

Johnke

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“She cares about student achievement across the district,” he said. “Jennifer has also recently received her doctorate in the field, which is an indication of wanting to advance, not only for her, but also for the district and students of Yankton.”

Fitzgerald said that there were other good candidates that applied for the principal position, but few had experience with the size of school that YHS is.

“Dr. Johnke has had first-hand knowledge of what it is going to take to continue the high achievement standards that we expect in Yankton,” he said. “Her time as assistant principal will be quite valuable and she will be able to hit the road running, so to speak.”

Kindle said officials in the district are pleased to have someone who has

past experience working with high school students.

“Not only that, she has also taught at a high school and has administrative experience at the high school level,” he said. “Johnke will continue to do well in her new role as principal. She is a good communicator, understands curriculum and will bring some new ideas of her own to YHS.”

Kindle noted that Johnke knows there are challenges ahead in the areas of technology with state-mandated on-line testing, possible changes to the teacher and administrator evaluation system, and on going funding concerns which have an impact on curriculum and staffing.

“I am looking forward to working with Jennifer and providing as much mentoring as needed to help her be successful and continue our excellence of academics, fine arts and activities for our students at YHS,” he said.

School board president Chris Specht said he’s confident in Johnke’s ability to step up as YHS principal.

“In my experience with her, she has been very student-centered and an ex-

cellent team member,” he said. “During her tenure in Yankton, Johnke has demonstrated effective teaching and administrative qualities and worked hard to obtain advanced degrees which qualify her from an education and experience perspective for this position. She, in my opinion, has the talents and personality to be an excellent high school principal.”

Johnke said her main goal as principal is to continue the tradition of excellence that YHS has.

“I’ll need to prepare for a lot of things we have coming down the pipeline... but overall, I want to continue the success that YHS has,” she said. “I really like the community of Yankton it has a lot to offer including education and recreational activities. There are also a lot of ways people can get involved within the community and there are great ways for kids to get active in the community through recreational and service programs. Overall, Yankton has a lot to offer.”

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Yoga

From Page 1

is making smaller, more family-like type dwellings so they can have a few orphans in each house,” O’Hara said. “They’re really needy right now for some help in building these family dwellings.”

Although she once wanted to be a personal trainer, O’Hara took a course from the University of South Dakota and is now certified to teach level one classes of yoga. O’Hara has been teaching a class for three months after work.

“I’ve always enjoyed yoga, and I decided to take that as a way to make extra money,” she said.

The 56-year-old also enjoys being active and being outside, which is why she wanted to create this event.

“I thought this would be one way to do something I enjoy and involves other people too, and hopefully get some new people interested,” O’Hara said. “I’m all about staying ac-

tive, and I’m trying to get more people involved with yoga.

“Two of my friends who are taking yoga from me swear they’re so glad they started because they can do so much more stuff they couldn’t do when they started two months ago. People could be really surprised by the benefits it could bring just by doing yoga two or three times a week.”

O’Hara said people who want to participate this weekend should bring a yoga mat or a beach towel with them to separate them from the ground. She also said anyone who is concerned with doing yoga healthwise should consult their physician before participating.

O’Hara’s daughter will demonstrate the poses while O’Hara teaches the class, and she will show easier versions for beginners, as well as more challenging versions of the poses for those who want a challenge.

“It’s a great feeling begin able to raise money for a cause like this and I’m really excited,” O’Hara said. “I’m hoping it goes well and that I get a lot of people to show up. If I do get that a people I’ll do another one not too far from now.”

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge

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