

Many area students will be experiencing the drama of graduating high school in the first weeks of June, but four of those students won't be able to rest until at least after the first week of July.

They are the four nominees from area high schools for the annual Homecoming Queen contest. Throughout the coming weeks, their faces will be on cans and their families and friends will organize the usual multitude of car washes and bake sales to help their favorite win.

The money raised goes, per tradition, toward funding the Fourth of July events in Pottstown. Each penny raised by a candidate counts as one "vote" in the queen contest, which will end with the crowning in Memorial Park on the evening of July 3 and participation by all four in the parade the next day.

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The four nominees are profiled in alphabetic order:

Eva Magazu, of Chester Springs, is the representative from Owen J. Roberts High School, hoping to win for her school, which, she noted, "has not won in over ten years."

Magazu has displayed a healthy span of interests, both in and out of school. For the Wildcats' track team, she went to district competition for two years, the Penn Relays for three years, and qualified for the PAC-10 championships in all four. She also participated in varsity cross country and soccer.

Outside of school, Magazu has enjoyed taking modeling classes and currently applies those lessons with Mainline Modeling in King of Prussia. She competed in the Miss Pennsylvania event, a prelude to the Miss America tournament, and finished first runner-up, besting 35 other contestants.

Despite these interests and commitments, she has managed her time well with various part-time jobs at Hollister, Seven Stars, and Pearls Farm Market. At school, she also worked in the student store through the DECA organization.

Magazu has tried to put these business skills to good use in her queen fundraising, staging a contest with her school's teachers, in which they give their students a chance to pie them in the face.

Magazu plans to attend Penn State Altoona to study veterinary medicine.



Tiara Reddick enjoys the honor as queen candidate from Pottstown High School, but remarked, "I don't feel I should win the title Pottstown's queen just because I am from Pottstown."

Reddick mentioned how she feels a responsibility to be a role model for younger students and when asked why she thought she won the Pottstown High School race, she cited qualities like her "respect for others, kindness, and good heart." Reddick works as a dietary aide at Manor Care part time, in addition to her school work.

She won an Engle Award for high academics in elementary school, and was an honor roll student throughout her school days at Pottstown. Through her volunteer work with the Ricketts Community Center, she won the Exceptional Student Award.

In high school, she assisted with the school's athletic trainer. She was vice president of the school's health-care-in-training club, HOSA, which dovetails with her intended career working as an ultrasound technician. She will be attending Montgomery County Community College to take her general classes and then transferring over to Central Ohio Technical College for her further medical work.

Reddick was also active in sports, captaining the track and field team, and being a varsity member of field hockey. She was co-president of the Student Ambassador Club and she volunteered in the local primary elections.



Gabby Schurr of Sanatoga will represent her soon-to-be alma mater, Pottsgrove High School, during the festivities as its queen.

Schurr has run the gamut of a whole host of athletic activities, captaining her varsity lacrosse team and playing on the varsity soccer team for three years, in addition to having experience as a volunteer soccer camp counselor. Going with that theme, she currently is employed part-time at the 422 Sports Plex as a party host and office worker.

She has volunteered for Relay for Life, helped in soup kitchens, and spent time assisting with the SPCA. She worked on the staff for the school yearbook, the Pottsgrovian. In their senior class survey, her peers deemed her to have the "best personality." She was a member of key club, history club, varsity club, and the executive council.

Schurr said she hoped to win the honor "because I would be looked up to from other girls in the community. It would be a lifelong memory."

Schurr will attend Shippensburg University in the fall to study psychology and education in the hopes of becoming an elementary school guidance counselor.



Bridget Yerger, also living in Pottstown, will represent St. Pius X High School as its 2009 queen during the event.

Yerger has lined up a significant trophy chest already, having participated on a traveling team in cheerleading that has won five tournaments at national levels. Growing up, Yerger participated in cheerleading, but as she got older she transitioned into team cheerleading. She currently is on a team through Cheer Tyme in Malvern.

She has lettered as a varsity member on St. Pius' track team, specializing in the long jump and high jump. She has volunteered for Special Olympics' field days the past four years through her school, events in which she was paired up with a "buddy" for one-on-one attention.

Yerger works part-time at the French Connection store at the Philadelphia Premium Outlets.

Yerger, also an honor roll student at St. Pius, will be headed to Philadelphia University to major in fashion merchandising.