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Florida woman takes home Sweetheart title on birthday

It's not every day that a woman turns 23 and wins the title of a pageant noted for showcasing future Miss America winners.

But that is what happened Sunday. Keri Lynn Schrader turned 23 and took home the title following the Miss National Sweetheart Pageant.

The pageant is part of the National Sweetcorn Festival which ended yesterday.

Schrader topped a record-setting field of 29 contestants to earn the crown.

The 5'5" green-eyed blond also won the talent competition, performing a ballet en pointe with a selection from "Stars & Stripes."

Schrader graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland with a 4.0 GPA and was valedictorian in her



Keri Lynn Schrader
1998 Miss National Sweetheart

class. A political science and criminology major, she is now a second year law student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

After receiving her law degree, Shrader hopes to become a prosecuting attorney, eventually serving as a state or federal judge. Her ultimate goal is to become a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Kerry Kristine Lucas, 23, of Arkansas, was named first runner-up in the competition, which features swimsuit, evening gown, talent and interview components.

Other winners were Kelly Lloyd of Indiana, second runner-up; Rosie Boyce of West Virginia, third runner-up; Shana Kari Moore of Kentucky, fourth runner-up; and Kandee Kay Marchel of Kansas, Miss Congeniality.

Hoopeston man makes history in 20th annual 5K race

A Hoopeston man ran into the record books Saturday as the first local man to win the annual Sweetcorn 5K race.

John Shaffer beat a field of 187 to be the overall winner with a time of 15:48, the first time since the race began in 1978 that a Hoopeston runner has led the field.

"(Shaffer) pretty much took command," said organizer Bill Orr. "He took the lead and kept it."

This was Shaffer's third effort, Orr said. The young man finished 10th his first try and was fifth last year, he said.

The race was a family affair for Shaffer. His sister, Kristi, placed 34th overall and first in the female 19-24 category with a time of 20:01. His mother, Betty, placed 128th overall and second in the female 45-49 group at 25:34.

The race was a family affair for a Rantoul couple, as well.

Mary Toohill was the top woman runner, setting a women's record with 17:41, breaking the existing 17:50 time. Toohill finished 13th overall.

Her husband, Michael Mallon was second overall winner in the men's competition, finishing at 13:56 behind Shaffer.

This was Toohill's first time at the local race. The runner usually attends a larger competition in Park Forest, Orr said.

While Shaffer made history, other local runners finished with respectable times. "There was quite a good showing among Hoopeston runners," Orr said. Other local runners of note included:

See 5K on other side

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5K continued from other side

Russ Leigh, who came in seventh overall and second in the male 35-39 category at 17:15. Leigh “was quite a surprise,” Orr said. “He must have been a minute or so better than his personal best.”

Brandon Bertsch, finishing 15th overall and second in the male 14-18 category, with 17:35

Dustin Smith, finishing 16th overall with 17:37.

Michelle Coon, finishing 66th overall with 22:04.

Darlene Medler, finishing 116th overall at 24:40 in her first Sweetcorn 5K.

A Buckingham, Ill., man who finished second in the male 55-59 category ran his 499th race here Saturday.

Charlie Grotevant finished 37th overall at 20:07 and was slated to run his 500th road race Sunday in Herscher. Grotevant has logged 25,000 miles running, Orr said.

The Sweetcorn race began in 1978 as a 10 kilometer race. It was shortened to 5K in 1982. The shorter race “suits a lot of people, distance-wise,” Orr said.

In 1982, the contest was also moved, from John Greer to Honeywell Grade school, providing a more convenient setting for runners, he said.



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Police News



Matthew L. Goble, 26, of 716 W. Main, was arrested at 10:30 a.m. Thursday on a Vermilion County warrant. He was released on \$500 cash bond.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11 a.m. Thursday in the alley of East Washington.

Police said Andrew J. Staton, 504 E. Wyman, was northbound in the alley in a 1986 GMC, while James A. Prather, 626 E. Thompson, in a 1987 Elgin street sweeper, was backing from East Washington, when the two collided.

Nikole R. Swartz, 16, of 811 W. Main, was ticketed for failure to yield at a posted intersection following an accident at 4:15 p.m. Thursday.

Police said Swartz, in a 1989 Lincoln, was northbound on North Third St., entered the intersection and was hit by a 1990 Ford driven by Wilma L. Watson, 426 E. Honeywell.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7 p.m. Thursday at 402 W. Chestnut.

Police said Angela J. Schuske, of that address, backed a 1984 Honda Civic into a parked 1992 Cadillac owned by Teddia L. Salter, 704 E. Elm.

A **boy’s black Magna** dirt bike was found Friday in the 300 block of North Ninth Ave. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Jason M. Grove, 24, of 730 N. Market, was arrested

at 12:47 p.m. Friday on a Vermilion County traffic warrant. He was released on \$95 cash bond.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:30 p.m. Friday at 615 E. Orange.

Police said Drew F. German, 618 E. Honeywell, backed a 1992 Buick from a parking space into a 1990 Dodge driven by Gregory A. Storm II, 706 S. Fourth St.

Robert A. Milburn, 17, of 527 W. Washington, was ticketed for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle after the 1978 Lincoln he was driving struck a fence at McFerren Park.

Kevin Eells, 514 W. Washington, reported Friday that someone took a Play Station and 15 games from his home.

A **14-year-old boy** was arrested at 9:20 p.m. Friday, charged with criminal mischief on a complaint from Rod Kaag, 815 W. Washington. Police said the boy broke “no parking” signs in the 700 block of West Washington. He was released to his mother on a notice to appear.

Gertrude Coppola, 53, of 718 S. Fifth St., was ticketed for driving while license revoked after an accident at 12:03 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot at 715 W. Main.

Police said Coppola backed her 1997 Mazda into a parked 1992 Chevrolet owned by David Hofbauer of Rankin.

Thursday: men’s coffee, 9:30 a.m.; potluck and men’s euchre, noon, blood pressure checks 12:30 p.m.

Apple sales

Volunteers will be selling apples Friday to benefit Special Olympics.

Workers will be at the corners of Main and Market, Market and Penn and Routes 1 and 9.

Weather



Partly sunny today and tomorrow. High 75 today, 80 tomorrow. Lows 56 tonight, 58 tomorrow.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Coppola was released on \$100 cash bond.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported Saturday by Gregory D. Knoll, 325½ S. Third St.

Knoll reported his 1991 Chevrolet was struck while it was parked at his home.

Shirley L. Leppard, 48, of 601 E. Young, was arrested at 8:35 p.m. Saturday at McFerren Park. Leppard, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, was released on \$200 cash bond.

Two men were charged with illegal transportation of alcohol following a traffic stop at 1:36 a.m. Sunday in the alley of the 400 block of East Lincoln.

Chad R. Johnson, 19, of 608 E. McCracken and Charles A. Best, 17, of Green Acres, Rantoul, were charged, police said.

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