



USA WEEKEND
Tyler Perry Brings 2 New Shows To OWN Network

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A 'Nerd' Alert Has Been Issued For The Dakota Theatre • 1B

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MISS SOUTH DAKOTA JESSICA ALBERS WILL COMPETE IN THE MISS USA COMPETITION JUNE 16. THE EVENT WILL BE Aired LIVE ON NBC AT 8 P.M.

'Attached To The State'

Yankton Woman Enjoying Role As Miss S.D., Eyes Miss USA Crown

BY DEREK BARTOS
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For the past seven months, Jessica Albers has been proving that what you see isn't always all you get. After becoming the first Miss Yankton to be named Miss South Dakota USA last November, Albers has spent much of her reign overcoming the stereotypes that often come with a beauty queen crown. "I'm surprised at how many people are unfamiliar with pageantry and the subculture that it is," she said. "I think people expect a woman to be kind of ditzy like

in the movie 'Miss Congeniality,' but when they get to know me and the other title holders, it's fun for them. They realize we have so many other things going on — we have interests, we have hobbies, we have jobs — we have a life. "It's been wonderful to educate people about what these organizations do and how the women in them are strong and intelligent and can do so many things other than just be beautiful." Albers will share that message with the rest of the country when she participates in the 2013 Miss USA competition Sunday, June 16. As part of the event, she

recently joined the 50 other contestants in Las Vegas for two weeks of activities leading up to the live telecast, which will be broadcasted on NBC at 8 p.m. "I'm a little nervous and very excited," Albers said. "This is the Super Bowl of females." As a state title holder, Albers said competing in the national pageant is the only activity she is required to do. However, she said she has made an effort to reach out to the state as much as possible. "It's been really important for me to donate what-

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Noem To Girls Staters: Say 'Yes' To Opportunity

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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VERMILLION — Live your life as if you're driving without the emergency brake compressed. This was among the advice Rep. Kristi Noem had for the attendees of the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State, whom she met during a presentation in Aalfs Auditorium on the campus of the University of South Dakota Thursday morning. "For a lot of us, we have our emergency brakes on our lives," Noem said. "Maybe you're feeling really insecure, maybe you think you're not a very good public speaker. I'm not a good public speaker ... but I realized (people) really just want to hear what's on your mind and in your heart, and have you state it to them like a normal person." Self-doubt is the most common of these "emergency brakes," she said. "What I want to encourage you (to do) today in your mind and in your heart, when you leave here, that you take your emergency brakes off and stop letting them control you, slow you down, make life more difficult ... so that you can take advantage of all the other opportunities that you're going to have," she said. Noem said that just saying "yes" to those opportunities is a big part of living a successful life. "When you see an opportunity in front of

you, don't ask yourself why you should do it," she said. "I want you to ask yourself, 'Why would I not do that?' Say yes to it. So many times people miss opportunities and don't grab them when they're in front of them, and I don't want you to ever turn around and look at a situation and see it was a missed opportunity that you should have jumped on. One of the opportunities that Noem took was going into politics, an idea she first considered when her father died and her family was taxed on his assets. "I got mad. I couldn't figure out how we had a law in this country that said because I had a tragedy in my family ... that all of a sudden I owed the federal government thousands and thousands of dollars," she said. Noem was initially elected to the state Legislature and ran for assistant majority leader after two years. "It was very scary to stand up in front of all (my) colleagues after only being there for two years and saying, 'I'm going to run for this position,'" she said. It was another "nerve-wracking" opportunity, Noem said. "You find out what people really think about you," she said. "There's nothing more informative than putting your name on a ballot." Noem was elected to Congress in 2010, a race she said she embarked upon because she

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Rep. Kristi Noem speaks to delegates during her appearance at South Dakota Girls State Thursday at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Creation Of Human Trafficking Task Force Announced

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — There is no debate that human trafficking exists in South Dakota and the only discussion is the best way to end it, the U.S. attorney for South Dakota said Thursday as he announced a new task force between local and federal officials to combat the growing trend. "Often times when people think of human trafficking they contemplate sweat shops in Malaysia or brothels in Bangkok. But the fact of the matter is that the human trafficking epidemic has metastasized to the point that we find it here in the heartland," U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson said. "There is no community in South Dakota that is immune to human trafficking." Brendan Johnson said the new task force will be a joint effort between his office, the Minnehaha County State's Attorney, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, Sioux Falls police, the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations. The first step in combatting human trafficking is raising awareness about the issue, Johnson said. "It's important to remember that each victim is unique and there is no set of circumstances that can be generalized," he said, although there are risk factors that officials often see. Those risk factors include being female, ranging in age from 13 to 30 and coming from predominantly low-income homes, often with one or both parents absent. He said many of the victims endured abuse or neglect as children and suffered from drug addiction and homelessness. Some were struggling to care for family members, including young children. "What we've seen from the perpetrators of these crimes is that they intentionally prey on the most vulnerable victims," he said, adding that the victims are often groomed. He urged victims to come forward and said they will not be treated as criminals.



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SDSU Focused On The Future

Officials Discuss 5-Year Strategic Plan During Stop In Yankton

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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School's out, and it's a great time to hit the road. On Thursday, President David Chicoine and other South Dakota State University officials took their "On The Road 2013" tour to southeast South Dakota. They visited Salem, Madison, Mitchell, Wagner and Freeman before attending an evening reception in Yankton. Gathering with supporters at Yankton's Rounding 3rd Bar and Casino, Chicoine thanked local residents for the successful "It Starts With STATE" fundraising campaign that concluded this spring. In the midst of a national recession, SDSU raised \$255 million for the largest higher-education fund drive in South Dakota history.

"We now have the opportunity to do things that we otherwise couldn't do," he said, describing the campaign's impact. "But we can't let down. We have more work to do." Sixty-two percent of the \$255 million came from South Dakota, which provided major momentum for the rest of the national campaign, Chicoine said. "If you don't have a strong home base, then you're not going to be successful (at fund-raising), or at least very seldom," he said. The president also shared SDSU's strategic plan known as IMPACT 2018. When implemented, the five-year plan seeks to enhance South Dakotans' lives in a global, complex and interconnected society. "Our strategic plan is so important," he said. "We celebrated the (success of

the) last five years, but now we have to focus on the next five years." IMPACT 2018 has set four goals: academic excellence, innovation, outreach and a high-performing university. The plan will use 33 performance indicators as benchmarks for achieving goals. As a land-grant university, SDSU must deal with cuts in federal research funds, Chicoine said. The challenge lies in tapping private as well as other public resources. SDSU will also look at different approaches, such as interdisciplinary research teams, he said. SDSU also seeks to raise its enrollment from the current level of about 12,500 students, Chicoine said. "We are looking for 14,000 students, with 11,000

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Barry Dunn, dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University, speaks with the media during Thursday night's reception at Rounding 3rd in Yankton. Dunn and other SDSU officials wrapped up a day-long road trip to area communities.

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