

Big turnout for Junior Miss



There are 24 contestants in the St. Maries Junior Miss program this year. They include (from the back) Brett Powell, Jenny Ettinger, Samantha Reamer, Courtney Barden, Megan Krebs, Courtney Ireland, Liberty Naccaratto, Patty Rathbun, (front) Dominique Sands, Kaittlin Walters, Ashlee Johnson, Megan Beck, Mollie Darden, Courtney Wear, Shelby Brandvold and Chelsea McGregor. The Jr. Miss program is April 17-18 at the Heyburn Gym. - Ralph Bartholdt

By Ralph Bartholdt

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Two days, four categories, 24 girls.

This year's annual junior miss scholarship contest includes the largest contingent of participants since St. Maries adopted the contest for 11th grade St. Maries high school girls in the late 1960s.

More scholarship money will be available because participants raised more cash, said coordinator Jackie McGregor.

Participants raised \$2,700 by selling scratch tickets and local merchants chipped in an additional \$5,000, she said.

"This year we raised over \$7,000 to give away," she said.

That is a couple thousand dollars more than usual, she said.

Then again, the contest usually draws around 17 participants, with some years having a showing of six.

Because of the number of girls, 2009 is just the second time in the contest's history that the event is slated for two days.

Contestants will each go through two routines each evening, starting at 7 p.m., April 17, said Mrs. McGregor.

Since 1988, more than 200 girls have taken part in St. Maries Junior Miss where winners receive scholarship money for college.

The money is sent to the college of the winner's choice and distributed by the school.

Tickets this year cost \$5 per night or they may be purchased at the Heyburn Gym door.

The event is popular however and anyone who doesn't buy their tickets beforehand should expect to wait in line.

"We have a line all way around corner half way down the block waiting to get in," said Mrs. McGregor. "Every year we fill the gym."