

## Ms. Hopkins County Senior pageant faces cancellation, organizer says

Written by From Staff Reports  
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The 5th Annual Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic is in danger of being canceled. So far, the pageant organizer has received no applications for contestants for the June 7 event. No contestants equals no contest.

“I need you to call me as soon as you can if you are interested,” said Karon Weatherman, coordinator for the annual senior contest. “Step out of your comfort zone and get involved. It is a fun event.”

There is no fee to enter the June 7 contest, and any woman age 60 or older who resides in Hopkins County is eligible to compete.

Simply contact Weatherman at 903-885-1661 to sign up. The winner of the annual pageant is eligible to compete in Ms. Texas Senior Classic Aug. 22-25, at South Fork Hotel in Plano.

“Ladies, please do not let the Ms. Hopkins County Senior contest be canceled for lack of participation. Encourage your friends to join you as a contestant. It is so much fun that in other counties the same women enter the contest every year! They don’t care if they win or not—they just enjoy participation and the camaraderie, not to mention making life-long friends,” urges Ms. Texas Senior Classic 2012 Nancy Bolton, who advanced to the Texas Ms. Senior Classic as the first runner up in the 2011 Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic Pageant.

In 2010, Bolton was awarded a sash and certificate for “best evening gown” at the county pageant.

Weatherman noted the annual pageant features judging in four categories, interview with the judges, philosophy of life, evening gown and talent. And, although one category is labeled “evening gown,” sparkling evening gown attire is not required. For that matter, amazing talent isn’t required either — just a willingness of women age 60 years or older to step up and show their stuff at the county event.

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“You just need a nice church dress and have a fun talent. It can be reading a poem, telling a funny story, lip syncing to a song or anything else you can think of,” Weatherman said.

“It is not a beauty contest and you don’t have to have a spectacular talent. One lady displayed her knitting and croquet items, one completed decorating a cake on stage, making a flower arrangement – the possibilities are endless,” Bolton noted.

“So what if you’re out of your comfort zone — participating will increase your self confidence,” Bolton added. “As Ms. Texas Senior, I had opportunities that I never would have experienced had it not been for my participation. Don’t let Karon down. She works so hard for the seniors of Hopkins county.”

Contestants will be asked one interview question they draw out of a container.

“The interview with the judges is just a random question that you will pull out of a fishbowl and answer the question. You could even just say the old stand-by ‘world peace’ if appropriate,” Weatherman said.

The 2013 Ms. Hopkins County Senior Classic, Sonja K. Baker-Norton of Yantis was named Miss Congeniality and won the award for best interview. Her question was “If you had the whole day to do anything you wanted, what would you do?” She described a spa day complete with massage, micro-derma abrasion, pedicure and manicure.

Each contestant will also be asked to give a short 50-word statement detailing their philosophy of life, which is read during another phase of the contest: the evening gown category.

The 2013 best philosophy of life winner Hannah Easdon said she believes in making lemonade out of lemons. She follows Philippians 4:11 to the best of her ability, being content whatever the circumstance. In her spare time, she likes writing and doing needlework. In fact, for the talent contest, she read a cowboy poem she wrote shortly after her husband died, which reflects her life philosophy.

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Unless interest is shown among local women soon, the pageant, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at the Church of the Nazarene, will be canceled.

Weatherman can be reached weekdays at 903-885-1661 or at the Senior Citizens Center, 150 Martin Luther King Drive, or [mealaday@yahoo.com](mailto:mealaday@yahoo.com) , for further information or registration forms.