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# Nursing home pageant honors area women

By Stephanie Backus

Published: Thursday, June 24, 2010 10:54 PM CDT

Elisabeth Needs grew up in Germany and dreamed of being a nurse until 1944 when the war escalated. She eventually moved to the United States.

On Thursday, Needs was named the Missouri Health Care Association District VII Queen during the Ms. Nursing Home pageant at Capital Mall. Needs, a resident at Richland Care Center, will go on to participate in the state competition in August in Branson.

"I don't remember how long ago it started," District VII Coordinator Gina Twentor said. "The purpose of the pageant is to recognize the ladies in long-term care."

Twentor is the administrator for Katy Manor Nursing Home in Pilot Grove.

Nine contestants from various area nursing homes participated in the pageant Thursday; five were named finalists. Those contestants were interviewed by Rob Dvorak of DARE Foot Care in Kansas City. Dvorak will be the emcee for the state competition as well.

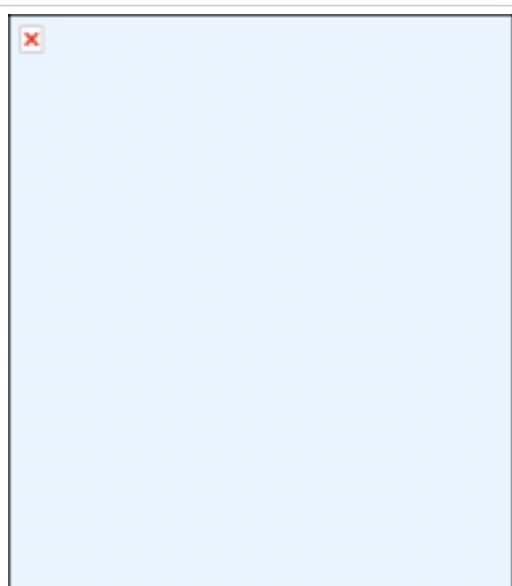
The pageant began at 9:15 Thursday with individual interviews with the judges. The three judges for the competition were: Rep. Jeanie Riddle, R-Mokane; Jeannie Serra, deputy director of regulation and licensure for the Department of Health and Senior Services; and Jim Biggs with Hospice Compassus.

"The ladies love it. They love to have the outing and get dressed up, and they think it's a lot of fun," Twentor said. "I have been affiliated with it for the past 10 years, and I have enjoyed it every year. It makes the ladies feel so special."

Needs said it was an honor to be named Ms. Nursing Home.

"It's fantastic because I was a little bit scared, but I love it," Needs said. "Everybody is so nice and everything."

The five finalists were: Thelma Block from Golden Living Center, Elva Flaugher from Miller County Care and Rehab, Needs, Helen Helfrich from Osage Beach Health Care Center and Anita Hostmark from Westphalia Hills.



Kelley McCall/News Tribune  
The Missouri Health Care Association District VII Ms. Nursing Home Pageant winner Elisabeth Needs, of Richland Care Center, left, and first runner-up Anita Hostmark, of Westphalia Hills, right, laugh as a friend takes their photograph shortly after they were crowned.

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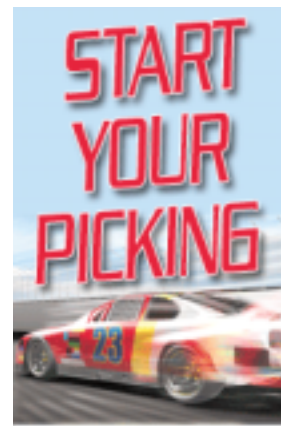
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
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JIM LEWIS  
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A vertical graphic with a brown background. At the top is the logo "Taste! of mid-Missouri" in a white, stylized font. Below the logo is the text "Check out Local Restaurants menus, coupons and more!" in a white, cursive font. At the bottom of the graphic are several small photographs of various restaurant dishes and people dining.

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