

RACHEL from page 1

Hansen said. "Nothing was stolen, nothing was missing."

A resident living at the complex noted she heard no noise from Rachel's apartment.

"My apartment is wall-to-wall with hers and it breaks my heart that we didn't hear anything and therefore didn't call for help," she said.

"We had no idea anything had happened until police banged on our door. According to what I've heard from others, the people below her didn't hear anything either. I have no clue how nobody in our building was able to hear any of it."

Hansen is no closer today than in 2022 in learning who killed Rachel and "absolutely can't imagine" who would want to do so.

"She didn't have any enemies," Hansen said. "She didn't have any bad things going on in life. She did not use drugs."

"I wonder if it was the wrong place at the wrong time. I can't imagine anybody intentionally taking her life at all."

Upon news of Rachel's death, tributes poured in on social media with comments like "motivated, sweet, precious and nice."

Even one woman who didn't know Rachel but lived in the apartment downstairs felt compelled to comment.



Rachel arrived at the Hansen Family's home on an acre lot as a 6-year-old foster child with "lot of early childhood trauma," according to her mother, Kim Hansen of Gilbert.

"I've been heartbroken since 6/5," she wrote. "I've heard how great she was here, I can only imagine the angel she is now."

Hansen described Rachel as "strong-willed and determined and just so giving."

She was always raising money, supplies or support for a cause, Hansen said.

"When she was young, 10 years old, she would take her wagon and walk around the block and go to neighbors to ask for food donations," Hansen recalled. "She helped with several barrel races (and) auctioned items for a friend of hers with a serious medical condition. She was always going above and beyond to supporting causes of people she loved."

Rachel's early years

Rachel arrived at the Hansen Family's home on an acre lot as a 6-year-old foster child with "lot of early childhood trauma," according to Hansen.

One day while Rachel was sitting on the fence, she remarked, "I just wish we could have a horse."

"We went back into the horse business for her and she flourished," Hansen said. "That is one of the best therapies for kids with very traumatic experiences - to learn to love and care for another living creature."

Before Rachel joined the family, Hansen had sold and re-homed four horses because the older children were married or off to college. Kim and husband Todd have 13 other kids, most of whom they adopted.

The couple adopted Rachel three months after her arrival.

The horse whisperer

Although Rachel never had lessons in horse riding and training, she quickly became an accomplished equestrian and was well-known in that community.

"She had a natural gift," Hansen said. "She was very good with horses. She never met a horse she couldn't get on."

"She scared me all the time. I would hold my breath and she would call me and say, 'mom, I'm going to ride the yearling, pray for me.' She was so brave and so determined."

At 14, Rachel began giving lessons to younger kids. At 16 after graduating from high school a year early, she started her own business of training, riding, hauling,



Rachel was so enamored of horses that she had started a business serving the equestrian community. (GSN file photo)



Kim Hansen stands with her adopted daughter Rachel's horse Dash Dunit Hollywood and her foal Danney. (David Minton/GSN Staff Photographer)

selling and finding horses for clients.

She also rescued abandoned horses and she saved wild mustangs on federal land by training and re-homing them, according to Hansen.

At the time of Rachel's death, her registered quarter horse, Dash, was in foal. Today, the mare and her baby live on the property dubbed "Hansen Ranch."

Rachel's death

Hansen said she was in Indiana babysitting two grandchildren when she learned of Rachel's murder.

"My husband woke up to two Gilbert Police officers knocking on the front door and said, 'Are you Rachel's dad? Can we come in and talk to you?' and told him what had happened," Hansen recalled. "And then he called me in Indiana to tell me I had to quick as I

could get a flight home."

Rachel was killed eight days before her 20th birthday, which was June 12. She was going to celebrate with her family at her favorite place - Canyon Lake where she would go tubing, skiing, diving off the board and cliff jumping.

Besides horses, Rachel also loved wrestling soccer and she was the only girl on the football team in the 8th grade, according to her family.

Rachel was set to marry her finance Jomet Bailey in the fall and she planned to use her newly acquired real estate license to sell horse properties to people who wanted that kind of lifestyle, according to Hansen.

"The first six months after we lost her, there were days I didn't even know what