

Obituaries

Marlis Olsen

Marlis Mae Olsen was welcomed home to heaven on Monday Sept. 18, 2023.

She is missed dearly by: her children- Bonnie (Richard) Mueller, Tom (Steph) Olsen, Jim (Jackie) Olsen, Lynette (Terry) Gust, daughter in-law Kathy Olsen, her siblings Charles (Jean) Thielman, Allan (Carol) Thielman, and John Thielman. Her 13 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and all who called her Mom or ‘Ma’. She was greeted with open arms by those who preceded her in meeting Jesus: her parents, her sisters Bev and Janice, her son, Jerry and the love of her life, Edwin (Sonny).

Marlis lived an ordinary life, but she impacted the world around her in extraordinary ways by how she used her roles to love others.

Marlis was a daughter and a sister.

Her life started in Page, N.D., where she was born to Herman and Viola Thielman on Sept. 12, 1932. She was the first born of six children. She graduated from high school in 1950.

Marlis was a wife.

She met Ed when he was a hired hand on the farm where she was cooking. As many of us have experienced, one taste of Marlis’ food and he was hooked! They were married on Oct. 4, 1950, and they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2020.

Their family, friends and community all look up to their example of sacrificial, simple and steadfast marriage over the years.

Against her own wishes, Marlis had to live 976 days without Ed, after he passed away in 2021 from COVID. She told stories of ways she felt his presence all the way to the end – even in helping her choose her last meal (chicken noodle soup and an egg salad sandwich) to be the exact same items she had fed Ed the day that he died.

Finally, together again, we can only imagine the joy in their reunion!

Marlis was a mother, a grandmother, great-grandmother and an “adopted” mom to many.

Her family kept her busy as a parent and homemaker. She ran a tight ship, but her kids always knew what hard work looked like and what it meant to give back to others. Even as adults, they continued to benefit from her wisdom and passed it on when raising their own families.

Marlis was a worker.

To-do lists didn’t stand a chance, and “Marlis, sit down!” was a frequently heard command. Her first job was at the age of 14. She made \$4/week babysitting for the 3 children at The Thompson farm and cooking for their 16 hired men after the cook quit.

In marriage, she served as the backbone of Ed’s endeavors, working as the bookkeeper, greeter, and helper when he managed the farmer’s unions in Page, Erie and Hillsboro and supporting the family business when Olsen Hardware opened in 1969.

More than 50 years later, the corner shop is a hallmark of downtown Hillsboro, and Marlis’s touch can still be seen in the feather duster painted walls and the unmatched service you’ll receive.

In her “retirement”, Marlis kept busy volunteering at the nursing home (did she know that most of the residents were younger than her?).

With complete confidence,



we know that Marlis heard: “Well done, my good and faithful servant”, and we hope that she has finally accepted a time to rest ... but if not, we hope she hears us. “Grandma Marlis, please sit down!”

Marlis was a gatherer.

Her baking, cooking, and hosting abilities were the hallmark of family holidays, Friday fish fries, and countless other parties and community events.

Marlis’ door was always open, literally and figuratively. Her living room was rarely empty, and her phone line was always busy with someone looking for a listening ear, a kind word, or a fresh baked treat always waiting on the kitchen counter.

We can finally start our diets now that Marlis is gone, because you just couldn’t say no to one more of her homemade caramels or apple bars.

While we’ve all used the church cookbook to follow her recipes to a T, it still just doesn’t taste as good as when Marlis made it. It may have been her “I’ll just eyeball it” strategy of measuring butter, cream, and sugar.

Marlis was a model citizen.

The city of Hillsboro is an exponentially better place to live and raise a family because of her influence. Her “fingerprints” from years of volunteering and support will be seen in the Hillsboro schools and athletics, the park district, the nursing home and Our Saviors Lutheran Church for generations to come.

She was so proud to call Hillsboro home for 60 years and will surely be looking down over the residents of that 1.1 square mile town, sending good weather to the farmers, good luck to the athletes, and prayers and blessings for all who live and work there.

Marlis is a child of God.

She was baptized, confirmed, and married at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Page, ND and a member of the church of the same name in Hillsboro for 60 years.

She was involved in Women’s and Children’s Ministry and served countless buns with “funeral spread”, coffee, and pancake breakfasts over her years.

The eighth pew on the left won’t look quite right without Marlis and Ed in the first two seats, and there will be one missing viewer of the six hours of live-stream church every Sunday. Yet, there is an all-encompassing sense of peace knowing she is worshipping with the angels and sitting at the foot of her Savior, Jesus.

Marlis’ faith was unwavering and carried her through the ups and downs of over 60 years of parenting, 70 years of marriage, and 91 years of life.

I asked Marlis one thing she would like you to remember as her legacy, and she said: “Make faith, family, and friends your priority” And, of course, you can never have too much butter.

Hillsboro physician Breen, School Board member Brekken toss support behind bond referendum

REFERENDUM

Continued from page 10

But inflation and the rising costs of food and fuel have taken a toll on taxpayers and the school district’s \$12 million bond referendum would be crushing to area farmers, she said.

“We are dying out here. We have people on fixed incomes and (this project) is not a need, it is a wish and a lot of us are starving and dying out here,” Brenan said.

“A lot of people are hurting. Our elderly are hurting and nobody seems to give a damn and I have had it,” added Brenan, who exited the gym after her comments but returned later.

Kyle Kvamme, director of project development for Icon Architectural Group, said architects and school officials understand the tax burden the referendum places on farmers.

However, schools in North Dakota are limited in the way they can raise funds to pay for construction projects, he said.

“We would love to not” have to ask farmers for a property tax increase, Kvamme said.



Breen



Brekken

“But it’s not our choice. There’s no other way for a school to pay for a building” other than raising property taxes, he said.

One audience member at Wednesday’s forum asked school officials if they had considered using existing empty buildings in Hillsboro rather than trying to build a new addition.

Hillsboro School Board President Tim Kozojed, a Hillsboro-area farmer, said none of the city’s existing vacant buildings were suitable for converting into classrooms.

And, even if a suitable building were found, the price tag to retrofit a commercial building into a suitable space for learning could be cost prohibitive, he said.

Wendy Alfson of Hillsboro asked administrators how the

district would respond if the referendum passes Wednesday and construction costs unexpectedly soar.

Mike Barness, a senior project manager for Kraus-Anderson Construction, said his firm keeps tabs on historical building costs as well as current market prices for builds.

School officials wouldn’t be able to ask voters for more than \$12 million to cover cost overruns, so architects and construction managers would need to find ways to make modifications to the building plan to keep it within budget, Barness said.

Hillsboro physician Chuck Breen stood up and tossed his support behind the referendum near the conclusion of Wednesday night’s public forum.

The Hillsboro native said he respected the passion of those who believe the project’s price tag is too high, but Breen said Hillsboro High School remains overdue for a little TLC.

“This building is disgusting and, in many ways, it’s harmful to our kids,” he said. “We are going to need to spend \$18 million (to repair the elementary and

high schools) either way.

“So why not build new? Everybody here loves Hillsboro and whether this (referendum) passes or fails, we will come back again. This isn’t going to end right here.”

School Board member Kris Brekken said he considered the property tax increase tied to the bond referendum an investment in Hillsboro.

“We’ve all chosen to live in this community. I refuse to part a part of a community that withers away and dies. We have a chance to step forward and be the answer for those people who want to be in a smaller community. I see this (project) as an investment, not a tax.”

Voters can cast their ballots in Tuesday’s referendum from 7 a.m to 7 p.m. inside the Hillsboro High School library.

A photo ID will be required to receive a ballot.

More information on the Hillsboro School District’s \$12 million bond referendum can be found on the school district’s website (hillsborok12.com) by clicking the “Future of Facilities” link.

Sanford Health Hillsboro offering flu vaccinations

HILLSBORO – Sanford Health Hillsboro is now offering the influenza (flu) vaccination to patients 6 months and older.

In addition, all Sanford specialty care clinics are also offering vaccinations, and patients will be offered the flu vaccine during any regular Sanford visit.

The CDC recommends annual flu vaccines for everyone 6 months and older, especially those at higher risk of complications including pregnant women, older adults and young children.

Sanford Hillsboro will host a flu vaccine event on Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Thursday, Oct. 12.

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the City of Mayville will hold a Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget October 2nd, 2023 at 6pm at Mayville City Hall.

Gail Olstad, Auditor
City of Mayville

Publish Sept. 22 & 29, 2023

The Traill County Housing Authority is accepting applications for the **Housing Choice Voucher** rental assistance program.

Income and rental limits apply.

Please call
701-436-5785 for more information or for an application.



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Attention residents:



If you have any USA flags that should be disposed, please drop them off at the HillsboroVets Club, Goose River Bank or Farmers Union Insurance by Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m.

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Contact: Jenna at 701-636-3200

Comstock Corner SANFORD HEALTH

www.sanfordhealth.org/locations/community/Hillsboro,ND

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE APPLICATION

The City of Portland intends to file an application for federal financial assistance with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service. The project includes improvements to the water tower and water distribution system. Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to the City of Portland.

9-22-1c

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Vets Club
636-5711 Hillsboro

Extension Notes

Jill Murphy

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension Agent
TRAILL COUNTY



Applying fall lawn fertilizer in the northern Great Plains

Are you looking to get your lawn looking better by spring? Now is the time to help set your lawn up for next year. You can always try dormant seeding but for this article, Esther McGinnis, Horticulturist with NDSU Extension, is going to talk about the benefits of slow-release fertilizers on your lawns; especially this time of year.

The seasonal window to fertilize your lawn is beginning to close. North Dakota State University Extension recommends the fall fertilizer application should take place around Labor Day. The fall application is the most important because it helps your cool-season lawn recover from summer stresses. The nitrogen is useful in building a deep and robust root system which will pay dividends next year.

Exact timing over the Labor Day weekend is not required but fertilizing beyond the end of September is not recommended. Why so early?

University research conducted in Minnesota and Wisconsin shows that the lawn must be actively growing to take up the nitrogen fertilizer. In the experiment, soluble nitrogen was applied on the 15th of either September, October, or November. For both states, the vast majority of nitrogen that was applied in September was taken up by the plant. October and November applications were wasteful and had the potential to either leach into the soil profile or into waterways with melting snow in spring.

Calendar recommendations are not entirely accurate because weather conditions fluctuate from year to year. However, the lawn is less likely to be actively growing once temperatures dip below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. To be on the safe side, NDSU Extension recommends applying a nitrogen fertilizer that is 50% slow-release before September 15th.

Applying lawn fertilizer in October can be risky in some years because it can stimulate the lawn to actively grow rather than acclimate for winter. In years when cold weather comes early, this can result in winterkill.

During my first spring on the job, I visited a completely dead lawn. After asking multiple questions, I learned that a lawn service company had applied a quick release nitrogen fertilizer in October. The homeowner raved about how lush the lawn was in fall. This was the clue that we needed to diagnose the problem. The late fertilizer application caused the lawn to grow rather than shutting down for winter. I am not saying that October fertilizer applications will always kill your lawn but it does raise the risk of winterkill when winter comes suddenly.

Finally, is it worth it to put down a “winterizer” fertilizer product? A winterizer is a lawn fertilizer that contains high rates of potassium in addition to the nitrogen. The jury is still out on whether fall-applied potassium is beneficial in the north country. Research in southern states has shown that potassium can help warm season grasses like bermudagrass survive low winter temperatures. The winterizers you see on the market were developed for southern states.

More research is needed to study the impact of potassium on northern turfgrasses such as Kentucky bluegrass.

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