

"Over the years, we have asked for nominations to be mailed to us," Johnson said. "We had such a conglomeration of picks to choose from that we condensed them down. Murdo and Diane's name was just there, all the time. They have been great for Yankton and great supporters of Riverboat Days and all other activities in Yankton. They have done a lot for the community, but they have really helped us. It was a very easy choice and we are thrilled that they accepted. We know that they will do a great job."

Johnson said whenever the committee has asked for something from the couple through the years, the Edwardses have found a way to make sure they provided it.

"It is just community involvement in so many areas," Johnson said. "Don is always willing — whatever we ask for — there is never a no."

Don, who owns and operates Murdo's Restaurant, and Diane, who is director of nursing at the Yankton Medical Clinic, stressed that they didn't feel they had done any more than anyone else.

"You take your turn and do things," Diane said. "It starts off, you are there because your kids are there and you get involved that way. Then it grows as your children grow. I expected to do less after they were grown, but it just hasn't worked that way."

The couple said they feel they have contributed in small ways over the years.

"I have been co-chair of the ribbon cutting on the bridge, small things," Don said. "For Riverboat Days, I help anyway I can, be it donations or whatever. A lot of times, we are so busy (at the restaurant) that we haven't been able to be down at the park and volunteer for three days. The volunteers that are down at the river and (with)

the committee work year round to put this event on. It is tough. So when they or somebody needs something, I try to help out."

The couple will now serve as the official face of Riverboat Days. They will be attending celebrations throughout the area promoting the Summer Arts Festival and the other activities associated with the event.

"I think of the Captain and Belle as the ambassador to the community," Diane said. "We want to promote Yankton as a nice place to live, a great place to raise a family."

"The committee does have an agenda for us, but we are certainly going to do other things as well. Like the (Great West Conference) track meet this weekend was not on the official list of things to do, but we actually go to a lot of community events anyway. So, we will be very visible."

Diane noted that they had already handed out several bags of buttons promoting the Aug. 20-22 event.

"We will be all over meeting and greeting people," she said. "We just hope to be very energetic and a great ambassadors for the community."

Don added, "How could you not be an ambassador? Look down the river, seeing the steeple, how could you not be impressed with what you see?"

At his restaurant, Don shared a wall of photos of all the past Captain and Belles.

"I think in the past years they have had excellent selections for Captain and Belle, and I just hope to do as well as they did," Diane said. "I think they have all done such a nice job and have all really enjoyed themselves. If any of them have told us anything, they have told us how much they enjoyed going to the events and meeting people, and going to the area towns and participating in the events. That is why we are looking so forward to the summer."

Cowboy Up and Head to the Rodeo

If it's Riverboat Days then it's time for the 23rd annual Dodge PRCA Rodeo.

Get ready for two action filled nights, Friday and Saturday, that begin at 7:30 p.m. and don't stop til the last cowboy has taken his ride. Stick around after the rodeo on Saturday for a live Country Western music performance - at no charge.

As always, family fun and excitement can be had at the rodeo. There is something for everyone — bucking broncs, fierce bulls, calf roping and steer wrestling, women on some of the fastest barrel racers in the region, and of course mutton bustin' for the kids. Don't forget to head down to Western Trails at 208 Walnut Street in downtown Yankton to sign up your little riders.

The committee is so excited to announce the return of Korkow Rodeos. For the past several years Korkow's been bringing some of the best livestock in the country to Yankton — including several that have also competed in the national finals

and world championships. Seeing the livestock alone is worth coming to the rodeo.

In the past we have seen some cowboys that have made it to the national finals, as well as some up-and-coming riders. You won't want to miss seeing these cowboys and cowgirls in action.

Also returning is Timber Tuckness as the head clown and entertainment. It has been a few years since his last visit and the Yankton Rodeo Association is glad to see him return.

Kyle Shobe is also returning as the rodeo announcer.

You won't want to miss the excitement. You won't want to miss the adventure.

For more information on the rodeo, call Doug and Val Hevle at (605) 665-9231. To find the rodeo grounds from Highway 81, take 50 west and look to your right for the big barns; or take West City Limits Road, head north and watch for the signs.

For more on what's happening at Riverboat Days check online at

www.riverboatdays.com

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