

Waynesburg teen crowned 2011 Miss Rain Day

By Steve Barrett

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WAYNESBURG — Joanna Allen, 16, was crowned 2011 Miss Rain Day during the 33rd annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant, which was held Sunday in the Waynesburg Central High School auditorium.

Allen, the daughter of George and Georgeanna Allen of Waynesburg, will be a senior at Waynesburg Central High School. She was crowned by last year's Miss Rain Day, Kelcee Headlee, the 18-year-old daughter of Amy and Derrick Broadwater of Waynesburg,

Allen said she was surprised when she was announced as the winner.

"At first I couldn't really believe it, but when it finally sunk in I just started crying," she said. "Obviously, it was a very emotional experience. It was just amazing."

This marked the third time that Allen competed for the title. She said her experiences with the Rain Day pageants has changed her life.

"The pageants have made me a better person, because I am more confident and mature," she said. "I have made a lot of great friendships through the pageants. It is a wonderful experience, and I want to pass that on to other young ladies who also hope one day to wear this crown."

Allen said she is looking forward to the busy year that awaits her as Miss Rain Day.

"I am completely ready for it," she said with a confident smile. "I am excited about being a role model and serving this title to the very best of my abilities."

First runner-up was Kendall Lewis, the 15-year-old daughter of Mark and Jennette Lewis of Carmichaels. She will be a sophomore at Carmichaels Area Junior-Senior High School.

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

Allen also won the Rain Maker award for collecting the most scholarships, as well as the Miss Personality Award, the Kelly Smotzer Memorial Award and the Top Sportswear Award. She also tied with Ziefel to win the the Top Talent Award.

Ziefel also won the Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award, and Lewis also won the Miss Photogenic Award as well as the Top Interview Award.

Christina Lahew, the 17-year-old daughter of Robert and Janice Lahew of Brave, won the John O'Hara Award for writing the best essay. She will be a senior at Waynesburg Central High

School.

Alexa Ponick, the 16-year-old daughter of Rich and Jan Ponick of Carmichaels, won the Top Gown Award. She will be a junior at Carmichaels Area Junior-Senior High School.

This year's pageant was coordinated by Rain Day Scholarship Inc.

The Miss Rain Day contestants will perform on the main stage on Rain Day at 6:30 p.m.