

LIFESTYLE

Marcum to compete in Miss Teen Kentucky

By Charles Mattox
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A young Nicholas County lady will be competing for a chance to wear the Miss Teen Kentucky crown next month.

Jennifer Dawn Marcum, "Jen" to her family and many friends, will be traveling to Somerset, for a two-day event held Jan. 4-5. The competition is for the state level of the Miss Teen USA pageant, and will feature an evening gown competition, a swimsuit competition and an intense interviewing competition.

"I'm hoping for the best," Marcum said. "I want to represent Carlisle and Nicholas County well. I consider this a great opportunity."

Marcum, who is the 16-year-old daughter of Billy Marcum and Betty Jo and Kevin Booth, said she deeply appreciates the support and sponsorship she has received for the competition from her family, friends and event sponsors.

Miss Marcum's sponsors include Lee Lynn, Garrett's Furniture, the Nicholas County Fair Board, Mortenson Family Dental, Deposit Bank, Sandy Watkins, Dorcy Watkins, Linda House, Michael, Rodney and Keogee Hatton, Bill Clark, Cliff Vice, a special group of fine men at the Carmax Golf Course, and Kevin Booth and the Millersburg Police Department.

Marcum has been a local pageant favorite in the past and began entering pageants several years ago. One of her first successes occurred when she was crowned Carlisle's snowflake Princess when she was in the fifth grade. She later placed as the first runner up in the Miss pre teen pageant during the Ewing Fair. She has been a regular, and successful, competitor ever since.

Although even a very quick glance in her general direction by those with poor vision will confirm her breath-taking beauty, Marcum down plays her looks, and says she is appreciative of how the experiences of pageant competition have improved her confidence and communication and social skills.

"The true beauty of any person is always on the inside," she said matter-of-factly. "The pageants are more of a character building experience than anything, and it's an opportunity to make self improvements and make new friends and see old friends from all across the state. It's an opportunity to grow as a person. The experience I've gained through the competitions have helped me become a better person."

The Miss Teen Competition will require Marcum to be more organized and self-assertive than she has been in most of her previous competitions.

"Usually I have my mother with me all the time," she said. "Mom is my rock. She helps me with everything and she even freaks out for me when I get nervous, but I'll be on my own this competition and all of the girls have to prepare by themselves so I'll be doing my own freaking out this time," she said with a laugh. "I'm sure mom will be in the audience freaking out along with me, but it's going to be a lot of fun."

Marcum has a sharp wit and says she loves to make people laugh.

She has an equally sharp sense of fashion and style, and she was quick to reveal how she developed it.

"I love to shop," she said with a broad smile and infectious laughter. "I'm a girly girl that way. I think all of us girls love to shop."

Marcum also has a bit of a tomboy side, which she doesn't deny.

"I love the outdoors and camping and fishing," she said. "Being outside for me is my time to get away from stress and enjoy fam-

ily and friends. I love to fish although I'm not that great at it, and I do have a bit of trouble baiting my hook sometimes, but I still love it."

Marcum is a devoted student and currently has a 4.0 grade point average.

"My favorite subject is math and I love algebra," she said. "I'm very confident in math. Science and history don't come as easy for me, but I enjoy those subjects as well and understand the importance of them academically and how they are important in helping a person grow. I believe education is the key to a successful life and I believe we have many very good educators in Nicholas County. I feel fortunate to have the teachers I have at school."

"She also works part time at Tracks Restaurant in Carlisle. "Everyone at the restaurant has been great to work with and with giving me 'time off for the competition,'" she said. "I've been working there for about six months and I really enjoy it."

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Miss Teen Candidate Jennifer Marcum

Marcum is very active in school activities, is the Vice President of the Student Council and the junior class, and is very active in FCCLA activities.

"I want to be a doctor specializing in the field of dermatology," she said.

she enjoys "all them in concert and they were amazing."

Marcum credits Garrett and other friends with providing support and critical help during pageant competitions.

types of music" but her favorite genre of music is Country music.

"My favorite group is Backstreet Girls," she said. "I love the way they do it. She also praised Tammy and Haley McConnell for their help in pageant preparation."

Marcum says she has started preparing for the Miss Teen Kentucky competition.

"I don't starve myself, but I do try and stay healthy," she said.

"I've been slowing down on all the food with saturated fats, which of course I love. But it can be pretty intimidating when you're standing in front of a few hundred people in a bathing suit."

"I was a little embarrassed the first few times I competed in a bathing suit because

I knew the judges and everyone in the crowd would scrutinize my body. I found out later though that most of the judges are not only looking at your body but they are gauging your confidence level also."

Marcum says she is a huge UK fan, but hasn't made up her mind on where she will attend college.

"I'm used to a small town environment and I love the small town setting of Carlisle," she said. "UK is pretty big so I don't know, I'm going to wait a while before I make up my mind."

Marcum may be undecided on where she will attend college, but she has no doubts on what she wants to do professionally.

"I want to be a doctor specializing in the field of dermatology," she said.

There's Benji, a pregnant stray dog that was befriended by Gaunce last August.

There's Little Benji, one of Benji's five pups that Gaunce couldn't find a good home for, so he kept as his own.

There's Muffin, the Golden Retriever who watches over Gaunce, his truck and the other animals he collects.

There's Big Red, who just showed up one day after straggling over from Southern States.

And now there's Missy. Missy is a young yellow cat that is alive today only through Gaunce's attentive care and maybe a few miracles along the way.

Gaunce remembers when he first saw the small feline.

"I was coming, back into town in my truck driving from the West End Park and met another truck coming in the opposite direction near the old Jockey International Building," he said.

"The first thing I noticed was something under the front of the truck moving around and jumping around like crazy. I looked as I got closer and saw that it was a cat. This cat was in a terrible shape, trying and hanging on underneath the frame of the truck, trying to hold on, and just tumbling along. I believe it was hung up on something under the truck," Gaunce said. "I turned my truck around and drove back to where I met the truck, but didn't see the cat anywhere. I knew for sure she had to have fallen off not far from there or been thrown off. It bothered me so I went back the next day and looked but I still couldn't find her. The next day I stopped at the

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LIFESTYLE

Billy Mac saves feline's life

By Charles Mattox
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Curiosity may have killed the cat, but with nine lives to spare, who's counting?

Well, Carlisle businessman and city councilman, Billy Mac Gaunce, that's who for one.

Gaunce is a proclaimed animal lover, a fact that few who know him, or those less familiar that visit his Carlisle furniture store are apt to overlook if they stay long or peek into a side door of his office.

There's Fluffy, the big beautiful, 9-year old gray cat.

There's Benji, a pregnant stray dog that was befriended by Gaunce last August.

There's Little Benji, one of Benji's five pups that Gaunce couldn't find a good home for, so he kept as his own.

There's Muffin, the Golden Retriever who watches over Gaunce, his truck and the other animals he collects.

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Jockey Building again close to where I had looked for her before and I saw her lying underneath an evergreen bush. I called to her and she jumped up and although I could tell she was hurt and didn't move very fast, she still tried and came to me, so now this is her home," Gaunce said as he motioned to a side room of his office at the furniture store.

"All I had to do was say 'come here' and she jumped up and tried to come running at me like a dog. Just like she knew me her whole life."

Gaunce took the cat in and nursed her back to health.

He said Missy was quick to learn about using the litter box that she shares with Fluffy and is no trouble for him or any of the other pets.

Gaunce says Missy has adjusted well to her new home and the other animals have adjusted well to her.

"Fluffy is very protective of her," he said as the big gray cat purred and began licking on Missy's ears and then returned to his perch as if on cue.

Gaunce said he lost one of his favorite animals early this October when he lost his cat Shelly to old age.

Now Missy has replaced

one the other day and brought it up to me, kind of showing off."

"Fluffy to be an easy care for and he keeps a good supply of Frisky's cat food on stock for her and I've been an animal lover my whole life," Gaunce said with an easy smile as he scratched Missy behind her ear.

"I guess I always will be."

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