

33rd Miss Rain Day crowned

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WAYNESBURG - The 33rd Annual Miss Rain Day scholarship pageant was held Sunday in the Waynesburg Central High School auditorium, and Joanna Allen of Waynesburg took the title in the competition. Allen 16, is a daughter of George and Georgeanna Allen of Waynesburg. She will be a senior at Waynesburg High School.

This makes six years running that a Waynesburg Central High School student was crowned Miss Rain Day. Allen was preceded by Kelcee Headlee in 2010; Emily Block, 2009; Elissa McCracken, 2008; Erica Bristor, 2007; and Ali Nelson in 2006.

The last time the crown was worn by someone from outside Waynesburg was in 2005 when Jefferson-Morgan's Courtney Franks was named Miss Rain Day.

Selected as the first runner-up for 2011 was Kendall Lewis, 15, of Carmichaels. She is a daughter of Mark and Jennette Lewis and will be a sophomore at Carmichaels Area Junior-Senior High School.

Second runner-up was Christa Ziefel, 16, a daughter of David and Cathy Ziefel of Nineveh. She will be a junior at West Greene High School.

Other contestants were Chelsea Coder, 17, a daughter of Cindy and Dave Coder of Waynesburg; Christina Lahew, 17, a daughter of Robert and Janice Lahew of Brave; and Alexa Ponick, 16, a daughter of Rich and Jan Ponick of Carmichaels.

In addition to capturing the title of Miss Rain Day, Allen also won the annual Rain Maker award that goes to the contestant who collected the most sponsors; Miss Personality, which was decided by fellow contestants; the Kelly Smotzer Award; top sportswear; and tied with Ziefel for top talent.

Allen performed a jazz dance to "Big Spender," and Ziefel performed a tap dance to "Oogie Woogie Boogie."

Lahew won the John O'Hara Award for writing the best essay; Lewis won Miss Photogenic; Ziefel received the Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award; Lewis won for top interview; and Ponick won top gown. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.