

Centralia Woman Crowned Miss Lewis County 2016

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Bailey Peters

Bailey Peters, left, learns she just won the title of Miss Lewis County 2016.

After years of watching other girls and women participate in the Miss Lewis County Scholarship Program, one young woman from Centralia finally had one of her dreams come

true as she was crowned the official hostess of the county.

Bailey Peters was thrilled to win the title of Miss Lewis County 2016, becoming the 54th winner of the pageant.

"It's so exciting, I don't think it's real yet," Peters told The Chronicle shortly after she was crowned on Saturday night.

Peters was named Little Miss Friendly in 2006 and now gets to follow in her mother's footsteps as Miss Lewis County. Her mother, Shawn Peters, was awarded the crown in 1985. Shawn was a grooming coach for the contestants for many years.

"I've watched girls go through this for countless years and I dreamed of that day I got to walk down the ramp," Peters said. "I'm following in her footsteps, but she's also pushed me to lead my own legacy."

Peters donned a blue and silver top during her tap dance performance to "Pentatonix's Sing." Her mother wore the same shirt as she vied for the title more than 30 years earlier.

"That was special to have her on stage with me," Peters said.

Peters, 20, is the daughter of Bob and Shawn Peters. A graduate of Centralia High School, she is now currently attending Centralia College to pursue a degree in agricultural education with an emphasis in science.

Her career ambition is to become a high school agricultural teacher and a FFA adviser. Her platform "AGvocacy," stems from the agricultural roots in her life. As she travels to events over the next year, Peters will promote agricultural literacy through Washington agriculture in the Classroom.

Throughout her experience with the pageant, Peters said she gained self-assurance.

"I would have to say that right now standing on stage is the most confident I have ever felt in my body and as a young lady," she said in response to the second on-stage question. "Also I've gotten to fall in love with agriculture, which is what I plan to make a career out of and what I have spent my life promoting, and that has been so special to me."

Amanda Price, Peters' hostess and mentor during the competition, said the young lady is deserving of the title.

"I've known Bailey since she was born, and so to see her go the last 20 years watching the pageant and then to compete on stage and win, it's just outstanding," she said.

Peters will now begin her preparations for the Miss Washington Scholarship Pageant in July. If she succeeds there, she will go on to the Miss America competition.

Price said Peters will make the community proud with or without another title.

"She loves living here and the one thing she said to me today is, 'If I win, I cannot wait to represent Lewis County because this is my home,'" Price said. "She said the one thing she wants to do is make sure she makes Lewis County proud, and she will do that for sure."

The title came with a \$3,500 Centralia College scholarship and a \$2,500 cash scholarship prize. Peters also won the Four Points of the Crown Award and \$250 scholarship, the Fitness and Posture Award with a \$150 scholarship, the People's Choice Award with a scholarship of \$306.44, and was honored for selling the most ads for the program book.

She also received a one karat diamond ring and 32-inch flat screen television for her fundraising efforts that benefited the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the Lewis County Scholarship Fund.

Alexandria Fairall, an 18-year-old from Centralia College, was named the first runner-up. She was awarded a \$900 scholarship. If for some reason Peters is unable to fulfill her duties as Miss Lewis County, Fairall will assume the title.

Kennedy Woods, a 17-year-old at Centralia High School, received a \$250 scholarship and the Service to the Community Award, and the non-finalist talent award with the accompanying \$250 scholarship.

Colby Armstrong, a 17-year-old contestant from Morton High School, won Miss Congeniality and a \$300 scholarship, a non-finalist interview award with a \$150 scholarship, and the Staff Award.

Non-finalist contestants each received a \$300 scholarship, and every participant received official pageant photos from Gabriel Michael Photography, an eight-week membership to Thorbeckes Fitlife Center, and a skin care package from Derma Medical Spa.

Cindy Godsey, executive director of the pageant, told the girls there were no losers in the competition.

"Thank you for making my job this year not only easy but amazingly beautiful," she said. "Always remember it does not take a crown to make you a winner, you are all winners in my heart and I love you guys."