

Families Named Honorary Grand Marshals...

2018 Potato Days Honors Life Of Jaynie Halvorson



Jaynie Halvorson is remembered for her positive spirit that left an impact on the community and on everyone she met.

By Michael Stein

In honor and memory of Jaynie Halvorson, the Herbranson/Halvorson families have been named honorary Grand Marshals for the 2018 Potato Days, which is set for August 24-25 in Barnesville.

Jaynie died in January 9, 2018, as the result of a car-truck crash near Rollag, leaving behind her husband, Justin, and

son, Hoyt, along with family members and countless friends from the area whose lives she touched.

Jaynie chaired the Potato Days' 5k/10k/FunRun for a number of years.

"She just took off with it and did it every year to a perfection!" said Theresa Olson, Potato Days executive director. "She came up with new ideas and kept things

new and working well. She got wonderful volunteers to help her and they all rallied around her each year and had fun."

Beginning this year, the event will be called the Jaynie (Herbranson) Halvorson 5k/10k/Fun Run.

Jaynie's parents, Joanne and Dave Herbranson, said they were very honored to be named. "I'm happy that this will be part of keeping Jaynie's spirit and memory alive," Dave said. "We continue to hear a lot about her dedication to others and the people she touched."

Jaynie worked for the Lake Agassiz Special Education Cooperative in many area schools including Barnesville, Hawley, Ulen, and Lake Park as an occupational therapist. For the Barnesville School District, Jaynie coached girls basketball, seventh grade boys basketball, volleyball, track and speed and strength.

Because she touched so many lives and because of the large number of people attending her funeral, the services for Jaynie were held in the new Barnesville High School gymnasium.

"I thought maybe it would be two-thirds full," Dave said. "It was packed. And when we came back from the cemetery we learned the old gym was full, too. It's unbelievable how Jaynie

could touch so many people in her life."

Olson said the selection of this year's grand marshals was a natural. She added that new event chairs, Laura and Brady Jorud, assisted Jaynie for several years.

"They have been great helping with the details and decisions that go along with a racing event," Theresa said.

At this year's Potato Days, medals and T-shirts will also honor Jaynie.

The Herbransons and extended family have continually been a part of the Potato Days Festival and the community, which, Olson added, "is how the board of directors chooses the Grand Marshal each year. These families have given so much to the festival that it was time for us to honor them and Jaynie."

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Jaynie and Justin Halvorson's son Hoyt enjoys time with his grandparents, Joanne and Dave Herbranson.

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