

Memorable week for Cora Beth Taylor

Jul. 27

Community

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Cora Beth Taylor of Piedmont and Sheridan Fulkerson, Miss Northwest Oklahoma City and Cora's Miss, stop for a photo during the Miss Oklahoma Pageant in Tulsa last weekend. Cora Beth was the Piedmont D.U.C.K Week recipient in 2011.

BY ROGER PUGH*publisher@piedmontnewsonline.com****"Whenever I went on stage I couldn't stop smiling,"***

said 9-year old Cora Beth Taylor of Piedmont about her appearance at last week's Miss Oklahoma Pageant in Tulsa.

"I want to do it again," she exclaimed.

Cora Beth, who has Cerebral Palsy, had the opportunity to participate this year at the state pageant as part of the Miss Oklahoma Stars Program. The program is an opportunity for girls ages five to 10, to be mentored by a Miss Oklahoma Local Titleholder. The Stars, including Cora Beth, appeared On-Stage at the pageant in a Special song and dance Production Number.

Representing the Miss Piedmont Pageant as the Piedmont Star, Cora Beth also attended each nightly pageant performance, took part in the opening Red Carpet Premier, and attended other special activities with the Miss Oklahoma contestants, including a walk down the runway with her title holder, Miss Northwest OKC, Sheridan Fulkerson.

Sheridan was the First Runner-up in the Miss Piedmont Pageant, and as such was automatically crowned Miss Northwest Oklahoma City.

The walk was extra special for Cora Beth. It was a walk without assistance.

Until recently, the Cerebra Palsy probably would have forced Cora Beth to use her walker to make the trek across the stage.

However, after a trip to China last summer for stem cell treatments, Cora Beth's mom, Beth Taylor, said she has seen her daughter grow stronger and able to do more.

The stem cell treatment is not readily available in the United States and is limited to only a couple of facilities in the country and only performed in America if the patient's own cord blood or fat cells are used.

Last year, Cora Beth was the Piedmont schools DUCK Week honoree, and all of the proceeds' raised during the week-long fund raising effort by Piedmont students went to Cora Beth and her family.

Those funds helped pay for Cora Beth's trip to China and the treatments she received while there.

Cora Beth is a pageant veteran herself. She has entered the Little Miss Piedmont Pageant two years, and won her age group both times.

The first time she used her walker to compete, but this year she competed without the use of the walker.

In fact, Beth Taylor said Cora Beth has not used the walker since her return from China.

"She continues to show good progress and is getting her strength back," her mom said.

More pageants are in Cora Beth's future.

She said she will definitely be competing in pageants and has hopes to one day compete in the Miss Oklahoma Pageant as the winner of a local pageant.

"Pageants are one of my favorite things," Cora Beth explained.

"It was fun, and to do it in front of all those people even made it better," said Cora Beth of her song and dance routine and other appearances last week in Tulsa.