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Harvest Festival dream becomes reality for Kevil

Brownfield News Staff

Kaley Kevil grew up wanting to be Harvest Festival Queen, but on Saturday the crown was no longer just a dream.

Kaley, the daughter of Steven Kevil and Kendra Kevil and a representative of the Optimist Club, accepted her crown from 2011 Queen Summer Brock while wearing a pink strapless evening gown and a big smile.

And she didn't win the pageant by accident either - the victory followed months of ticket sales, rehearsals and hard work with her two queen mothers and six other dedicated young ladies. But years before she began the pageant preparation, Kaley always watched past coronations and hoped to someday wear the crown herself.

"I was so excited because I'd tried my hardest and I had been dreaming about this since I was little," she told the *News* in between congratulatory hugs and photos with friends and family. "I love Brownfield, so it's a big honor."

Kaley also earned top ticket sales and was named Miss Congeniality and People's Choice at Thursday's Talent Show, at which she performed a vocal and piano rendition of "A Thousand Miles" by Vanessa Carlton.

Bethany Flores, the daughter of Albert and Maria Flores and the Alpha Omega Study Club representative, was named first runner-up, followed by Brianna Barraza, the daughter of Lorenzo and Teresa Barraza and the Rotary Club representative. Other candidates Tatyana Hudson, Christian Pilgrim, Savannah Longoria and Tori Browne also braved chilly

temperatures to parade the stage of the Coleman Park Amphitheater in full evening gowns.

"They're all amazing girls, and each one of them deserved to be the queen," said Erica Dill, who with Sterling Faught reported hard work but great times in their first year as Queen Mothers.

Rapidly-dropping temperatures disappointed some folks who'd spent months perfecting every detail to create a better-than-ever Harvest Festival, but couldn't control the weather. But not willing to allow a wind chill or two to ruin their long-standing county tradition, most brought their jackets to Coleman Park and brightened the day with shiny attitudes and fun times.

Following Friday night's Jody Nix concert, Saturday's festivities kicked off as the 10 a.m. parade wound down and floats representing local businesses, queen and Little Miss candidates, sports teams, political candidates and everyone in between began arriving in the park. Saturday's all-day festivities drew hundreds to the park, including both familiar faces and out-of-towners. Among the crowd were many native Terry Countians who had moved for college or other reasons, but were happy to return home for the weekend.

"We had a good turnout," said Chamber of Commerce Director Lorena Valencia. "Everybody was happy with the entertainment, and everything went smoothly."

Visitors relaxed in the amphitheater stands and park benches to catch the live entertainment, including a concert by the Lubbock-based dance band Element and performances by local

cheerleaders and praise dancers. Five-year-old Jaylyn Gonzales was crowned Little Miss mid-afternoon, in between raffle drawings and Car Show awards.

Freddy Salazar's 1966 Chevrolet Impala was named Best in Show, while Ronnie Bell's 1968 Chevy Camaro SS received the Best in Show award. Randy and John Anthony directed the Car Show, which awarded about \$1,000 in prize money and had nearly 40 participants.

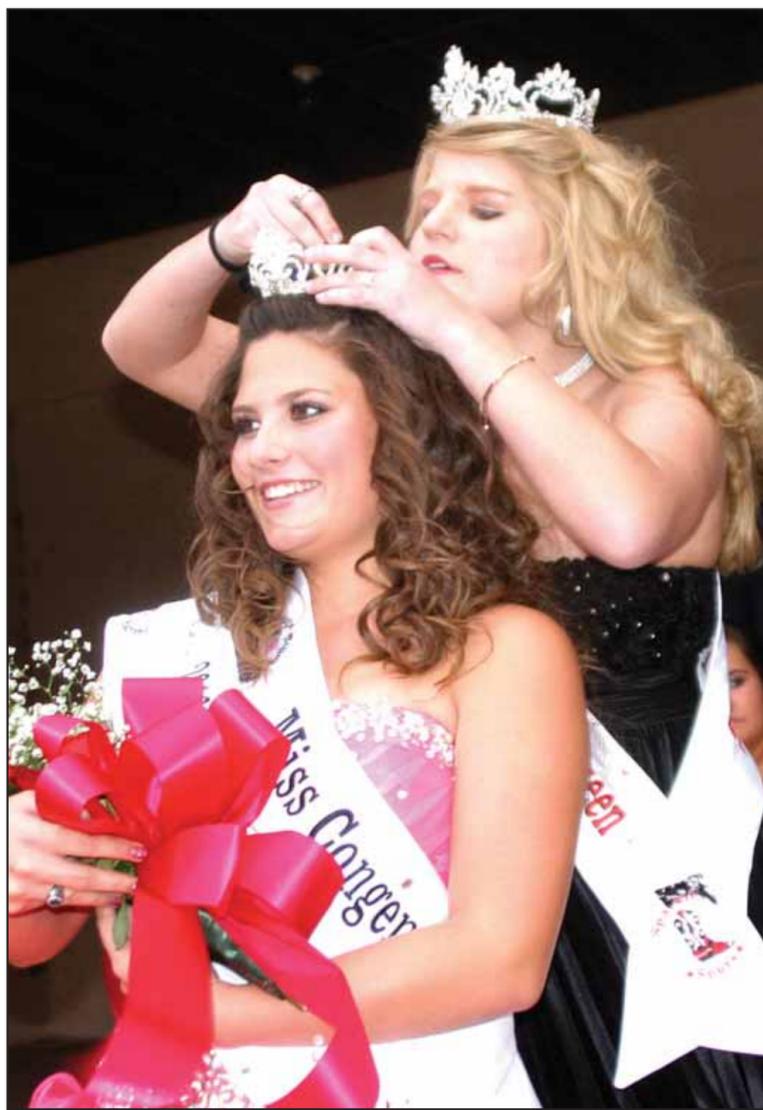
Others strolled through the park to catch up with friends and visit the 120 food and merchandise booths and special exhibits. Longtime organizations such as churches and local political-party chapters were well-represented, as were newly-formed ones such as the Boys and Girls Club of Brownfield, ready to explain their purpose and answer questions.

"We had more vendors than ever," said co-organizer Buzz Timmons. "It was a great Harvest Festival. A lot of people had a lot of fun."

Behind the scenes, vendors kept busy preparing food and promoting their merchandise, while the queen candidates touched up their hair and makeup and staff kept the park clean. Brownfield police and officers from assisting agencies spent the day at the park for security and traffic-control, and reported no major trouble.

"We had enough personnel on hand, and overall from the parade to the events at the park, all went well without any incidents," said Chief of Police Tony Serbantez.

For a list of Harvest Festival prize winners, keep checking the *Brownfield News*.



Kaley Kevil accepts her crown as 2012 Harvest Festival Queen from last year's queen, Summer Brock. Kaley, the daughter of Steven Kevil and Kendra Kevil, also received the People's Choice and Miss Congeniality Awards from the Talent Show Thursday night and earned top ticket sales from the pageant. The coronation ceremony was the culmination of the day's activities, which despite chilly temperatures remained just as successful as in past years.



Brownfield High School band students (left to right) Brenda Rodriguez, Cade Powell and Christian Pilgrim accept the top award for Class 2A. The Spirit of the South Plains Band was honored at the Tumbleweed Festival Saturday in Denver City.

BHS band earns top honor

Brownfield High School's Spirit of the South Plains Band was named Best in Class 2A and fourth runner-up overall at Saturday's Tumbleweed Festival in Denver City.

The band was awarded after they spent the day marching through chilly weather, competing with more than 3,600 students from 21 West Texas schools.

"They battled the cold air and marched with great pride and excellence," said Director Julie Munoz. "The pride and determination were overwhelming."

Judge Cody Myers gave great reviews to the band, noting their "incredible amount of improvement" between their two performances of the day.

"You had a great show then, but you really are exhibiting great pride and enthusiasm," he told them.

Supporters were especially proud of the band given the long day they had worked

through, beginning with an early-morning rehearsal for the Terry County Harvest Festival parade and a march through that county tradition before they left for Denver City.

"We are extremely proud of the pride and determination these Brownfield students showed on Saturday," Munoz said. "It was a very long and cold day, but they persevered and overcame. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with these great students."

Brownfield trailed behind only 4A and 5A schools in the finals of the competition. Midland was named Grand Champion, followed by Odessa, Frenship and Midland-Lee, respectively.

The band invites fans to follow them to Lubbock this Saturday, where they will march in Lowrey Field beginning at 9 a.m., and then to Plainview at 5:15 that evening.

November ballot draws local contested races

Several local races expected to draw considerable interest, as well as the Presidential contest, will be featured on the upcoming Nov. 6 general election ballot, according to a sample ballot obtained by the *Brownfield News* this week through the Terry County Clerk's Office.

Contested races highlight the ballot this year in Terry County for Sheriff, County Attorney and County Commissioner.

In the Sheriff's race, incumbent Republican Larry Gilbreath is being challenged by Democrat Albert Flores, a longtime deputy in the department.

This is Gilbreath's first election cycle since he won the office as a challenger in 2008 when he defeated Jerry Johnson.

Incumbent Democrat Ramon Gallegos will try to maintain his post as County Attorney against political newcomer Jo'Shae Ferguson-Worley, a Republican.

Gallegos has been elected to the post twice before.

In the Commissioners' race in Precinct 3, former commissioner Don Robertson, a Republican, is vying for the position he held prior to his defeat in the 2008 race by current commissioner Shorty Martinez.

Cecil Castilleja, also a newcomer to the local political scene, is running for the Precinct 3 seat as a Democrat.

In the 19th Congressional District race, Lubbock Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer will face off with Libertarian challenger Richard (Chip) Peterson, also of Lubbock.

The 19th Congressional District of Texas, which includes Terry County, spans a 27 county area of West Texas, including the cities of Abilene, Big Spring, and Lubbock. Altogether, the district covers over 29,000 square miles from the New Mexico border through the South Plains and across West Texas and the Big Country.

Neugebauer, who was first elected to office through a special election in 2003, is seeking his fifth term of office.

Peterson is a Professor Emeritus at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and previously was a professor of finance and holder of the I. Wylie and Elizabeth Briscoe Chair of Bank Management for TTU and former CEO of Lubbock Asset Management Co.

Aside from the 2012 Presidential race between President Barack Obama and GOP challenger Mitt Romney, Terry County residents will also have a say in who will become Texas' newest United States Senator.

In the race, Republican Tea Party activist Ted Cruz and Democrat Paul Sadler lead a field of four

candidates who include Libertarian Party candidate John Jay Myers and Green Party candidate David B. Collins.

Local candidates who will be unopposed in the November general elections process and will assume office on Jan. 1, 2013 include Terry County Tax Assessor-Collector Rexanne Turrentine; Pct. 1 Commissioner Mike Swain; Kelly Moore, 121th District Judge; Justice of the Peace Angie P. Garza (filling the unexpired term of the late Jerry Johnson); and Terry County Constable, Danny Reynolds.

Early voting for the Nov. 6 General Election process will be held from Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Terry County Clerk's office, located temporarily in the American Legion Building on the Seagraves Hwy.

Election day polling on Nov. 6 will be conducted at all regular polling places within Terry County, located in Brownfield, Meadow and Wellman.

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Commissioners approve new election position

A newly-created position will help the Nov. 6 General Election and other upcoming races run more smoothly, according to supporters.

Terry County Commissioners voted 4-0 Tuesday to establish the position of joint election administrator. They will meet next Tuesday morning with a group of representatives from other local-government entities to formally appoint the new employee.

County Judge Butch Wagner will serve as chairman of that committee, known as the Joint Election Commissioners, while Tax Assessor Rexann Turrentine will serve as secretary and County Clerk Kim Carter as vice chairwoman.

The joint election administrator will work full-time to oversee all elections from the dozen or so entities that have them, including Brownfield, Wellman and Meadow City Councils and school districts and the hospital and water district boards. His or her salary will be paid jointly among those local taxing entities.

"We're trying to put all entities together for elections to be housed under one position," Carter said.

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