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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program video available

June 1, 2017 – Landon Looker – the sixth-grader from Wadsworth Elementary School who won this year's 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program competition – will present her award winning speech at Monday's Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

Ms. Looker was one of 18 students who competed in the May 23 competition held at the Flagler County UF/IFAS Extension of Office. Finalists in from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades classes of Belle Terre Elementary, Bunnell Elementary, Imagine School, Old Kings Elementary, Rymfire Elementary and Wadsworth took part in the competition.

The entire program was video recorded, including Ms. Looker's speech: "Fun Size, Not So Fun." It is available online at www.flaglercounty.org/four h.

"I was amazed by their maturity and sincerity," said Rose Keirnan, Flagler County PR/Marketing specialist and one of three judges at the competition. "These were wonderful, clearly stated, persuasive speeches."

Topics varied from family matters and hobbies, among others.

Old Kings Elementary fourth-grader Angelina Vardakis spoke about how overwhelming it can be for children growing up in today's busy society.

"I believe it is important for parents to talk with their kids about how they feel about school, home, friends and after-school activities," she said. "If kids complain, maybe it's important to take a moment and think about their child's life."

Amanda Lopez, a fifth-grader from Belle Terre Elementary, discussed the value of chores.

"I'm going to be sweeping away the emotions, wiping off the frowns, and polishing the education I'm about to lay on you like a white cloth on the table," she said.

Allan Wills added to the hominess by explaining how all people are "One Big Family."

"Though we are all one of a kind in many ways, we are more similar than we look," said the sixth-grader from Rymfire Elementary. "Scientists have discovered that you can take a DNA test to learn more about your background and the culture you didn't know you have."

Ms. Looker will present her speech to the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners during the beginning portion of the Monday, June 5 meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. The meeting will be in the Board Chambers of the Government Services Building, 1769 E. Moody Boulevard, Bunnell.

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