

Princesses crowned in fair pageant

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

The 2014 Miss Clay County Fair Pageant brought a little something extra to the Clay County Fair on Friday.

It crowned not just two princesses, as it has since the pageant became a regular part of the fair in 2009. This year, a third young lady was bestowed the title of Miss Clay County Quasquicentennial Princess.

Princess

The new Miss Clay County Fair princess is Signe West, 11-year-old daughter of Liv and Jerami West of Vermillion. First runner-up is Kennedy Pratt, 12-year-old daughter of Farron and Shellie Pratt of Vermillion.

Second runner-up is Tatem Passick, 11, the daughter of Chad and Kirney Passick of Vermillion. Kayla Andersen, the 11-year-old daughter of Chad and Dawna Andersen of Vermillion, is third runner-up, and fourth runner-up is Skylyn Fitzgerald, 11, daughter of William and Mary Fitzgerald of Irene.

Junior princess

Mackenzie Brady, 10, the daughter of William and Crystal Brady of Vermillion, was crowned Miss Clay County Fair Junior Princess. First runner-up is Tally Allison, the 10-year-old daughter of Kase and Alli Allison of Vermillion.

Second runner-up is Emma Emerson, 8, the daughter of Jay and Ann Emerson of Vermillion. Kylie Kribell, 9, the daughter of Brian Kribell and Diane Lyngstad, is third runner-up.

Quasquicentennial Princess

Brooke Jensen, the 7-year-old daughter of Kyle and Becky Jensen of Meckling, was crowned Miss Clay County Quasquicentennial Princess. This category, added to the pageant this year to help celebrate South Dakota's 125th anniversary, provided an opportunity for younger girls in Clay County to participate in the pageant.

Other entrants in this category are: Tambyr Job, 7, daughter of Trevor and Audrey Job of Vermillion; Caitlyn Andersen, 7, daughter of Chad and Dawna Andersen of Vermillion; Alexandria Dobney, 7-year-old daughter of James and Jennifer Wittrock, Beresford; and Madlyn Peterson, 7, daughter of Evan and Stacy Peterson of Wakonda.

Pageant participants were judged by these criteria:

Private interview – Each contestant participated in a private interview with the judges. Contestants were questioned on the information they provided on their fact sheets.

Sportswear – In this phase of the pageant, contestants modeled a sportswear outfit of their choice. This is an opportunity for the judges to get a glimpse of the contestants' daily routine and lifestyle.

Talent – Each contestant had to perform up to one-and-a-half minutes of talent of their choosing.

Party wear and on stage question – Each contestant modeled a party dress and had to answer a question posed to them while on the main stage during the pageant.

Marley Hanson, one of the four judges for the 2014 pageant, viewed the event with a unique perspective. In 2009, she was crowned the very first Clay County Fair Princess, and, in her words, caught the pageant bug from that moment on.

Hanson has competed in six pageants, and besides holding the Clay County Fair Princess title, she has been crowned Miss Rushmore's Outstanding Teen 2013 in the Miss South Dakota Pageant, and Miss Siouxland's Outstanding Teen 2013.

"It was really fun being asked to judge, because in the past I've emceed and helped the girls get ready," she said. "This year, to actually be able to judge was a such a fun experience. It was really, really fun; it was so hard, though, because all of the girls did



Signe West of Vermillion smiles broadly as she is crowned the 2014 Miss Clay County Fair Princess at the conclusion of the Miss Clay County Fair Pageant.

Plain Talk Staff photo

such an amazing job."

Hanson said it was too bad that crowns were given to only three girls out of all of the contestants, because, in her mind, they are all winners. The 17-year-old will be a senior at Vermillion High School this school year, and enjoys helping the community with the Weekend Backpack Program and the Children's Miracle Network.

She hopes, too, while participating as a judge in the pageant, she may have been part of a life-changing event for one of the young girls.

"This is an opportunity to change young girls' lives," Hanson said, "by helping them to realize that pageants are an exciting thing, and they can continue on in their pageant career."

Another of the judges at Friday's event – Jessica Albers of Yankton – also is no stranger to pageants. She

reigned as Miss South Dakota USA in 2012.

"Today's girls were a phenomenal bunch," she said after the conclusion of Friday's event on the fairgrounds. "All of them had wonderful interpersonal skills; they all talked very eloquently and had such grace."

"They all showed their personalities and that's what pageants are about – about showcasing your personality and being able to help others while you're doing it," Albers said.

Albers is a graduate of Mount Marty College, and while studying there participated in collegiate cheer, track, and cross country, and was also active in campus business organizations. She performed with the Mount Marty acapella choir, and graduated with a degree in business administration and marketing. She is executive

manager of Countryside Stores in northeast Nebraska.

Other judges for the pageant were Jean Miller of Gayville, and Sue Morrison of Wakonda.

"It was really hard to judge who was going to win," Albers said of her experience in Vermillion Friday, "and I'm really happy with the outcome, and I'm sure everybody else is here, too."

She said all of the girls who participated in the pageant will benefit from it.

"It's a growth opportunity for all ages, no matter how young or how old you are," Albers said. "Being in front of a crowd is definitely one of scariest events there can be, but the girls did an amazing job. They are so confident in who they are, and they are fun to watch."

BYE

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around comes around, Pressler's visit at Tuesday's farewell reception coincided with his own attempt at a political comeback.

Pressler, 72, had served 18 years in the U.S. Senate and four years in the U.S. House as a Republican before losing to Johnson. Now, as an independent candidate, Pressler is seeking to win back the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Johnson.

Working For South Dakota

Johnson, 67, has worked tirelessly for South Dakota's interests in his usual quiet, thoughtful manner, Hunhoff said during Tuesday's reception.

"You listened politely on everything, things like education, transportation, health care and recreation," Hunhoff added.

Johnson drew praise from Tuesday's audience for his success in winning support for regional projects.

Greg Henderson, executive director of the District III Planning and Development

office in Yankton, credited Johnson and his staff with securing the funding for a number of initiatives in south-central and southeastern South Dakota.

Henderson couldn't resist the opportunity to make one final funding pitch before Johnson retires in January. "Before you are done (in office), I want to talk to you about one last project," Henderson joked, drawing laughter from the audience.

Yankton resident Jay Williams told the audience how he had hosted a 1992 fundraiser at his residence for Johnson's campaign.

Williams, who recently left the Yankton school board, praised Johnson's commitment to education funding.

"I want to commend you – you've been a great friend to education, and I wish you well," Williams told the senator.

Jake Hoffner, who won re-election this spring to the Yankton City Commission, spoke of Johnson's role in helping Chan Gurney Airport in Yankton.

"I served from 1996 to 2006 as the (Yankton) airport manager, and from early on you were a supporter of the EAS (Essential Air Service) program," Hoffner told the

senator, referring to the federal program which assists small airports.

The EAS funding helped keep the Yankton airport alive through tough financial times for small air terminals, Hoffner said. While Chan Gurney no longer schedules regular commercial flights, the airport continues to serve an important function for the Yankton region, he added. "Our airport wouldn't be what it is today without Senator Johnson," Hoffner said.

Johnson reassured the audience that he wasn't straying far from his southeast South Dakota roots.

"I'll be around," he said, smiling and drawing laughter and applause.

Johnson then took to the podium, offering his thanks to the audience.

"When you've been around as long as I have, you feel you have done every kind of event," he said. "But I haven't done something like this event. I have one simple message: Thank you to all of you."

Johnson said he has received respect and consideration throughout public life from even his political opponents.

"When you have been in

office as long as I have, I would be shocked if someone didn't disagree with me at some time or place," he said jokingly.

His career has included four years in the state House, four years in the state Senate, five terms (10 years) in the U.S. House and three terms (18 years) in the U.S. Senate.

After winning the tough U.S. Senate against Pressler in 1996, Johnson won re-election in 2002 with a 524-vote victory over then-Rep. John Thune (R-S.D.) in another race drawing national interest. Thune would return in 2004 to defeat Democratic incumbent Tom Daschle in a U.S. Senate race with even greater national implications because of Daschle's role as Senate Majority Leader.

Johnson won his third term in 2008 with a victory over Republican Joel Dykstra.

In recent years, Johnson and his wife, Barbara, have overcome health challenges.

Tim was detected with prostate cancer in 2004. After surgery, all tests have found him free of the disease. In December 2006, he suffered an intracerebral bleed. Following surgery and rehabilitation, he worked from home until returning to his Senate office in September 2007.

Entering A New Chapter

With his decision to retire from office, Johnson said the time has come to enter a new chapter in his life. He said he looks forward to spending time with his children, Brendan and Kelsey in Sioux Falls and Brooks in Boston. In turn, he wants to spend more time with his grandchildren.

Tim and Barbara Johnson plan to live in South Dakota, but the senator said the couple may spend the winters in a warmer climate.

"I get to be a grandpa full-time, but I'll truly miss getting to work with the people of Yankton and the rest of the state on matters to improve our communities and way of life," he said.

Johnson told the Press & Dakotan he appreciated the reception he received from Yankton residents, particularly on a weekday afternoon.

"This is a beautiful community with so many wonderful people," he said.

Johnson noted his family's roots run deep in the southeastern South Dakota soil.

"I am the fourth generation, my kids are the fifth generation and their kids are the sixth generation," he said. As he leaves office, Johnson

hopes that Congress – and politics in general – can regain a civil tone now lacking.

"You can always hope for bipartisanship," he said. "We can find ways to be more bipartisan, but unfortunately, it's more of a wish than reality."

What was the key to his completing a political career undefeated, particularly as a Democrat in a deeply Republican state?

"There is luck," he admitted, but he added that he thought South Dakotans always believed he was doing what was best for the state and nation.

At the conclusion of Tuesday's program, Johnson said he cherished the relationships built with Yankton residents and other citizens through the years.

"I thank you for all that you have done over the years to make South Dakota the wonderful place we all know it to be," he said.

"Regardless of politics, we have traveled this road together."

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TEMPS

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understatement.

"We could still get some good rain," Adams said.

Also noticed by many in the area has been the very mild daytime temperatures. Highs have roamed around the mid-70 to low-80 mark. On many of those days the humidity has remained low enough to feel the crispness in the

air minus the layer of sweat.

"Average temperatures are warmer than what we had (Aug. 4-9)," Adams said. "The moisture we had trapped over the region created continuous days of cooler temperatures."

Things had dried up a bit from Monday through the *Plain Talk* deadline on Wednesday, but fret not farmers and cheer not campers, things may stay almost the same as recent weeks.

"The 30-day outlook for the month is that the temperature will be below normal," Adams said. "It looks fairly quiet for a few days, but there is a 40 percent chance of rain Thursday, Thursday night, and it will stay at a 20-30 percent chance over the weekend. It won't be along the lines as what we saw last week, but there are some chances you will see some type of scattered showers."

Rain or shine it's all hit or miss when it comes to

how people deal with the weather.

"It wasn't normal because you don't see that much rain all at one time,"

Mike Garvey said. "I guess the past few years we have. Now it's turning back off. The temperatures were

nice, but the humidity was

higher. I definitely like the cool better than the humidity."

D17

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unopposed for the two seats.

Bolin is an incumbent, while Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Anderson to fill a legislative vacancy.

Bolin and Anderson defeated Kevin Jensen of Canton in the GOP primary. Feddersen and Shanks had run unopposed in the Democratic primary. In the District 16 Senate

race, voters will choose between Republican incumbent Dan Lederman of Dakota Dunes and Democratic challenger Ann Tornberg of Beresford.

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DAKOTA POWER COMMUNITY WIND

Dakota Power Community wind is hosting a series of investment meetings for South Dakota investors to learn more about a South Dakota wind farm development opportunity. The plateau that extends east of Interstate 29 northeast of Beresford to south of Canton, shows GREAT PROMISE for wind energy production. The opportunities for an eastern South Dakota wind farm are enhanced by a proposed major transmission line from northwestern Iowa to Joliet, IL that would provide marketing opportunities for the power all the way to the East Coast. The investment opportunity is structured to provide for South Dakota residents to become investors for as little as \$4,000.

Meetings will be held in your area on:

- Tuesday, August 19th at the Holiday Inn Express in Vermillion at 7:00 PM and
- Monday, August 25th and Wednesday, August 27th at the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls at 7:00 PM

The information provided is not an offer to sell securities. Investors who wish to purchase securities in Dakota Power Community Wind must be a resident of South Dakota and may only invest after receiving and reviewing a prospectus.