

❖ MISS SOUTH DAKOTA *continued from page 13*

Schenk leaves for the national pageant, being held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on June 28 and will be there until July 14. The national pageant will be broadcast live on July 12 on NBC.

"I am excited be down there because I don't travel a lot," she said. "Meeting all the different contestants when I was at Miss Teen USA was a highlight, so I am looking forward to that. Just being able to say I competed on the stage for Miss USA is something I can cherish forever."

As for what happens after the national pageant, Schenk said she will have to wait and see.

"In our state pageant we get different scholarships for winning," she said. "If we were to win the Miss USA pageant then we would move to New York and work for the Miss Universe organization."

If she does not win, then she said she will return to college to finish her last three semesters.

"This will be the last pageant I participate in for a while," she said. "I had just planned on competing until I won and it happened in two years. I have a year and a half of nursing school left, so we will see were my life takes me. I am planning on passing my nursing boards and seeing where life takes me."

She is currently a junior Nursing Major at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

During her spare time and in between study sessions, she works at Sanford Health in Vermillion as a Nursing Assistant. In addition to that, she also works at USD in the Occupational Therapy Department as a work-study student. Off campus Lexy is involved with being a volunteer for the Special Olympics. She volunteers to help out with various events such as basketball, track and even bowling.

As for future Miss South Dakota and Miss Teen South Dakota contestants, Schenk has one word of advice: be involved.

"I would tell everyone to get involved," she said. "I don't consider myself a typical pageant girl. I did my first competition and got Miss Teen. It is such a rewarding feeling that you get to look your best and feel your best on stage. Then you come back and you compete again and again until you win, it is just such an amazing feeling that you went after something you wanted and reached your goals. Just being up on stage and showing your confidence to everyone is so fun."

Prelims for the Miss USA Pageant begin July 8, finals will be broadcast live July 12, 7 p.m. on NBC. You can follow the pageant at <http://www.missuniverse.com/missusa>.

❖ *By Shauna Marlette*

❖ RIVERBOAT DAYS *continued from page 11*

wrestling, tug-of-war, tractor pulls, kiddie tractor pull, square-dancing tractors, lawn mower and snowmobile races, rodeo, pinewood derby races, fireworks show, "senior" baseball games, chainsaw artists, tractor show and car show. The board strives to have a variety of free family entertainment every year.

Wuebben and her family have always enjoyed the parade, while Teachout has always loved the dance performances. Teachout explains, "I think now my favorite thing is the reunion atmosphere. Getting to see the people, the kids coming back to town. We've hosted a number of class reunions." What does Madson enjoy most? She states, "The whole thing. I love to see the smile on children's faces, they're having such a good time. We have so many of the same ones coming back year to year."

"Riverboat days is a part of our family, and what we enjoy. My son has been helping with it since he was two, helping to put up posters," said Teachout. Madson agreed, "I have kids and grandkids that are helping down there now too." Teachout enjoys the enthusiasm that it brings to the community, while Wuebben added, "I think it says a lot in that this has been going for 32 years. I commend the committee that started this, with the idea and the drive to grow this, and to continue it." Teachout gave credit to the many people who have stepped up to help carry it on over the years.

The RBD board is always open for suggestions for a new activity or theme, or nominations for Captain & Belle. If interested in volunteering, please contact the board at (605) 665-1657 or on their website at www.riverboatdays.com. This year's events will be held on August 21, 22 and 23 with the theme "We Salute You." "We want to invite everyone to come down and have a good time," stated Madson. I'm sure I speak for many when I say we're looking forward to another fun-filled event and we'll see you at the park!

❖ *By Julie Eickhoff*

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