

Peach Queen earns \$4,000 scholarship; will work with autism groups in year of service

Continued from Page 1

“One thing that I hold myself to every day is to continue to make a positive impact in every single person I meet, and I hope that others are inspired to do the same.”

She explained, “My platform is advocating for childhood autism. I truly am passionate about this, because I want to show people that they should be embracing their differences, and our diversity in our community should be spread more. I want to spread more awareness for the autism community. And I think, if everyone was a little kinder to each other, our community would be in such a better place. I want to support the autism community and really make a positive difference.”

Ferree intends to work with the Buffalo Autism Project and the Autism Society of Western New York.

The daughter of Rich and Kelly Goodman, Ferree enjoys soccer and babysitting, and plays the ukulele and violin. She served as varsity coach for the Northtowns Cheerleading group and helped run the Adams Fire Co. junior firefighter program.

Ferree was class president in all four years of high school and has gone on to be a dean's list student at Buffalo State while pursuing a degree in interior design. She will graduate in the spring of 2024.

Scholarship program director and Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Pauly said, “Kirsten is excited about her year! One of the first things she did after her crowning was



The Peach Queen court. (Photo by Robin Clark)

ask for a glass of Peach Pop! (Pageant assistants) Ali Fitch, Jessica Onevello and I have had the opportunity to work with the contestants for the past month and a half, getting to know their personalities. Kirsten is genuine through and through, and we cannot be more excited for her and what

she will do throughout the year!”

Each of the top 5 scholarship pageant finalists received a silver Peach Queen pendant.

Twenty-one-year-old Emileigh Mazurkiewicz of North Tonawanda finished as first runner-up and will receive \$500. She also earned a \$50 gift card for acquiring the most

backpacks (76) at a recent fundraiser to benefit elementary school children.

The remainder of the top five included 21-year-old Molly Chiarella of Niagara Falls; 21-year-old Alaina Winkworth of Youngstown; and 19-year-old Elizabeth Teal of Lewiston.

This year's Tara Laurie Miss Congeniality Award was presented to 19-year-old Hannah Sherman of Wheatfield. The award is voted on by the Peach Queen contestants, and honors both a friendly, charismatic entrant; and Laurie, a former Peach Blossom and Peach Queen finalist, who tragically died of a viral infection in her heart a few days before her 21st birthday in 2004.

The Bright Star award, given to a non-finalist who has earned the accolade's title, was given to 21-year-old Marisa Forcucci of Niagara Falls. The award was recently renamed to honor the late Jeanette Collesano, who served as a pageant mentor for 30 years.

WGRZ-TV Channel 2 news anchor Maryalice Demler again served as emcee, accompanied by Pauly.

Other speakers included outgoing Peach Queen Jordan Brooks; Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Rebecca Wydysh, Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch and Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick; and Kiwanians Gerry Gismondi and John Ceretto, who said the festival's overall fundraising total may cross the \$2 million mark this year.

• See more photos at www.wnypapers.com.

RECREATIONAL WAREHOUSE

SAFETY POOL COVERS

WE CAN DUPLICATE YOUR OLD COVER
Order Now for **FREE** Installation
CALL 716-692-1234 FOR ESTIMATE




COUPON
Order Now for Fall Install

5% DISCOUNT

Safety Mesh Cover Closing Kits
Expires: 09/30/2023

WINTER POOL COVERS

BLUE 8-YR



GREEN 12-YR



DELUXE BLUE 15-YR



Rectangle Size	Blue 8-Yr.	Green 12-Yr.	Deluxe Blue 15-Yr. (5' Extra)
12' x 20'	\$59.99	\$74.99	N/A
12' x 24'	\$69.99	\$99.99	\$229.99
16' x 24'	\$89.99	\$119.99	N/A
16' x 32'	\$99.99	\$149.99	\$309.99
18' x 36'	\$129.99	\$189.99	\$399.99
20' x 40'	\$149.99	\$219.99	\$439.99
25' x 45'	\$189.99	\$249.99	N/A



575 River Road
North Tonawanda
716-692-1234
www.RECWNY.com






VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIAL EVENTS!



TOUR BUSES WELCOME

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business

One of Western New York's Most Unique Shopping Experiences!

Fall FESTIVAL

Sept 23 & 24
12pm-5pm

- Food Trucks & Venders
- Petting Zoo with Kangaroos
- Pony Rides
- Bounce House
- Farmers Market







Pumpkins, Corn Stalks, Hay Bales and More!

3121 Grand Island Blvd. Grand Island, NY
773-0003 • www.kellyscountrystore.com
Open Monday-Saturday 10am to 8pm,
Sunday 10am to 6pm

22nd NIAGARA CELTIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

& Highland Games

September 16 & 17

Niagara County Fairgrounds

Five Regions to explore

Five Music Stages

Forty+ Music Acts

Two Event Fields

Seventy+ Vendors

Highland Games • Food & Drink • Clans
Pipe Bands • Artisans • Special Events
Pageantry & Ceremonies • History Groups
Attractions • Storytellers • Competitions
Kids Wee Folk Shire • Animals • Demos






Enjoy a weekend of Family Friendly Fun!



Find it all and more at



NiagaraCeltic.com



This festival is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Services Inc.