

OBITUARIES

Joseph Hansen

Joseph F. Hansen, age 81, of Yankton, South Dakota died Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

A memorial mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 8, 2010 at Saint Benedict Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Tim Lange officiating. Inurnment will be at the Saint Rose of Lima Cemetery in Crofton, Nebraska. There will be a gathering of family and friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a vigil service and video tribute at 7:00 p.m.



Hansen

Pallbearers are his grandchildren: Aaron Hansen, Natalie Hansen, Holly Haberman, Joan Jansen, Michael Hansen, Andrew Kappel, Anna Kappel, Tim Pemberton, Shelly Bennett, Kristen Carter and Shane Carter. Honorary pallbearers are his great grandchildren: Taylor Jansen, Asher Haberman, Jake Tauber, Cameron Hansen, Madeline, Katherine and Nathaniel Bennett.

Joe was born July 6, 1928 in Tilden, Nebraska to Carsten and Mary (Brink) Hansen. He attended country school in Tilden until the family moved to Pierce in 1938. In 1942, they moved to O'Neill, Nebraska where Joe graduated from Saint Mary's High School in 1945. After school, Joe served in the United States Navy for 2 years. His ship helped escort the USS Missouri, with President Truman on board, through the Panama Canal. On September 25, 1951, Joe and Kathleen Flood were married in O'Neill. After their marriage, they moved to Norfolk, Nebraska where Joe ran a delivery route for Wonder Bread for 13 years. In 1964, they moved to Crofton, Nebraska where he was the owner and operator of Joe's Market. Joe was active in the Crofton community, serving on the city council and had one term as mayor. He belonged to the Chamber of Commerce and served as president for one term. Joe served as a member of the Crofton Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years and was one of Crofton's first EMT's. He was a member of the VFW and Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Joe closed the store in 1989 and went to work at the Human Services Center in Yankton as a food service supervisor and retired in 2000. In 1996, Joe and Kate moved to Yankton and became members of Saint Benedict's Catholic Church. He loved gardening, working in his yard, fixing things, going to auctions and antique tractor shows.

Joe is survived by his 6 children: Tony (May) Hansen of Elkhorn NE, Mark (Darla) of rural Burbank SD, Brian (Susan) Hansen of Montgomery AL, David (Laurie) of Crofton NE, Marie (Larry) Kappel of Omaha NE, Robert Hansen and Jim Berghuis of Seattle WA, 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 53 years Kathleen who died January 15, 2005; son Bill who died in 1997; 3 brothers: Leo, Gene, and Bob; and 3 sisters: Blanche Corkle, Doris Hahn, and Margie Schaa.

Memorials may be directed to the Crofton Volunteer Fire Department or Saint Rose of Lima Elementary School in Crofton.

To post an online sympathy message or to view the video tribute, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 6, 2010

Online condolences at: www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

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YOUR NEWS!
The Press & Dakotan

ON THIS DATE

75 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, March 6, 1935
• South Dakota's proposed liquor control measure was sent to a conference committee today when the Senate refused to accept House amendments.
• The South Dakota Legislature has given its approval to the establishment of a Department of Justice and Public Safety.

• Oliver Wendell Holmes, the 'great dissenter' of the U.S. Supreme Court, died at 2:15 a.m. today of bronchial pneumonia, just two days before he would have been 94 years old.

50 YEARS AGO

Sunday, March 6, 1960
• No paper

25 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, March 6, 1985
• A Yankton woman was listed in critical condition in the burn unit of St. Luke's Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa today after she was rescued from her burning trailer by a volunteer firefighter.

• An inmate at the South Dakota penitentiary is seeking more than \$3,000 in damages against a jailer and other county officials for alleged mistreatment he suffered in May 1984 while a prisoner in the Yankton Public Safety Center jail.

• The Yankton Bucks fell to the Lennox Orioles 52-47 in the Section 2 basketball tournament last night. Lennox will go on to face Canton in the championship game, who easily dispatched Vermillion 52-30 to advance.

WALK

From Page 1A

recommendation.

"We keep an eye out for someone like that. We try to keep the Shrine informed," Bryan said. "We called the Shrine office in the mosque in Sioux Falls. They took down the information and lined up a screening."

Jurens received a medical screening in Sioux Falls and was admitted to the Shriners' Hospital for Children in the Twin Cities, Bryan said. The Shriners offered transportation and provided free medical care, he said.

At the Shriner's hospital, a doctor diagnosed Jurens' problem as her tendons. They only stretched to a 45-degree angle.

"The doctors said, if I didn't have surgery, I could be in a wheelchair by my 20s," she said. "My legs were already bad enough because they had so much strain and were so over-worked."

Jurens underwent surgery June 22, 2002, when she was 9. When she arrived at the Shriner's hospital, she discovered an entirely different world.

"I looked around, and I wasn't so bad off after all," she said. "I saw kids with missing arms and legs. My roommate had a spinal cord injury. My case was minimum. The Shriners have very good hospitals. It's amazing what they could do. I was honored that they would consider doing my case."

Still, Jurens was filled with anxiety about the surgery. "I was brought into the operating room. I cried because I was nervous, but what little kid wouldn't be?" she asked. "I kept wondering, 'What do I have to go through now? What will it take? What will they find?'"

The surgeons stretched her tendons from a 45-degree angle to a 100-degree angle, allowing her to walk flat-footed.

"I would have been happy if I had gotten a 90-degree angle," she said. "I was in surgery an extra hour-and-a-half. My parents were wondering, what went wrong? But the doctors said, I would do better if they took longer and did this (different procedure)."

After the surgery, she wore casts on both legs. Then she wore braces and used a wheelchair.

Jurens spent the rest of that summer readjusting to everyday life back home.

"My mom took me to the pool so I could sit in the sun. We even had my birthday party, with cake, at the pool," she said. "But when I was in the wheelchair, I stayed way back by the concession stand because I was afraid that I would go into the pool."

Jurens wore her braces at all times and even slept in them.

"It was noisy at night because Nicole's braces banged together when she slept," Dixie Jurens said. "We finally put a pillow between her legs."

'THE NEW NORMAL'

When she entered fifth grade during fall 2002, Nicole Jurens made a major adjustment to school life.

"I wanted to get along without my wheelchair," she said. "I would sit with the teacher on the playground. I wondered, why wasn't I out there (with the other kids)?"

On the other hand, her schoolmates saw the wheelchair as a source of bonding and enjoyment.

"No one teased me. That was very cool," she said. "The kids would wheel me around the gym. I had fun; I just didn't want to tip over."

Adjustments were made in classrooms for the wheelchair, Jurens said. "Because I didn't fit behind a desk, I used a rolling table for my fifth- and sixth-grade classes," she said.

The Avon school was equipped with a ramp on its first two floors, but Jurens needed assistance reaching the library and computer lab on the third floor. She received a helping hand from older students, including football players, who carried her to and from the top floor in her wheelchair.

In addition, Dixie Jurens came to school and helped her daughter during bathroom breaks.

Both Dykstra taught Nicole Jurens in second, fifth and sixth grades. Dykstra's son, Drew, was one of the students who helped transport Nicole and her wheelchair.

YFPC Inmate Now Captured

From P&D Staff Reports

A prisoner that walked away from the Yankton Federal Prison Camp Wednesday has been captured.

According to a media release from the YFPC, Joseph Figliolo was apprehended at approximately 11:30 a.m. Friday and placed in the custody of the United States Marshall Service.

The 49-year-old is serving a 120-month sentence for attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine and possession of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine. His projected release date was April 13, 2014.

"That's one thing about the Avon school: When anybody needs help, there is always someone there to lend a hand," Beth Dykstra said. "It's not only teachers and students helping each other, it's more like family."

At the end of winter 2002-03, Jurens no longer used her wheelchair. That spring, she discontinued using her braces.

Jurens began physical therapy at St. Michael's Hospital in Tyndall to build up her muscle.

"I stretched and learned to walk all over again. Eventually, I learned to run and jump," she said. "They have a good physical therapy unit."

The therapy sessions were learning experiences for both Nicole and the hospital, Dixie Jurens said.

"They dealt mostly with older persons (for therapy). They never did much with kids," Dixie said. "They had Nicole roll and stretch her legs. They had her do all kinds of new things."

STAYING ON TRACK

Nicole Jurens then made another important discovery — running.

"The doctors told me that I should be in sports because it would be good for me," she said. "I went into track so I could build muscle and get my legs straightened up and strengthened."

Jurens admitted she didn't consider herself to be track material at first.

"When I first had this surgery done, I looked like I was anorexic," she said. "They called me 'Chop Sticks' because my legs were so skinny. They still call me 'Twig.'"

However, Dykstra — the school's track coach — saw potential and recruited Jurens for track as a seventh grader. Jurens ran primarily the 200 and 400 meters and relays.

Jurens then joined Dykstra and the cross-country team as a sophomore when Avon added the program three years ago.

"I was always teasing Nicole, 'God gave you those beautiful legs, so how are you going to use them?'" Dykstra said.

Running also seems to provide Jurens with a mental lift, and track and cross country offer a mix of teamwork and independence, Dykstra said.

Despite her physical chal-

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lenges, Jurens has never been given special treatment in sports, Dykstra said.

"Nicole is treated just like the whole team. I expect them to always do their best," Dykstra said. "I always ask them the question, 'What are you going to do for the next 60 seconds of your life?' So just get it over and always try your hardest."

Jurens admitted that running was an excruciating challenge at first.

"Mrs. Dykstra had us run four or five miles around town and in the country," Jurens said. "I was crawling to the parking lot (when we returned to school)."

However, Jurens said she has made major strides during the past six years.

"Last fall, I almost made the state cross country meet. And I am fired up for my last year of track," she said. "The last two years were not that wonderful. But this year, I want to do it for the coach. I have the drive, and this is my year."

In recognition of Jurens' six years of hard work and dedication to track, Dykstra took the girl as an alternate to the state meet.

"Nicole is so funny. She has been a joy to have on the track team and the cross country team," Dykstra said. "I know that cross country has not always been her specialty, but this year, she came in with goals. From the first year to the third year (of cross country), we really saw a big difference. It's been a lot of fun to have her around."

Dykstra wants to see Jurens go out with a bang.

"Nicole has gotten stronger. I really hope that her senior year is her best year," Dykstra said. "I think, when she first started,

Nicole was scared that she was going to hurt her legs. They were just skinny little things. It has taken a lot for her to develop them and to get her coordination. She has done a lot with it."

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As she wraps up her senior year, Jurens looks forward to a number of things, including the class trip to Denver. After graduation, she plans to attend Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls and study graphic design.

She also speaks to Shriners about her experiences at their hospital and thanks them for the medical care. She attended a recent Shriners' meeting in Yankton with her parents.

Medical care remains a priority for her. Last summer, she went to the University of Minnesota for a muscle probe test. She was relieved to learn her improvement was so apparent that a planned test wasn't needed at the time.

"I was jumping for joy when I heard I didn't need that final test on my tendons," she said. "My legs ache once in a while, and I still have yearly checkups with the Shriners (hospital). This coming summer will be my last year, to see if I check out OK."

Jurens has grown in many ways throughout the years, Dykstra said.

"Nicole is always quiet, but last year she seemed to come out of her shell, which was nice to see," Dykstra said. "She has grown a lot as an individual and has shown a lot of confidence."

Jurens has left an impact on those around her, Dykstra said.

"Nicole is a neat girl," Dykstra said. "She does her own thing. There will never be another Nicole."

IN REMEMBRANCE

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Vangen Lutheran Church
Mission Hill

Joseph F. Hansen
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