

You could have knocked over 2014 Miss Scott County Fair Queen Keeli Stewart with a feather, she was so shocked that she received the coveted title at the Fair Queen Pageant conducted at Scottsburg High School's McClain Hall on a very rainy Sunday evening, July 13.

Not that the precipitation outside dampened Queen Keeli's high spirits. Not at all!

"I just can't believe it. I really can't," the happy Queen Keeli said after she was crowned by 2013 Miss Scott County Fair Queen Shelby Lynn Amburgey.

Queen Keeli is the daughter of Patricia and Steven Stewart of Scottsburg. She was sponsored in the pageant by Graceful Images Portrait Studio, also in Scottsburg. In fact, the stage was so filled with happy parents, sister, boyfriend, sponsor Alex Grace and friends, it was a little hard to sort out who should be where and with whom following the pageant's happy conclusion.

That's because 2014 Fair Princess Megan Brooke Smith could not stop crying. "I can't stop. This is wonderful," she said, wiping tears from her pretty face. Princess Megan not only won the runner-up title but also she was named 2014 Miss Congeniality by her nine fellow contestants. She got double the trophies as well as two sashes.

The new Fair Princess is the daughter of Kim and Matt Smith of Austin. Her sponsor in the contest was the Scott County Democrat Club. It seemed as if several dozen of her close relatives rushed the stage, all eager to hug pretty blonde Megan, and loan her several hankies to dry those happy tears.

It must have been fate or perhaps experience early in their lives that brought these two girls top honors. Each has served as the county's Little Miss.

Each young lady received some very nice gifts, all donated to the pageant by supporting merchants. The Queen's crown and pin as well as a discount on a gown for the Miss Indiana State Pageant came from Victorian Hope Chest. All of the trophies for Queen Keeli and Princess Megan were contributed by Hardy's Cafe.

Queen Keeli gets a new color portrait in her royal regalia from Graceful Images; a \$75 gift certificate from Cathcart's Jewelry; a \$75 gift certificate from the Scott County State Bank; a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart; a three-month membership at Anytime Fitness; and a \$50 gift card from Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant.

Princess Megan receives a color portrait from Graceful Images; and \$50 gift certificates from the Scott County State Bank, Cathcart's Jewelry and Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant. As Miss Congeniality, she adds another \$50 gift certificate from Cathcart's, a \$25 gift certificate from the Scott County State Bank and a \$25 gift certificate from Santa Fe.

The Queen and Princess/Miss Congeniality were selected from an outstanding group of candidates. They and their sponsors included: Samantha Brown, sponsored by KLB Excavating; Caitlin Crumes, sponsored by John Jones GM City; Riley Edmundson, sponsored

by the Beta Sigma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority; Kelsie Hicks, sponsored by Complete Construction; Megan Kraft, sponsored by the Scottsburg Lions Club; Hayley Love, sponsored by the Theta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Psi Sorority; Kasey Middleton, sponsored by the Scott County Auto Center; and Kaylee Thomas, sponsored by Scott County Family Moose Lodge 2324. Each is wished well in her future endeavors.

Queen Keeli will attend Hanover College this fall to earn a double major in elementary education and psychology with a minor in music. She wants to join Teach for America, which concentrates on sending teachers to underprivileged areas in the nation.

Princess Megan plans to further an associate's degree in general studies she earned from Ivy Tech Community College while attending high school at Austin. She will do so on-line through the University of Southern Indiana until getting her bachelor's degree, and then she wants to continue her education at San Diego State University, studying medicine there until she becomes qualified as a nurse anesthetist. Eventually, she plans to become an anesthesiologist.

Members of the Pilot Club of Scott County organized the pageant as they have for over 20 years. Brittany Bannister served as emcee. Background music and sound was arranged by Steve Griffin.

Those businesses which also continsponsored the event included Hancock's Drug Store, Casa Mia Ristorante, Lesa Jones agent for ReMax Real Estate, Courtney's Hair Studio, Gentiva Hospice, LegalShield, Victorian Hope Chest Boutique, Serenity Salon, Baringer Floral Shop and Greenhouses, USA Roadhouse.

Scottsburg Building and Loan Association, Scott County Mortgage, The Coffee House and Cafe, Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant, A Place To Be, J&C Printing, Hello Beautiful Salon, Chris Petty as Edward Jones investment representative, Rather's Forestry Service, Buchanan Funeral Home.

Martin's Auto Supply, Doc's Computer and Tech Repair, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Collins Funeral Home, Scottsburg Family Dentistry, LeRoy's Food Mart, Ace Carpet and Flooring, Stewart & Hoagland Funeral Home, Burris Electric & Plumbing Supply, Scotts Ace Hardware.

Scott County Tire, C&T Cycles, ISU Insurance and Investment Group, Jeffrey L. Cox C.P.A., Aflac, LaFountain's Auto Body and the Scott County State Bank.

Special thanks was expressed to J&C Printing for its design of the 2014 program book, members of the Scott County Fair Association, Scottsburg First Christian Church, the Scott County Family Moose Lodge 2324, Wilda and Dennis Preble, Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant, Nicole Walker, Scott School District 2, Green Banner Publications and to the families of each candidate who participated in the 2014 pageant.