen as royalty in her family. Being crowned Miss Rain Day 2013 has additional significance for the new queen as it also celebrates the 25th anniversary of when her aunt, Pamela Titus Bogucki, was crowned Miss Rain Day 1988.

Following in her aunt’s footsteps, Mitchell is a dual title recipient, having also been chosen as Miss Riverfest earlier this year, just as her aunt held both titles in 1988.

“Words cannot express how proud I am of Stephanie,” Bogucki said. “I had tears running down my face, I was so proud she was crowned 25 years after I stood on that very stage and was crowned.”

Mitchell won the title of Miss Rain Day by winning top interview, top sportswear, and top evening gown. She was also the recipient of the Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award. Mitchell performed a lyrical jazz routine to “Come Wake Me Up.”

As Miss Rain Day she received \$1,000, a trophy, crown, banner and flowers.

Mitchell, who will be a junior this year at Carmichaels Area High School, said this was her second year to compete in the pageant.

“I really wanted to be Miss Rain Day,” Mitchell said, “So I worked hard since last year’s pageant and I am so honored that I won.”

It would appear Carmichaels is producing a number of articulate, talented and beautiful

young ladies as Miss Rain Day 2012 Kendall Lewis, Miss Rain Day 2013 Stephanie Mitchell and the first runner-up for 2013 Allie Christopher all reside in Carmichaels.

In addition to winning first runner-up, Christopher also won Miss Photogenic, Pageantry Spirit Award, tied for Miss Personality and tied for top talent. Christopher, the 16-year-old daughter of Kenny and Tammy Christopher of Carmichaels, performed a vocal selection to “The Prayer,” in both English and Italian.

Second runner-up was Amanda Frampton, 15-year-old daughter of Stephen and Debra Frampton of New Freeport. She was the recipient of the Academic Achievement Award, tied for top talent and won the Rain Maker Award presented to the contestant who collects the most scholarships.

Frampton performed “Praeludium and Allegro,” by Kreiseler on violin.

Also from Carmichaels and tied for Miss Personality was Morgan Voithofer, the 14-year-old daughter of Jason and Heather Voithofer. She also was the recipient of the Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award judged from essays submitted by the contestants on how a volunteering experience changed their life. and the John O’Hara Essay Award for the best essay on what Rain Day means to them.

Also participating in this year’s pageant were Tanya Phillips, 17-year-old daughter of Terry and Ethel Phillips of New Freeport; Carly Riggi, 14-year-old daughter of John and Josey Riggi of Rices Landing; and Lesley Tift, 17-year-old daughter of Wes and Justine Tift of Rices Landing.

When asked if she was going to heed the advice of Miss Rain Day 2012 Kendall Lewis and “start her album the morning after the pageant,” Mitchell laughed and responded “Yes!”

“I am already uploading pictures,” Mitchell said. “It is going to be a very busy year and I want to make sure I record every minute of it.”

On Monday, Mitchell presided over her first official event, the 2013 Rain Day Festival. “I predicted it would rain at 11 a.m.,” Mitchell said. “That did not happen.”

Officially the first drops of rain fell at 3:42 p.m. and 2013 became the 114th year out of the last 139 years it has rained in Waynesburg.

The queen and her court mingled with festival attendees and entertained the large crowd with the talents that had won them their respective titles.

“I am very happy that it rained today, on my first day as Miss Rain Day,” Mitchell said. “I mean, come on, it’s Rain Day! It’s supposed to rain!”