the Miss Teen **USA** Pageant has helped her know what to expect in the upcoming weeks, she knows it is not the same. "As far as the competition goes I think Miss USA is in such a different caliber than Miss Teen USA," she said. "You are going to be down there for two weeks

and we were only there for five days with Miss Teen USA. So, I think it is going to be more strenuous. I think competing on the national stage before has given me more confidence."

Even though the actual pageant doesn't begin until late June, her duties have been going on since the day she won the crown. "Throughout the year we are asked to do several appearances around the state," she said. "I went to New York and attended a Sherry Hill Fashion Show. We were invited to a USO event, but I wasn't able to attend: just random stuff like that. Other duties included attending the Pageant Power Show up in the cities in Minnesota. Where we were introduced to different things like makeup and hair lessons."

She noted that the pageant is divided into three different categories swimsuit, interview and evening gown. Then the top five will have to answer an onstage question.

She also said if she is named a semi-finalist, Irene will be seen nationwide.

"There was a film crew who came to Irene to film about me, they did it for all of the 51 contestants, it is called 'Road To The Crown.' If I make the top 15 or 20 at Miss USA it will be played on television. If I don't they are still going to put them out on YouTube so everyone can see them."

Schenk said no one from South Dakota has ever won the Miss USA pageant and she thinks the last time a contestant from the state made the semi-finals was in 1974.

She also said for her family, Lonnie and Kathy Schenk and sister Lydia being involved is something they all take pride in. "My dad cries every time he watches my crowning video," Schenk said. "That a girl from small town South Dakota, Irene, South Dakota, to be exact can win two titles and compete on the national stage twice to represent the state is just amazing. I am so proud. It is cool that I get to go here."

MISS SOUTH DAKOTA continued on page 15



When colon cancer is found early the chance of being cured is... Nearly 100%

Last year, 160 South Dakotans lost their lives to colorectal cancer.*

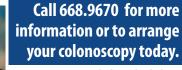


Colorectal cancer is **nearly 100%** treatable when caught at an early stage! According to the Centers for Disease Control, screening and removal of precancerous polyps can reduce the number of deaths from colorectal cancer by 60%! Over one third of South Dakotans do no participate in screenings.

Colorectal cancer is preventable! 50 or older? Get Screened!

The recommendation for colorectal cancer screening is a blood stool test every year or a sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy every 10 years for persons age 50 years of age or older.*





Lewis & Clark Medical Plaza, 2525 Fox Run Parkway, Suite 204, Yankton SD

Source: Colorectal Cancer in South Dakota 2012, Project In Check, South Dakota Council on Colorectal Cancer.

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