

Phillips Co. Fair royalty crowned at festival

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



Departing from the typical Fair Queen selection format this year, 2009 Phillips County Fair Queen Aimee Kanode crowned her Lady-in-Waiting and Princess royalty at the Friday, June 19 Dandelion Daze event in Holyoke.

Kanode, who will be a senior at Haxtun High School this fall, was named Phillips County Fair Queen at last year's Dandelion Daze event and will continue her reign until the 2009 Corn Festival in Haxtun, after which the Lady-in-Waiting will step into the role.

Sarah Heermann of Holyoke was crowned the 2009 Lady-in-Waiting after giving her candidate speech Friday night at the Phillips County Courthouse lawn. She will be a junior at Holyoke High School this fall and is the daughter of Eldon and Christine Heermann.

As the only candidate for princess, MaKenzie Long of Haxtun earned the title and is excited to reign alongside Kanode and Heermann. The daughter of Darrin and Shannon Long, she will be an eighth-grader at Haxtun JR High in the fall.

Lady-in-Waiting and Princess candidates gave speeches Friday night on the courthouse lawn during the Dandelion Daze activities. Also vying for the lady-in-waiting crown were Janna Smith and Emma Adams.

Traditionally, said Queen Contest committeeperson Martha Newman, horsemanship was a big part of the Phillips County Fair Queen selection. In recent years however, there has been a loss of interest in the program, and an attempt at rejuvenation has led to major changes.

Today, candidates are judged on their speaking and public presentation abilities. Judges look to those who can represent the county in an outgoing, pleasant way and who are honest and sincere in their commitment to the community.

Along with their crowns and sashes, fair royalty also received special belt buckles this year. For 24 years, Ardie Besse has been donating a belt buckle to the county queen. Inspired by this act of generosity, Kanode and her mother Linda Nevins have purchased a Lady-in-Waiting buckle, which will be handed on to the new selection each year.

Kanode, Heermann and Long have the responsibility of promoting and helping out with the 2009 Phillips County Fair. Heermann will also travel with Kanode to become acquainted with her role of representing the county at area fair parades and other functions.