

Gruenwald in Top Ten

by Taylor Voegele, Senior Editor

Emma Gruenwald won Redfield's Senior Snow Queen and now it was her time to shine at the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival on January 15-17 in Aberdeen. There was a Queens'



Emma Gruenwald is standing by the basket that she made for the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival. The basket is to represent the community that the Queen's live in.

Banquet and a Queens' Ball that was held at the Best Western Ramkota Convention Center and then the Coronation was held at the Aberdeen Civic Center.

When the Gruenwald arrived at the festival, all the Queens and their parents had tea. After that they split up into groups and went around town to various companies and thanked them for their sponsorship and donations made to the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival. By the end of the first day they also got to have a little fun with Frosty at Skate Away.

"It's been years since I have been skating! Kelli Aughenbaugh, a good friend of mine that I made at Snow Queen, had to hold onto each other tight at the beginning of the night and we even fell a few times. By the end of the night we were able to finally skate side-by-side without holding on to each other," Gruenwald said.

The second day of the Festival was full of interviews and workshops. The workshops contained activities that

helped the Queens get to know each other. The interviews were all 8 minutes long; after the interviews were over, the ladies got ready for the Snow Queens' Banquet and the Queens' Ball. All the Queens families and friends were invited to come to the Banquet; the Queens had to answer and impromptu question and explain their basket that they made to represent their

community. The question was, "If you were to write an autobiography, what would the title be and why?" Gruenwald's title to her autobiography would be called "The Lion-Hearted Girl" because she recently started a blog with the same title. Her basket consisted of different types of pheasant hunting items, since Redfield is the Pheasant Capital of the World and pheasant hunting has a huge economic benefit to Redfield's community.

On the third and final day, the Queens attended rehearsal for coronation, after that they got to tour the Ward Hotel and the Dakota Prairie Museum. The ladies got ready at the Aberdeen Civic Theatre and then attended the coronation. At coronation the ladies had to introduce themselves and walk onstage in their formals so the judges could observe the ladies stage appearance. The judges then chose the Top 10 Candidates who would have to answer an impromptu question on stage in front of the crowd.

Gruenwald was selected as one of the Top 10 candidates, and her question had to do with benefits of nonacademic activities. In Gruenwald's answer she talked about her involvement in FCCLA and what she had gained from being a member of the organization.

"I have gained many lifelong skills from this experience that I'll be able to use for the rest of my life. This experience has helped me become more confident, a better communicator, courageous, and patient. It's shown me the importance of humility and presence. I am extremely thankful for all the skills this experience has helped me develop," Gruenwald said.