

Thirty-one vie for queen titles

The Early County Forestry Pageant was held Jan. 10 at Mangham Auditorium with 31 girls vying for the titles of Miss, Teen, Junior, Little, Tiny, Teeny, and Baby Miss Early County Forestry.

Reigning queens Dani Taylor, Hannah Odom, Shanna Suggs, Savannah Hall, Kate Hattaway, Carley Miles Fenn and Haylee Brunson opened the pageant.

Miss Miller-Seminole Forestry, Lauren Arnold, an ECHS graduate and former Early County Forestry Queen, served as mistress of ceremonies.

Sophie Ard, daughter of Steve and Samantha Ard, was crowned Baby Miss and also won photogenic, prettiest dress and prettiest smile awards. Makaylah McKellar was first runner up and won the prettiest hair award. Bella Hardy was second runner-up and the people's choice winner.

Cailyn Dean, daughter of Chad and Courtney Dean, was crowned

Teeny Miss Early County Forestry. She also won the prettiest dress award. Keely Walden received first runner up, photogenic and the prettiest hair award. Brecken Johns received the prettiest smile award and Emma Grace Chapman was the people's choice winner.

Ellaina Phillips, daughter of of Eli Phillips and Brandi Phillips, won the title of Tiny Miss Early County Forestry. She also won the prettiest dress award. Haley Whittaker placed first runner up and won the title of Miss Early County Forestry Hospitality. Caroline Harrison was second runner up. Morgan Bridges was the winner of the prettiest hair and prettiest smile awards.

Saylor Odom, daughter of Christina and the late Todd Odom, won the title of Little Miss Early County Forestry. She also won the prettiest dress award. Emmie Fenn was first runner up and the prettiest hair winner. Katibeth Mims

was second runner up, Abigail Grantham was third runner up and Analeigh Cook placed fourth runner up. Carlie Maxwell was the prettiest smile winner and Abby Chapman received the people's choice award.

Lizzy Stanford, daughter of Dieter and Ann Stanford, was crowned Junior Miss Early County Forestry and won the prettiest dress award. Megan Smith placed first runner up and also won the photogenic, prettiest hair and prettiest smile awards. Whitney Hardy was the winner of the people's choice award.

Brooke Kelley, daughter of Trent and Donna Kelley, was crowned Teen Miss Early County Forestry and also received the prettiest hair and the interview award. Georgia Hodges won the photogenic, prettiest dress, prettiest smile, and speech awards. Ahyla Branch was the winner of the people's choice award. Courtney Lynn

Brownlee is the new Miss Early County Forestry. Courtney is the 17-year-old daughter Mark and Deborah Pearce and Ron Brownlee. She resides in Damascus and is a senior at Miller County High School.

The Teeny, Tiny, Little, Junior, Teen, and Miss Queens will all travel to Tifton in June to represent Early County Forestry in the Georgia Forestry Pageant.

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SCHIP approved by House

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop Jr. announced that the United States House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which currently provides health insurance to 7 million low- and middle-income children nationwide. The measure the house passed will extend coverage to an additional 4 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid. The vote was 289 to 139.

"Expanding SCHIP to an additional 4 million children is a vital downpayment for a healthier America," said Bishop.

"A healthy start in life means children who are better prepared for learning in school. It means lower health care costs from childhood through adulthood and into old age as well."

The legislation — H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act — reauthorizes SCHIP for four and a half years (through Fiscal Year 2013). It includes important provisions to improve the quality of children's health care by develop-

ing and implementing pediatric health quality measures. It also enhances SCHIP benefits by ensuring dental coverage and mental health parity, strengthens vital outreach and enrollment efforts and avoids state funding shortfalls that may threaten the program's stability. The measure is fully paid for by a 61-cent increase in the federal tobacco tax.

Georgia's version of the federal SCHIP program, PeachCare for Kids, enrolled 356,285 children in Fiscal Year 2007. According to the Congressional Research

Service, Georgia would receive a 68 percent increase in its federal SCHIP allotments in Fiscal Year 2009 should the measure be enacted into law (from \$175.6 million to \$294.2 million). Families USA estimates that an additional 181,000 low- and middle-income children will gain health care coverage.

"The legislation also is a welcome relief for those working American families struggling in this challenging economy to provide affordable health care for their children," said Bishop.

Blakely Senior Center

310 Meadowbrook Drive

Daily Events

Jan. 26 — Rhythm band practice - 10:30-11:30. Lunch: Beef hot dog with chili, baked beans, cole slaw, hot dog bun, fruit cobbler.

Jan. 27 — Physical fitness - 10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m. Jeopardy - 11 a.m. Lunch: Chicken and rice casserole, broccoli, Harvard beets, corn muffin, tropical fruit.

Jan. 28 — Bingo - 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Lunch: Country fried steak with gravy, creamed potatoes, marinated carrots, wheat roll, fresh fruit.

Jan. 29 — Physical fitness - 10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m. Rev. Slade Speir, devotional - 11 a.m. Lunch: Smothered chicken, blackeye peas, collard greens, sliced bread, fruited strawberry Jello.

Jan. 30 — Physical fitness - 10:15 a.m. 11 a.m. Rev. L.B. Ingram, whistling preacher - 11 a.m. Lunch: Spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, corn, Texas toast, apple crumble.

Anyone 60 and over is invited to join us for activities and/or lunch. One day notice is needed for lunch. Call 723-8700. Arlington Senior Center offers the same daily meals.

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