

Bauer wins Miss Northeast Counties

BRENNA MCDERMOTT
Opinions Editor

The Miss Northeast Counties pageant brought young women from across Missouri to Kirksville Middle School on Saturday to compete for the chance to represent Adair and 11 other northeast counties in the Miss Missouri pageant, a qualifier for Miss America.

Cape Girardeau resident Mary Bauer, 18, was crowned queen in the first annual Miss Northeast Counties pageant, formerly the Miss Kirksville scholarship pageant.

"I'm just really honored to represent the northeast counties in Miss Missouri this year, and I'll do my very best," Bauer said. "I'm just really excited."

Bauer said she began competing in pageants as a way to further her volunteer work with children's hospitals, something she has been doing since age 13.

"I visited St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and I got to meet with some patients and survivors, and it really just really inspired me to get involved with the hospital," Bauer said.

Bauer estimates she has helped raise \$21,000 for St. Jude and the Children's Miracle Network through telethons, a dream home giveaway and all the profits of her CD, "Sounds of Hope."

The Miss Northeast Counties contestants each raised \$100 for the Children's Miracle Network as a requirement to enter the pageant.

Bauer said she plans to complete her duties as Miss Northeast Counties by participating in local events like parades and the Daddy Daughter Dance hosted by the Heartland Task Force. She also plans to bring her platform issue of support and awareness for children's hospitals to Kirksville.

The first runner-up and Miss People's Choice was sophomore Talor Lutz, the only Truman student to enter the pageant. Also representing the Kirksville area was Madison Chambers, a Kirksville High School junior who was crowned the People's Choice Teen, Miss Congeniality Teen and the Miss Northeast Counties Outstanding Teen. Miss Kirksville 2009 Kaylen Sanborn co-hosted the event, and True Men, Truman's male a capella group, performed during the evening.

Executive Director Angela Caraway said Kirksville has been well represented in

the past and Bauer will continue that representation for the northeast counties area.

"We were actually really pleased to get Mary," Caraway said. "I mean all of the girls would have been wonderful queens, but Mary does have a history with competing with the organization. She had been a Miss Missouri Outstanding Teen. She won the state title in the teen division a few years back, and then she was fourth runner up in Miss Missouri last year, so that's really exciting for Kirksville."

Miss Missouri 2009 Tara Osseck was a 2007 Truman grad-uan who was crowned the People's Choice Teen, Miss Congeniality Teen and the Miss Northeast Counties Outstanding Teen. Miss Kirksville 2009 Kaylen Sanborn co-hosted the event, and True Men, Truman's male a capella group, performed during the evening.

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gowns for the contestants.

The number of Miss contestants increased to eight from last year's five, and five young ladies competed in the newly-formed Teen category. Caraway said absorbing the Miss Kirksville pageant into the Miss Northeast Counties pageant and opening the pageant to non-northeast counties residents helped increase interest. In previous years, the Miss Kirksville pageant did not draw as many contestants because of its closed title, meaning that only Kirksville residents and Truman students could register. She said their organization reached out to former contestants to bring them to Kirksville.

"We went to a lot of the local pageants and talked to a lot of the contestants afterwards," Caraway said. "We did a lot of mailing to contestants from previous years that competed at Miss Missouri. I just think a lot of contact between the director and the potential contestants helps a lot. It makes the girls feel welcome. It makes them feel like they want to come here. It's really easy to just put up a Web site and get links on how to do stuff, but it's another thing to give kind of that personal touch."

Caraway plans to continue marketing the pageant to outsiders and hopefully bring back local enthusiasm for the pageant.

"I think that the interest



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index
Mary Bauer (right) was crowned Miss Northeast Counties on Saturday. Bauer is from Cape Girardeau.

will continue to grow, and we'll just try to keep marketing the way we have been, and hopefully that will help us to get to the point where we can go ahead and give a Miss Kirksville and possibly close [the pageant]," Caraway said. "It just depends on what the interest is."

With an audience of about 200 and an outpour of donations from community businesses and volunteers, Caraway said she felt the support of the community behind the pageant. Truman and Moberly Area Community College each donated a \$500 renewable scholarship for the winner if she attended its institution.

Caraway estimates that the community donated approximately \$3,500 through donations, volunteering and cash gifts.

Shawn Wichmann, owner of Shawn's Bridal and Formal Shoppe, donated the tuxedo for Master of Ceremonies John McConnell. She said she has donated formal wear to community events in the past and thinks philanthropic events in the community are important to participate in.

For a slideshow of photos from the pageant, visit www.trumanindex.com

County sheriff car involved in crash

TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Kirksville police are investigating an accident in which a patrol vehicle from the Adair County Sheriff's Department and another vehicle collided at the intersection of Patterson and Halliburton streets Friday.

Sgt. Steve Farnsworth of the Kirksville Police Department said Kirksville resident Eric Daugherty, 25, sustained minor cuts on his forehead in the crash. Daugherty was cautioned for careless and imprudent driving after he allegedly failed to yield at a stop sign.

Farnsworth said Daugherty's vehicle was towed off the scene.

Deputy Jason Lene was driving the Sheriff Department's vehicle which was driven from the scene.

Police could not confirm claims on Daugherty's Facebook page that he had sustained a corneal laceration in the crash and received eye surgery as a result.

"[Daugherty] sustained cuts on the forehead, but once vic-

times leave the scene, they are not obliged to send us their medical releases, so we are not aware [of the corneal laceration claim]," said Farnsworth.

Rob Atkinson, the section chief in charge of finance and administration at the Adair County Sheriff's Office, said the department vehicle had been rendered unfit

for patrols.

"We're still working on the files for insurance," he said. "We were able to drive the vehicle back to the office, but it is not fit for patrols. So we will have to get it fixed."

The accident was recorded under Investigators are trying to establish the value of the damages sustained in the crash.



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