The Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center in Georgetown was the site of the annual Sussex County 4-H Club Public Speaking Contest, Saturday, Jan. 26. With an audience of more than 100 people, 4-H members from Lewes, Milford, Ellendale, Georgetown, Bridgeville, Seaford and Laurel gathered to discuss individually chosen topics. Pictured are Devin Petka, organizational leader for the Hollymount 4-H Club Sharon Anderson, Kaitlin Philcox, project leader Michele Walfred, Holly Anderson and Colleen Anderson.

4-H Club youth participate in public speaking competition

By Tom Walsh
Special to the Cape Gazette

The Carvel Research and Education Center in Georgetown was the site of the annual Sussex County 4-H Club Public Speaking Contest, Saturday, Jan. 26. Addressing a panel of judges and an audience of parents and siblings, 21 members demonstrated the 4-H club is far more than just an agriculturally-based organization.

Representing clubs from Lewes, Milford, Ellendale, Georgetown, Bridgeville, Seaford and Laurel, the presenters, ages 8 to 16, delivered two to 10 minute speeches. Topics were chosen by the presenters and ranged from ancient Egypt to internet safety precautions.

"What an informative evening," said Mary Argo, Sussex County Extension educator at the Carvel Center. "Selecting a topic, writing, practicing and then giving speeches in front of a large audience are not easy tasks."

With an audience of more than 100 family members and 4-H alumni watching, judges rated the youths for confidence, poise and overall speaking ability.

For many new 4-H members

Continued on page 85

Winners are:

8-9 Year Division:
Winner: Paige Vincent, Laurel, Mt. Pleasant Club
Ribbon winners: Colleen Anderson, Milton, Aileen Goehringer, Ellendale, Mikayla Ockels, Milton, and Devin Petka, Rehoboth Beach.

10-11 Year Division
Winner: Louisa Goehringer, Ellendale, Harbor Lights Club

12-13 Division
Winner: Debra Goehringer, Ellendale, Harbor Lights Club
Ribbon Winners: Bethany Killmon, Bridgeville, Stephen Mervine, Bridgeville.

14 & Older Division
Winner: Megan Campbell, Laurel Mt. Pleasant Club
Ribbon winners: Andy Bell, Seaford, Corbin Davis, Seaford, Dyllan Hawley, Laurel.
The overall winners from four age divisions are set to represent Sussex County 4-H in the state Public Speaking Contest Sunday, July 20, at the Delaware State Fair. The division winners include Paige Vincent, Louisa Goehringer, Debra Goehringer and Megan Campbell, pictured right.

The Sussex County 4-H Club thanked the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club for the donation of trophies and ribbons.

The club also recognized Chairwoman Barbara Taylor and judges Sylvia Bradley, Jay Hukill, Sandy Reynolds, Gail Tipton, Becky Vanderwende, Michele Walfred and the Rev. Mike Williams, as well as committee members Carlene Campbell and Carole Vincent for their participation in the event.

The 4-H Club is a nationwide organization administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture that is devoted to youth development. Developed in the early 20th century, the program now includes more than 6 million members from ages 5 to 19. 4-H stands for Head, Heart, Hands and