



# Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

*Conference Committee Approves Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill*

## Sen. Richard Shelby Secures Single Largest Grant for Alabama 4-H

The single largest gift in the history of Alabama 4-H has been secured by U.S. Senator Richard Shelby to be used to help construct an Environmental Science Education Center at the 4-H Youth Development Center in central Alabama.

The \$500,000 grant will be used to help construct the 20,719-square-foot facility to teach 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Education programs as well as the 4-H Center's Environmental Field School to Alabama 4-H'ers and school children, home school children and other youth who come to the Center to learn about environmental education.

The 4-H Center sits on Lay Lake on 264-acres leased to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., from Alabama Power Company.

In making the announcement, Shelby said, "The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation provides students throughout Alabama with a learning-by-doing education program in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"Our bill includes \$500,000 for the Alabama 4-H Environmental Education Center in Shelby County to help expand this important learning experience for students."

Jack Odle, chair of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, said, "We are grateful to Sen. Shelby and the entire Alabama delegation, who have seen the importance of constructing an environmental education center for all Alabama youngsters.

"Children will be able to explore the natural setting of the 4-H Center, then go inside to a high-tech facility

continued on page 5

## State 4-H Winners Honored

State 4-H Congress winners were recently honored with ribbons, scholarships, plaques, trips and other awards, culminating a year's worth of work among some of the state's best and brightest youngsters.

More than 200 4-H'ers, volunteers and Alabama Cooperative Extension System agents attended the event held on the Auburn University campus, which was rescheduled because of Hurricane Dennis.

State academic scholarships in the amount of \$600 each were presented to six deserving 4-H'ers. Luke Brymer, Jefferson County, received the 4-H Achievement Award; Jennifer Williams, Shelby County, the 4-H Animal Science Academic Award; Caleb Hartin, Butler County, the Citizenship/Leadership Academic Award; Katlin Mulvaney, Lee County, the Dairy Foods Leadership Award; Lisa Marie Shaw, Tuscaloosa County, the Fisheries and Wildlife Academic Award; and Christopher Cannon, Fayette County, the Forestry Academic Award.

Twelve 4-H'ers were selected as delegates to represent Alabama at the National 4-H Congress. They are Cameron Mulvaney, Della Stabler and Jarrett Moore, all from Lee County; Erica Lewis, Coffee County; Emma Cooper, Limestone County; Raymond Sexton, Pike County; Janna Ford and Katie Harbour, both from Shelby County; Kimberly Lynn McGraw, Mobile County; Rebecca Morrison, Tuscaloosa County; and Brittany Stockton, Elmore County.

State winners were announced in 16 competitive events. Event winners and their sponsors are as follows:

**Automotive Driving** – Calan Daniel, Randolph County, first place; Kurt Ingram, Pike County, second place; and Seth Gee, Talladega County, third place.

continued on page 4



### Plans Underway

The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation is completing plans for a new Environmental Science Education Center at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana. The Foundation is working with the Birmingham firms of Davis Architects and Harbert International to design and construct the facility. Pictured, from left, are Ben Patrick, vice present of B.L. Harbert International; Ed Dickinson, Foundation board member and chair of the Campaign for Alabama 4-H; Jack Odle, chair of the Foundation Board of Directors; Beth Lawrence, assistant to the director, development; and Neil Davis, president of Davis Architects.



Pictured with Roger Vines, left, Coosa County Extension coordinator, are members of the national champion forestry judging team, including Anna Vines, Elijah Phillips, Samuel Cordner, Justin Glover, and Doug McConnell, assistant volunteer coach.



Members of the reserve national champion wildlife team, are, from left: Joel Glover, assistant volunteer coach; Jimmy Mitchell, Justin Glover, James Mooney, Carey Phillips and Roger Vines, Coosa County Extension coordinator.

## Coosa County Teams Excel Nationally

Alabama 4-H's Coosa County teams have deservedly gained reputations as powerhouses this year, winning first place and second place at two national competitions.

The National 4-H Forestry champions, who participated at the Forestry Invitational in West Virginia, included Ann Vines of Sylacauga, Justin Glover of Rockford, Samuel Cordner of Sylacauga and Elijah Phillips of Equality. Alabama Cooperative Extension System Agent Roger Vines coached the team with the assistance of Laurie Vines of Sylacauga and Doug McConnell of Rockford.

At the 4-H National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, the Coosa County team finished in second place, only 16 points behind the first-place winner, Georgia. Nineteen state teams participated in the event, held near Little Rock, Ark.

"I was really proud of our kids when they won both the state forestry and wildlife events," Vines says. "These seven kids, one of whom served on both teams, set their goal to win two national championships in one year.

"They didn't quite pull it off, but they came close with first in forestry and second in wildlife--a very worthy achievement!"

In the forestry championship, Samuel Cordner of Alabama received the high-point individual award. The second place winner was Alabama's Anna Vines.

Students compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement,

compass orienteering, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, the Forestry Bowl and forest evaluation.

At the 4-H National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, two Coosa County team members also finished among the top 10 individuals. Carey Phillips finished seventh overall, while Justin Glover finished 10th. Other team members were James Mooney and Jimmy Mitchell. All four team members finished among the top five in the wildlife management practices section of the competition.

Roger Vines and Joel Glover, a local volunteer, coached the wildlife team.

## Military Kids Attend 2nd Annual Fort Clover

More than 40 Alabama kids with some special parents had an opportunity for a little "R&R" recently, spending five days at the Alabama 4-H Youth Development Center during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fort Clover.

The kids, whose parents are in the Alabama National Guard or Reserves and currently deployed overseas, were treated to an all-expenses-paid getaway funded by a military grant, the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, and administered by Alabama Cooperative Extension System employees.

This year, Fort Clover included white water rafting on the Ocoee River, a day at VisionLand and much more. The youth were provided opportunities to get to know peers who are facing the same challenges, said Chuck Hill, a 4-H youth development specialist with Extension.

"Thanks to the support of our partners, this was a great event for the young people," Hill said. "It was just what the kids (and their families) needed.

One parent, Army Major Robert A. Bjornson, wrote: "I just wanted to take the time to pass along our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you that made this camp such a resounding success. My daughter had a wonderful time and continues to speak of it even now. Your support of the military and their families is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. I commend all of you and, again, thank you for your love and support."

Fort Clover is a part of Operation Military Kids, a cooperative effort of the Army and the Cooperative Extension System's 4-H youth development programs.

## Alabama 4-H Volunteers; Agents Attend Regional Leader Forum

More than 65 Alabama 4-H volunteers and Alabama Cooperative Extension System staff recently attended the annual Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum, learning about new programs and fellowshiping with other 4-H workers from around the Southeast.

Volunteers and Extension employees attended the forum, held at the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service's "Rock Eagle" 4-H Center near Eatonton. In all, six county Extension staff, eight regional 4-H Extension agents, two state 4-H staff members and 51 volunteers participated in a weekend packed with more than 100 educational 'funshops.'

"Alabama 4-H volunteers dedicate a portion of their busy lives to help young people develop into competent and healthy adults," said Lamar Nichols, state 4-H leader. "This year's 2005 Southern Region 4-H Leader Forum was the perfect opportunity for the attendees to renew their commitment, augment techniques and share in opportunities to better serve their communities."

The purpose of the annual conference is to provide education and networking for 4-H volunteers and professionals to strengthen their vision, refresh the perspectives of their work, learn about new programs and get more excited about 4-H opportunities.

The many funshops provided practical, hands-on program ideas in dozens of traditional 4-H projects, and also introduced a wealth of exciting, cutting-edge 4-H programs, such as robotics and space agriculture.

Alabama Power, Gold Kist, Inc., and the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., provided generous support in scholarships for all Alabama attendees' registration, as well as some transportation support.

Volunteers who were unable to attend the regional forum can learn from those who were there by attending the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leader Retreat, scheduled February 24 to 26, 2006 at the Alabama 4-H Youth Development Center. For more information, contact Shannon Andress, 4-H activities and events coordinator, at andresh@auburn.edu or (334) 844-2232.

## Plans Underway for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic

Plans are underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic, which has been set for Thursday, June 8, at FarmLinks Golf Club in Sylacauga.

"The golfers and tournament planners had a great time at FarmLinks and they have graciously agreed to again be a corporate sponsor," said James Shropshire, 4-H regional Extension agent and chair of the golf classic committee.

If you would like to register early to reserve your spot, please contact the 4-H Foundation Development office at (334) 844-2247. Several sponsorship levels are available, including the following:

### 4-H "Head" Clover Sponsor\* \$2,000

- Four-person team, Statewide Achievement Award sponsor, *Pathways* feature, event banner, hole sponsor

### 4-H "Heart" Clover Sponsor\* \$1,500

- Four-person team, *Pathways* feature, event banner, hole sponsor

### 4-H "Hand" Clover Sponsor\* \$1,000

- Four-person team and hole sponsor

### 4-H "Health" Clover Sponsor\* \$ 700

- Four-person team

### 4-H Hole Sponsor \$ 250

### Individual Player\* \$ 175

(\*Includes cart and green fees, range balls, snacks and beverages, brunch, and the awards reception)

Other sponsorship opportunities include beverage carts sponsors (4) at \$500 each; and donations will be accepted for the brunch and awards reception.

## Check the Box!

Alabama 4-H is transforming the lives nearly 100,000 young people, and you can help *Make the Best Better!*

The Alabama income tax forms will soon be mailed, and those wishing to support Alabama 4-H can check Line 31K on your individual return to give to 4-H.

In the past two years that Alabama 4-H has participated in the state program, nearly \$20,000 has been given to 4-H.

"Checking the box on your return is a convenient way to support Alabama 4-H," said Beth Lawrence, assistant to the director, development, for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. "All money supports 4-H programs, helps to purchase awards and ribbons for 4-H'ers and offsets the costs of kids attending camps and district, regional and state programs."

For information on how you can support Alabama 4-H, contact Lawrence at (334) 844-2247.



is published quarterly by the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Publisher: Beth Atkins Lawrence, Assistant to the Director, Development

Editor: Janet L. McCoy, Extension Development and Communications Coordinator III

Contributing Writers: Jim Langcuster, Extension Specialist, Communications; Maggie Lawrence, Extension Specialist, Communications; Donna Reynolds, Editor, Communications

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

## State 4-H Winners continued from page 1

**Breads Exhibit** – Rachel Hyde, Jefferson County, first place; Caitlin Reed, Franklin County, second place; and Noelle East, Randolph County, third place. Multifoods sponsored this event.

**Bicycle Safety** – Anthony Westbrook, Lamar County, and Tashma Hayes, Lauderdale County, tied for first place; Andres Oliver, Butler County, second place; and Justin Baker, Pike County, third place.

**Chicken-Que** – Anna Adcock, Randolph County, first place; Trey Miller, Lawrence County, second place; and Corey Rudolph, Lowndes County, third place. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sponsored this event.

**Avian Bowl Team** – This team of 4-H'ers will represent Alabama in national competition this fall in Kentucky. Team members selected include Corey Rudolph, Lowndes County; Matthew Gates, Pike County; and Michelle Burns, Fayette County. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association also sponsored this event.

**Egg Demonstration** – Erin Hardin, Randolph County, first place; Rachel Voss, Etowah County, second place; and Kristen Hicks, Lawrence County, third place. The Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sponsored this event.

**Dairy Foods Demonstration** – Cortney Elkins, Lawrence County, first place; Rebecca Thompson, Coffee County, second place; and Belinda Baxley, Houston County, third place.

**Applications of Electrical Energy Demonstration** – Della Stabler, Lee County, first place; Ethan Parker, St. Clair County, second place; and Jessica Pearlstein, Pike County, third place. The Alabama Power Foundation sponsored this event.

**Lawn Tractor Operation** – Mark Windham, Coffee County, first place; Brenson Crenshaw, Lowndes County, second place; and Robin McLendon, Pike County, third place.

**Traditional Photography Exhibit** – April Brown, Escambia County, first place; Casey East, Pike County, second place; and Stephen Irby, Etowah County, and Jacob Hartin, Butler County, tied for third place.

**Alteration and Imagination Photography Exhibit** – James Cooper, Macon County, first place; Casey East, Pike County, second place; and Becky Williams, Shelby County, and Savannah Swarengin, Morgan County, tied for third place.

**Plant and Soil Science Exhibit** – Bryan Parrish, Crenshaw County, first place; Jeffery Stovall, Fayette County, second place; and Jennifer Register, Pike County, third place. The Alabama Crop Management Association sponsored the event.

**Informative Public Speaking** – Andrew Brymer, Jefferson County, first place; Alex Masterson, Lawrence County, second place; and JoAnn Caesar, Tallapoosa County, third place. Laird, Baker and Blackstock, LLC, Attorneys at Law in Opp, Ala., sponsored the event.

**Persuasive Public Speaking** – Brenna K. Echols, Autauga County, first place; Luke Brymer, Jefferson County, second place; and Devin Kennamer, DeKalb County, third place. Laird, Baker and Blackstock, LLC, Attorneys at Law in Opp, Ala., sponsored the event.

**Tractor Operation** – Junior Strain, Randolph County, first place; Justin Weigart, Lauderdale County, second place; and Casey Howard, Tuscaloosa County, third place.

**Wood Science Demonstration** – Amanda Gibson, Pike County, first place; Alan Last, Lawrence County, second place; and Ashley Washington, Washington County, third place.

**Wood Science Exhibit** – Michael Robertson, Marshall County, first place; Amber Henderson, Coffee County, second place; and Melissa Revis, Limestone County, third place.

Animal science judging events were held in Auburn July 15. State winners included the following:

**4-H Agri-Knowledge Contest High Individuals Overall** – Andrew Burroughs, Hale County, first place; Jed Burroughs, Hale County, second place; and Nic Hilyer, Autauga County, third place.

**4-H Agri-Knowledge Contest Team Overall** – Hale County, first place; Autauga County, second place; and Fayette County, third place.

**Livestock Judging Contest High Individuals Overall** – Caleb Elrob, Cullman County, first place; Wendy Pittman, Autauga County, second place; and Mary Potts, Tuscaloosa County, third place.

**Livestock Judging Contest Team** – Tuscaloosa County, first place; Autauga County, second place; and Cullman County, third place.

**Meats Judging Contest High Individuals Overall** – Jed Burroughs, Hale County, first place; Andrew Burroughs, Hale County, second place; and Brianna Bailey, Coffee County, third place.

Other 2005 state 4-H winners include Junior Master Gardener/Bonnie Plant Farm 4-H Giant Cabbage Growing Contest: Junior winners (ages 9 to 13) include Hunter Goodson, Coffee County, cabbage weight - 21 lbs. 12 oz., first place; Ellen Rankins, Lee County, cabbage weight - 12 lbs., second place; and Danie Beasley, Blount County, cabbage weight - 8 lbs. 8 oz., third place. Cloverbud (ages 5 to 8) top winner was Gavin Rankins, Lee County, cabbage weight - 11 lbs.



Participants of a 4-H pilot program learned about GPS farming,

## Space Farming

### Alabama 4-H's Pilot Program Links Space, Agriculture

4-H students and educators from 10 states recently took part in a pilot program created by Alabama 4-H designed to showcase space agriculture and to increase public awareness and promote youth and educator training in this new field.

The 4-H "LoST in Space" program was held at Huntsville's U.S. Space & Rocket Center's world renowned Space Camp, created in 1982 to encourage students to prepare for high-tech careers.

The participants, including 16 students and 16 adult mentors, all with ties to 4-H, took part in a week of rigorous academic training and field experience with a goal of sparking creative solutions to the next great problem in space exploration — growing food in controlled environment facilities.

The pilot program combined high-school-level classroom instruction and real world observations with the Space Camp program to help attendees envision survival in challenging environments, said Tony Cook, Extension 4-H program specialist.

Participants learned about the space shuttle and the International Space Station, and flew a simulated space shuttle mission to dock with the International Space Station. They evaluated the life support capabilities of crop plants, measured light, pH and nutrient levels and evaluated the overall health of the crops. They also examined leaf and stem segments under a research-quality microscope and reported on cellular hydration levels.

"While science was the focus of the mission, some of the most valuable lessons was learned in teamwork," said Cook. "With the help of the Challenger Center of

continued on page 6



## Space Farming

Wheeling, W. Va., the trainees completed an e-mission to save a lunar colony from a rogue comet.

"All youth and adults were trained as specialists in a particular area: orbital mechanics, impact probabilities, communications or life support," Cook said. "Each group relied heavily on data from the other groups and had to work under intense deadline pressure to find a workable solution for the team."

The participants also learned how to apply space technologies to Earth agriculture. They completed a short workshop on remote sensing and global positioning system technologies, and learned about the latest university research in space agriculture and earth agriculture at Auburn, Purdue, and Alabama A&M universities.

In addition, the trainees took a trip to Auburn University's Tennessee Valley Regional Research and Extension Center in north Alabama, where they used the latest handheld GPS units to compare satellite data, and saw a GPS-guided tractor in action.

## Shelby Secures Grant

continued from page 1

and use sound science-based principles to further explore nature," said Odle. "It will provide Alabama 4-H'ers, school children and home-school children an opportunity to learn in a way they can't possibly learn in a regular classroom setting."

Shelby, chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee (CJS), announced conference committee approval of several important projects in Alabama included in the Fiscal Year 2006 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill. The bill will soon be voted on in the House, and the Senate will consider the bill following House approval.

The 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Education program involves nearly 20,000 young people annually. Activities for youth range from wildlife and forestry programs, shooting sports, archery, hunter education and sports fishing events, to essay writing and art contests.

At the 4-H Youth Development Center, environmental education is taught through its Environmental Field School, offered as three days and two nights or a full week. To date, about 3,000 school children and adults participate each year.

## Alabama Hosts 4-H Southern Regional Horse Show

About 500 4-H'ers from across the South rode into Montgomery's Garrett Coliseum Complex this fall for the 2005 4-H Southern Regional Horse Show.

The 4-H'ers earned the right to compete at the 4-H Southern Regional Show by winning at their respective state 4-H horse show. Competitors are from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System was the host of the event. Bob Ebert, an Extension animal scientist who coordinates 4-H youth livestock events, said the show was an opportunity to let youth show off their talents with horses and in horse-related activities, such as public speaking and horse judging.



T.F. "Tom" Burnside

## Retired Agent, Foundation Board Member Dies

T.F. "Tom" Burnside, a member of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors, passed away Oct. 28, following a brief illness.

"Tom was a great addition to our board," said Jack Odle, chair of the 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. "He cared deeply about 4-H and 4-Her's and he understood the impact 4-H had on children's lives."

"His guidance and advice will be greatly missed by all of us on the 4-H Foundation Board."

Burnside, 72, was a retired county Extension coordinator for Randolph County. In his 33-year career with Extension, Burnside established a high benchmark for county agents in Alabama. He was at his best working with young people. During his tenure in Randolph County, he built one of the state's strongest 4-H programs.

In addition to his county Extension work, Burnside helped organize the Alabama Junior Cattlemen's Association and was one of the first to establish a county chapter.

Burnside received many awards include the Extension 4-H Distinguished Service Award, both nationally and in Alabama, the Award of Excellence, the Golden Gavel Award, the Auburn University Achievement Award and the Alabama Cattlemen's Hall of Fame Award.

Mr. Burnside is survived by his wife, Billie Ruth Sandley Burnside of Wedowee; one daughter and son-in-law, Tammie and Randall Gourdouze of Auburn; one son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Vanessa Sorrell Burnside of Wedowee; sisters and brothers-in-law, Rita and John Arther of Gadsden and Betty and Grover McMakin of Boerne, Texas.

Donations in Burnside's memory may be made to First United Methodist Church of Wedowee, the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation or to Gideons International.



**Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!**

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lawrence, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.  
117 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5612 Phone: (334) 844-2247 Fax: (334) 844-7201



To help meet Alabama 4-H's needs for this year, enclosed is my gift of:

I prefer to charge my gift to my Visa/MasterCard:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000

Make check payable to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

-----  
Card Number

-----  
Expiration Date

Enclosed is a Matching Gift form. Employer is:  
-----

-----  
Cardholder's Signature

Designate my gift as follows:

- Alabama 4-H Club Foundation  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Alabama 4-H Center
- 4-H Program Enrichment
- 4-H Endowment Fund

Total Pledge/Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Payable:

Annually Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_ Ongoing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Semiannually Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_ Ongoing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quarterly Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_ Ongoing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_ Ongoing \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Have a Story Idea?**

Do you have a story idea for Pathways? Do you know a 4-H'er who has achieved an honor and want others across Alabama to know about it? The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit fund-raising arm of Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension development and communications coordinator, at mccoysl@aces.edu, or call (334) 844-2298.

**Beth A. Lawrence, Assistant to the Director**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #9  
Auburn University, AL  
36849

Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.  
117 Duncan Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849-5612

