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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-Area Women Represent Local States Well At Miss America

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 01/15/2013 08:40 AM

(Chadron)-Las Vegas was buzzing last week, even more so than usual. Contestants from around the country and their families made the community their temporary home as rehearsals and preliminary competitions for the Miss America Pageant filled the agenda of many people at Planet Hollywood.

Three area women represented the states of Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota during the four nights of competition. Mariah Cook, who is a senior at Chadron State College, shared several fun facts about Nebraska each night during the state introductions. Miss South Dakota Calista Kirby from Brookings is a former Nebraska Cornhusker cheerleader, who enjoys Mexican food. Torrington resident Lexie Madden represented the state of Wyoming, advancing to the finals through several rounds on Saturday evening.

Preliminary competitions were held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The girls were divided up into three groups, and each evening, the separate groups participated in a separate area of the competition. The scores awarded those nights were used to determine the finalists for Saturday evening. Cook, Kirby and Madden were all in the same group.

The first evening, the trio answered the on-stage questions. The second night of preliminaries allowed them to showcase their evening gowns and swimwear. The third evening featured the girls and their talents. Both Cook and Madden played piano pieces, and Kirby did a tumbling routine. Awards were given each evening for the talent and swimwear winners. Unfortunately, none of the local representatives were selected for those awards.

On Saturday evening, 15 finalists were selected, with Miss Montana being selected through online voting. In a strange twist of events, judges were also allowed to pick an additional finalist, with Miss Washington making a total of 16. Madden was chosen as a finalist, and advanced through the areas of competition that night to make it to the final five.

Madden was announced as being the third runner up to Miss America at the end of the pageant. Miss America 2013 was announced as Miss New York Mallory Hynes Hagan. The broadcast of the event was aired an hour later in Chadron, as the event actually began at 6 pm Pacific Time, but started in the Mountain Time Zone at 8 pm. The program was hosted by Chris Harrison and Brooke Burke.

(Questions? Comments? Email news@chadrad.com)

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